

**The Last Things (5 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, June 1st, 2025**



Eschatology is the study of “the last things” in Christian theology. The *eschaton* is about the biblical view of the future, which comes into sharp focus with Jesus and the New Testament. Where is everything going? What happens when we die? And what about heaven, hell, the end times, the second coming, the final judgment, and the resurrection? In this 7-week sermon series, we will explore *The Last Things* and how our knowledge of the future can deepen our trust in God in times of fear and uncertainty, ground us in the Christian hope, and help us to live in light of the last things.

**Sermon Title:** The End Times & the Return of the King

**Scripture Reading:** Matt. 24:36-44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 19:11-21

**Sermon Focus:** Many of us grew up in the church hearing a very detailed and complicated view of “the end times” that told us what to expect before, during, and after Christ returns. But what if it’s not like that at all? What if all of that is misguided? In the fifth message of our series, Pastor David challenges us to question the popular teaching about “the rapture” and read the Scriptures afresh to discover a simple but hopeful belief that Christ will return *once* to bring heaven to earth and judge the world.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by showing a picture depicting “the rapture” as first imagined by J.N. Darby in the 1820’s and then popularized by others like D.L. Moody and Billy Graham. Were you aware of what Pastor David shared? Were you taught “dispensational premillennialism” or some version like it? Share with your group about your experiences and what you think about it today.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Pastor David invited us to see how Paul mixed three metaphors to describe the second coming of Christ:
  - like Moses “coming down” the mountain (Exodus 19:16-20)
  - like the Son of Man (Dan 7:13-14) exalted “in the clouds”
  - like a royal appearing (*parousia*) – an imperial metaphor with religious & political significance (e.g., Palm Sunday - Matt. 21:1-11); we will “meet the Lord in the air” and return to the city

Were you aware that Paul is mixing metaphors like this to help his audience imagine the return of Christ? What are your thoughts? How should this change the way we understand this passage? How is God speaking to you?

3. Read Matthew 24:36-44. Notice that it’s the wicked who are taken away, like in the days of Noah, not the righteous in Christ. Had you noticed this before? How does this change things? What does it say about the earth and all that’s in it?
4. Read Revelation 19:11-21. Pastor David walked us through this passage and shared about some of its symbolism, pointing out that this depiction of Christ isn’t all that some have imagined. For example, there is no violence done by Jesus. And the robe soaked in blood (before the battle) is his own! Why does this matter? How does a responsible reading of Revelation impact us spiritually?
5. If (since) it’s true that there is only one “second coming” and appearance of the Lord Jesus at the end of the present evil age, how does this change our mindset about trials, our decisions, evangelism, and expectations for the future?
6. When Jesus and the New Testament mentions his return, it is often used as an encouragement or a call to be “watchful” and ready for his appearing. What do you think it looks like to live in light of the promise that Jesus will return? What might it look like for this message to move from your head, to your heart, to your hands and feet? What is God saying to you about his second coming?