1 Corinthians 15:24-27 24Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other ruler and every other authority and power. 25For he must reign “until he has put all his enemies under his feet.” 26Death is the last enemy to be done away with. 27Certainly, “he has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

Honestly, I am not sure where it is that I need to start. This text is literally speaking to us of the authority and kingdom of Jesus. It tells us that he rules over all things in every way. In our specific verses today, we are actually being directed to consider and look at this kingdom of Jesus, as it comes to an end, mind you, not a forever end, but rather as it comes to an end in this world of ours. Because it is clear that this kingdom of Jesus never ends. What happens is that it is going to become eternal as the world is brought into subjection by the wonder and marvel of Jesus!

So you see, I don’t know how to speak of all the things at the end or really the eternal beginning of the Heavenly kingdom without telling you how it was all brought about in the first place. So we will back up and consider all the things that are in this wonderful and eternal reign of **CHRIST THE KING!**

Let’s start with the very beginning. God had created a world, a holy and perfect world, with the crown of his creation being mankind, specifically a couple named Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, because of the temptations of Satan, eventually disobeyed God and brought sin into our world. This sin had a devastating effect. Holiness and perfection was lost. Instead of walking with God and loving him with all our heart, we now, as descendants of Adam and Eve are inclined to evil, filled with sin, natural enemies of God in every way. Into our world was brought this thing called death. Really, the first mention of death is a reference to the fact that by nature we are now headed for eternal death and damnation. In other words, hell and all its horrors has become the de facto destination for all humans. The mark of this eternal death that we bear is the physical death that we takes place. Just take a good look at our world and I think you will see clearly that what God’s Word declares is true.

We have a problem. The problem is eternal death and physical death. Now, if it were just physical death and that were it, then there would be no problem. Because then I could just tell you that you will die and that’s it! You die, you cease to exist. You are done, gone, eventually to be forgotten as is the way of the world.

Yet that is exactly the problem. God has clearly revealed that there is an afterlife. Two distinct destinations. There is heaven where we get to be with the Lord forever and ever in a perfect and holy world, dwelling directly in the presence of the Lord. There is hell, a place described as eternal fire and torment forever and ever. Nothing good about hell. Nothing comforting or hopeful in any way.

The Lord has determined in his love and grace to help us avoid hell and get into heaven. The Lord right from the beginning of sin had promised a Savior. Promise after promise. This Savior is known as the Messiah and this Messiah would be very unique and wonderful. This Messiah would be God’s Son and yet the fullness of the deity in bodily form. The Messiah would serve as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. That’s what God has promised. What that means is that in order to get to heaven we need to be completely holy and perfect, flawless in every way. But we are not. God promised to send this Messiah who would solve the problem for each of us.

That’s what the Messiah did. The Messiah that came is the God/man Jesus. Jesus came to live the perfect life we could not and then Jesus did something totally awesome in every way. Jesus went to the cross and on that cross he took upon himself the wrath and anger, the punishment that God the Father justly declared that all sinners deserve for each and every sin. Jesus took that punishment. Jesus paid for our sins. That’s what “atoned” means. But we can’t just stop at the cross. We have to grasp that as a part of his redemption, Jesus not only suffered but then had to die. Here’s the thing. This dead Messiah had to come back to life to life in order to completely fulfill what God had promised. In other words, the resurrection from the dead is the full culmination of our salvation.

Do note that we are reading from 1 Corinthians 15. That chapter of God’s Word could be easily called: “The Resurrection is everything chapter!” In our EHV Bibles the heading given for the beginning of chapter 15 is: “The Resurrection is foundational.” What this chapter says is absolutely true. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is totally useless. It means nothing if there is no actual physical resurrection of Jesus. Without the resurrection we can’t be sure of anything in connection to Jesus. We can’t be sure he is God’s Son. We can’t be sure if we have been given and offered the forgiveness of sins. We can’t be sure of the promise of heaven and eternal life. It there is no resurrection, there is nothing. And as this chapter clearly states: “**If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all.”**

 At this point we are actually into our text. Our words said, **“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead also is going to come by a man. For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ as the firstfruits and then Christ’s people, at his coming.”**

The good and great news is that Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead. Our text makes is clear that the death, the eternal death, that came through Adam’s sin has now been made null and void in Jesus. Note what it said, **“The resurrection of the dead is going to come by a man. For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive.”** There is no mistaking what is said here, the resurrection of Jesus is the heart and core of our trust and hope in eternal redemption. Don’t miss those very important words: **“So also in Christ, they all will be made alive.” “In Christ”** tells you that faith is important. Faith is required and as we have said again and again, faith is what God says it is and not what you want it to be. Everything is established and ruled by Christ Jesus!

We do grasp what that means right? We do understand that Jesus has been exalted above all the earth so that every knee and every mouth will confess that Jesus is God and Lord. There is no doubt. Jesus is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Everything, is now measured in and through Jesus and his Word. When Jesus says, “This is my word, hear it and believe it,” that’s what we are to do. The Bible is clear and plain. We have no right to ignore or dismiss what God’s Word says. We are careful to measure and weigh all things in Christ. He is everything! Jesus is the King!

Our text helps us grasp the total purpose of our king. We hear: **“Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other ruler and every other authority and power. For he must reign ‘until he has put all his enemies under his feet.’”** To me, these are the most exciting and awe filled words there could be. So maybe we should wrestle with what these words mean.

Without a doubt, these words are addressing the end of the world. There are a lot of things that could be told you. In a nutshell, you will hear the trumpet of God and everything around you is going to disappear. There will be Jesus with all the saints and we will join them. You will either find yourself on the right hand of Jesus, the wonder of heaven is now yours or you will find yourself on the left hand of Jesus and that means you will be found for all eternity in the darkness and terror of hell. You must grasp, Jesus is the one behind all of this. Every ruler, authority or power that dared to stand against the Kingship of Jesus will find themselves **“in subjection under his feet.”**

 That phrase is really something. We get a prophetic picture of what this is about in Psalm 110. We hear things like this: **1The decree of the Lord to my lord:“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool under your feet.”** And more yet from this Psalm. **He will crush kings on the day of his wrath. 6He will judge the nations. He will fill valleys with corpses. He will crush heads over the wide world.”** We don’t think of Jesus in this way but in truth He does and will stand as the Judge, the holy, righteous, almighty, and just King. He will make no mistakes. He will carry out the justice of his Father. Whoever believes will be saved but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Most Study Bibles will tell you that this idea of your enemies being your footstool is an age old picture. When kings conquered, you as the conquered enemy became his footstool, a way of showing his complete mastery over you. It is not a picture meant to give comfort but rather fear.

 This is all a part of the end. The whole world will stand judged before the Lord. Every soul, every creature will answer to God for the life that they lived. And if you lived that life in dishonor of Jesus, then the Lord says you are going to have a problem. But listen to the hope that believers in Jesus have. **“Death is the last enemy to be done away with.”**

 In this case, I want you to grasp that here we are speaking again of the two types of death. Eternal death is no longer a problem for those “in Christ.” That’s because Jesus has won the victory and has paid the price of our eternal damnation. But the other death, physical death, is also done away with. We no longer need fear this physical problem. We no longer have to worry about what will be or when. We will simply live forever with the Lord. Heaven will be our home. Christ will be our King. The glory of that picture is awesome. We are going to live in the presence of God forever and ever.

 In the book of Revelation we have a few prophetic pictures of what we can look forward to with Jesus. Revelation 7 is one such section: **9After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. 10They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb. 11All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12saying: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen. 13One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?” 14And I answered him, “Sir, you know.” he said to me: These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. 16They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, 17for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

 This will be our joy in Heaven. This is what the Christ our King has brought us. Not a king who lords it over us but rather a king who came to save us. A king who shows a love of such depth that we can hardly fathom it. A king who helps us grasp that in Him and with Him there is nothing ever to fear. But this is also a king that we trust with all our hearts. We hear his voice. We rejoice in his call to faith. We gladly walk with him and serve Him not to get anything but rather because He has already given us everything. There is the wonder of the Christ, our King, of Jesus the Christ who has come to save and to rule over all things to the glory of the Father.

 I pray that you grasp the wonder and awe of this King. He really does rule over all things. He really will put all his enemies under his feet. He really will grant those who believe the gift of eternal life and salvation. What a wonderful King. Our King, Jesus! Amen.