

FINAL THINGS

By Rev. Will Nelken

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On the last Sunday of the year, it seemed appropriate that we should focus on the last section of the last book of the Bible—the story of the final things.

I recognize that many Christians find the Book of the Revelation difficult to read and to understand. It was written in the poetic-prophetic genre of Scripture, and is, therefore, full of symbolic word-pictures and figures of speech, as it describes two worlds—the visible and invisible, the earthly and heavenly—and their intersections. The book depicts warfare and judgments, both spiritual and physical, often in gory detail and overwhelming scope. Because many of its scenes are horrific, many people prefer to look the other way.

But, if you stop to think about it, many of life's events are also horrific, and when we close our eyes to them, we will also miss many of life's wondrous beauties. I am reminded of Job's rebuke to his wife, when she suggested that his life had become so bad that he should just end it. Job said, *"You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"* (Job 2:10) And the Holy Spirit testified, *"So in all this, Job said nothing wrong."*

Violent brutality and overwhelming destruction and loss are common themes today, whether in games, or theater, or real life. An underlying hopelessness concerning the future of humanity overshadows the dreams and aspirations of many people that we know. Perhaps even you.

Can things really get *worse*? Will things *ever* get better?

The Book of the Revelation answers both questions, "Yes!" And in the end, far better than the worst the world will see.

The Book of the Revelation was not written to scare you. It was written to establish your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to assure you that God keeps His every promise, in far more wonderful ways than we can imagine.

Today, I invite you to take a ride with me through the final pages of this amazing prophecy. Just this once, let's skip past the reports of the end of the world-as-we-know-it, to read about the beginning of the world we have all hoped for. Perhaps in this way, we may become assured of the outcome of the goodness of our God, and this will enable us to put up with whatever we must, and do whatever we can, until we reach the grand climax of the ages.