

Theme: In eternity, we will be fully alive, free from the penalty, power, and even the presence of sin, as we glorify and enjoy God forever!

I. Intro – The Arc of A Great Story

- A. Great stories have great beginnings and endings
- B. I love Chronicles of Narnia for this reason
- C. The ending to *Chronicles* - a classic!
- D. Scripture does this as well - but how to end the Bible?

II. Our Glorious Future

- A. The plot line of Scripture - from dust to glory
 - 1. The beautiful start - it was good, very good!
 - 2. The fall - everything is sullied
 - 3. The promise of redemption - and its long fulfillment
 - 4. Our salvation is beautiful now - but only partial
 - 5. How will the story end?
- B. The ending of the story - new heavens and earth
 - 1. We see a new heavens and earth (Rev 21:1)
 - 2. We see new Jerusalem - the City of God (Rev 21:2)
 - 3. But what will it be like?

III. The Glory of Eternity - Walking Alive Forever!

- A. In eternity the curse is totally removed
 - 1. Revelation 22:3 - no more curse!

2. Genesis & Revelation - removal of the curse

- a. Pain – Genesis 3:16 & Revelation 21:4
- b. Unproductive – Gen 3:17-19 & Rev 22:2-3
- c. Tree of Life – Gen 3:22-24 & Rev 22:2-3
- d. Death – Gen 3:19 & Rev 21:4

B. In eternity we experience real life, real delight, real joy

- 1. A life of real, deep delight and joy - Psalm 16:9-11
- 2. Purpose of humans - glorify and enjoy God forever
- 3. A life of feasting & joy - Isaiah 25:6-8
- 4. Describe wine and theology group - just a shadow!
- 5. More than just no sorrow - deep, real joy!

C. In eternity His people dwell with God - and see Him

- 1. God dwells with us - Revelation 21:3
- 2. The covenant motto fulfilled - Rev 21:3
- 3. Gen 17:7; Ex. 6:7; Lev 26:12; Deut 29:13; Jer 30:22
- 4. Zech 13:9; 2 Cor. 6:16 - just a partial list!
- 5. We will see God - Rev 22:4; 1 John 3:2
- 6. Our deepest longing will be fulfilled

D. The joy of finding our true home - at last!

- 1. Final words of *Chronicles of Narnia*
- 2. This is what it will be like - home for the first time!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the glorious future that awaits?
1. The best of this world is a pale comparison
 2. And this worlds best is always tainted & marred
 3. Our best joys here are impure and temporary
 4. Eternity - unending, pure, untainted, perfect joy!
 5. Do you long for this? You were made for it!
 6. Lewis quote on children making mudpies
 7. Don't settle - long for your true home!
- B. Response - On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Our Future - Walking Alive Forever!

Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5, 20-21

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"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

Jude 24-25

The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning." And as He spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all stories, and we can most truly say they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before. - Final lines of *The Chronicles of Narnia series*

Curse imposed (Genesis)	Curse Removed (Revelation)
Pain (3:16) "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth..."	No more pain (21:4) "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..."
Unproductive (3:17-19) "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you...By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food..."	Productive (22:2-3) "On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Tree of Life Removed (3:24) After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.	Tree of Life Restored (22:2-3) "On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Death (3:19) "for dust you are and to dust you will return."	No more death (21:4) "There will be no more death"

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because **you will not abandon me to the grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 11 You have made known to me the path of life; **you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

Psalms 16:9–11

6 On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25:6–8

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
Revelation 22:4

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

Perhaps you will get some idea of it if you think like this. You may have been in a room in which there was a window that looked out on a lovely bay of the sea or a green valley that wound away among the mountains. And in the wall of that room opposite to the glass there may have been a looking glass. And the sea in the mirror, or the valley in the mirror, were in one sense just the same as the real ones: yet at the same time they were somehow different — deeper, more wonderful, more like places in a story: in a story you have never heard but very much want to know. The difference between the old Narnia and the new Narnia was like that. The new one was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked like it meant more. I can't describe it any better than that: if you ever get there you will know what I mean.

It was the unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He stamped his right fore-hoof on the ground and neighed, and then cried:

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia so much is because it sometimes looked a little like this. Bree-hee-hee! Come further up, come further in!" - CS Lewis - *The Last Battle*

Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. - CS Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*