

The Coming of The Great King

1 Corinthians 15:21-27 ▪ December 7, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

The Great _____

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²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What is one thing—big or small—that has recently given you a fresh sense of hope or reassurance?

Read & Discuss: 1 Corinthians 15:21-27

1. Paul starts this section by drawing a contrast: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (v. 22). What feelings or thoughts come to you when you reflect on the universal reality of death (in Adam) versus the promise of universal life (in Christ)? How can you keep this promise before you during this Christmas season?
2. The passage speaks of a specific "order" to the resurrection (vv. 23-24). Why do you think it was important for Paul to explain *how* this event would unfold, starting with Christ, then those who belong to Christ at His coming, and finally "the end"? How does recognizing Christ's preeminence over death and life change how you face uncertainty or talk about your deepest source of hope?
3. Verses 25-26 emphasize that Christ must reign until every enemy is defeated, with death being the "last enemy to be destroyed." What does the image of Jesus actively reigning *right now* as King look like in your mind? How does this impact your view of current difficulties or suffering? How should it affect the way we pray for things like our church, our community, and global issues?
4. How do you think Jesus' destruction of "every rule and every authority and power" (v. 24) and putting "all his enemies under his feet" (v. 25) will bring ultimate justice to the world? How does the certainty of Christ's final justice give us courage to work against injustice now, while trusting Him with what we cannot fix?
5. The idea of God systematically putting "all enemies under His feet" (v. 25) speaks to God's ultimate authority. Where do you sometimes find it difficult to trust in God's ultimate control? When your trust is shaken, what helps you remember that all power belongs to Christ?
6. If we truly grasp that death, the "last enemy" (v. 26), has a termination date because of Christ's work, how might this change the way we approach a fear, a major life decision, or a time of grief? Since Christ has conquered death, what is one fear (personal or professional) that you can intentionally choose to approach with greater courage and less anxiety this week?

Apply: What is one step you can take this week to demonstrate your hope and confidence in Christ over an area of anxiety, difficulty, or challenge that you identified in this study?

Pray: Pray that this Advent season God will deepen our hope in the victory of Christ over all things.