Introduction

Today we come to the final chapter of The Story. We began in February with the book of Genesis; and we conclude here in November, with the book of Revelation. We started with the **dawn of time** and we are finishing with the **end of time**. At the beginning of time God created human beings in His own image for the purpose of ‘being with us.’ Sin fractured that relationship and caused separation, but in Jesus, God’s passionate quest to ‘get us back’ was realized….through the cross and the empty tomb. And at the **end of time** it is prophesied, “God’s dwelling place will be among His people, and He will be with them” (Revelation 21:3). Let me share with you a few takeaways from the book of Revelation.

**Everyone will someday stand before God**

- The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27: “Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” We will all stand before the Lord. For the unbeliever it will be a long, draining and depressing reminder of a life filled with poor choices, but for the Christian, Christ will plead your case on your behalf.
- When John got a glimpse into heaven in Revelation 4, he saw that God was on His throne in the middle of it all. That’s where He sits, and that’s where we will someday stand.

**God will keep His word**

- All throughout The Story, we’ve seen that God wants to redeem us and reconcile us into a right relationship with Him. That message has never changed. The book of Revelation is where we see His upper story intersect with our lower story. His purpose has never changed, and His promise will not be broken.

**You need to be ready**

- Revelation 21:7-8 warns us of the punishment faced by those who oppose Jesus. One of the messages of Revelation is for us all to be ready for His return.
- And for those of us who have put our trust in Jesus Christ, it would be the height of selfishness if we didn’t try to bring someone with us to heaven. We talk a lot about the *second* coming of Christ, but one fourth of the world has never heard of the *first*.

Conclusion

Christ’s second coming will be far different than His first visit 2,000 years ago. He was disguised as a baby that time, but not this time. The mask is off; His identity is revealed, confirmed, and validated. We don’t know when it will be, but we need to be ready and waiting for that Day when we will finally be with Him.