Until He Returns

The King has come. The King is coming.

Name: _____ Date: _____

> THE CENTRAL CLAIM
>
> **Jesus reigns now. His return will bring that reign to its fullness: every enemy defeated, death abolished, and creation renewed.**

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:20–28

Eschatology is the study of the last things and God's final purpose for creation. It belongs to the gospel because the good news promises the actual end of evil. Christ's authority is already real; its complete manifestation is still ahead.

FIRST COMING / ALREADY

Kingdom inaugurated

Saving work • Cross • Resurrection

SECOND COMING / NOT YET

Kingdom consummated

Judgment • Resurrection • Renewal

One kingdom, two comings

The first coming decisively defeats the enemies. The return removes their remaining threat.

ENEMY	ALREADY	NOT YET
SIN	Guilt forgiven; dominion broken; the heart sanctified.	Resurrected life, free from corruption and death.
SATAN	His lie exposed; his claim to mastery broken.	The deceiver finally judged; his rebellion ended.
THE WORLD	Death defeated in Christ; fear's slavery broken.	Death abolished; oppressive powers ended; creation renewed.

Living between the comings

Three enemies. Three implications for discipleship.

01 SIN: pursue holiness while awaiting bodily redemption.

Justification removes guilt. Regeneration brings new life and breaks sin's mastery. Sanctification cleanses the heart and forms holy love. Glorification completes salvation in resurrection life, free from mortality and corruption.

Romans 5:1; 6:6–14; 8:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 15:42–54

A WESLEYAN DISTINCTION

Perfect love does not mean perfect knowledge or a glorified body. Ignorance, mistakes, infirmities, and temptations can remain in a holy life. Cleansing from inward sin need not be postponed until resurrection.

02 SATAN: trust God's love and resist deception.

The cross exposes the lie that God cannot be trusted: God demonstrates his love by giving himself for us. Believers are freed to trust and resist, but are not immune to deception. God's final victory ends Satan's rebellion entirely.

Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:15; 2 Corinthians 11:3; James 4:7; Revelation 20:10

03 THE WORLD: practice courageous faithfulness.

Here, "world" means the fallen order opposed to God. Oppressive powers use violence and the fear of death to secure obedience. Christ's resurrection breaks their ultimate claim on our allegiance. We may still feel fear, but we can remain faithful in hope.

Daniel 7:3–14; Hebrews 2:14–15; Romans 8:35–39; Revelation 21:1–5

Reflect & discuss

1. Why is Christ's return essential to the good news that Jesus reigns?
2. How does sanctification differ from bodily glorification?
3. Where can resurrection hope change your response to fear this week?