



BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: MAYBE WE SHOULD DECORATE THE SPACE ABOVE THE MAIN DOORS?

If Valley Church had been built in the Middle Ages, then an eye-popping exterior would greet us each week. That's the way they built churches back then. Of course, there isn't much to see above our doors, just a beige façade with rectangles. Off to the right hangs a display case with posters promoting upcoming events. But in medieval times, church leaders commissioned sculptors and artists to depict the



biggest event of all, the return of King Jesus to save and to judge. This was the case in France with the Autun Cathedral and Gislebertus' masterpiece suspended over the doors. Consider this: churchmen who commissioned the piece didn't beat around the bush, duck the issue or hem and haw. The carved stones shouted, "King Jesus will descend — be ready to receive him." Imagine being an illiterate worshipper or pilgrim gazing up in wonder and terror at the Judge, angels, demons and the multitudes of humanity.



If you're interested in a secular video that describes the work's many details and features,, Google "Smart history, Last Judgment, Tympanum." Now, the artist's theology wasn't perfect by a long shot, but he got the basic idea right: King Jesus will appear and sort

humanity into two categories. Here's the message: those who truly take the "10 Gospel Events" to heart and who trudge forth in faith despite temptations and troubles will be overjoyed at his coming. "Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). Those who don't, won't. The verses below talk about the two outcomes for the two groups.



2Th. 1:5 *This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—*

2Th. 1:6 *since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,*

2Th. 1:7 *and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels*

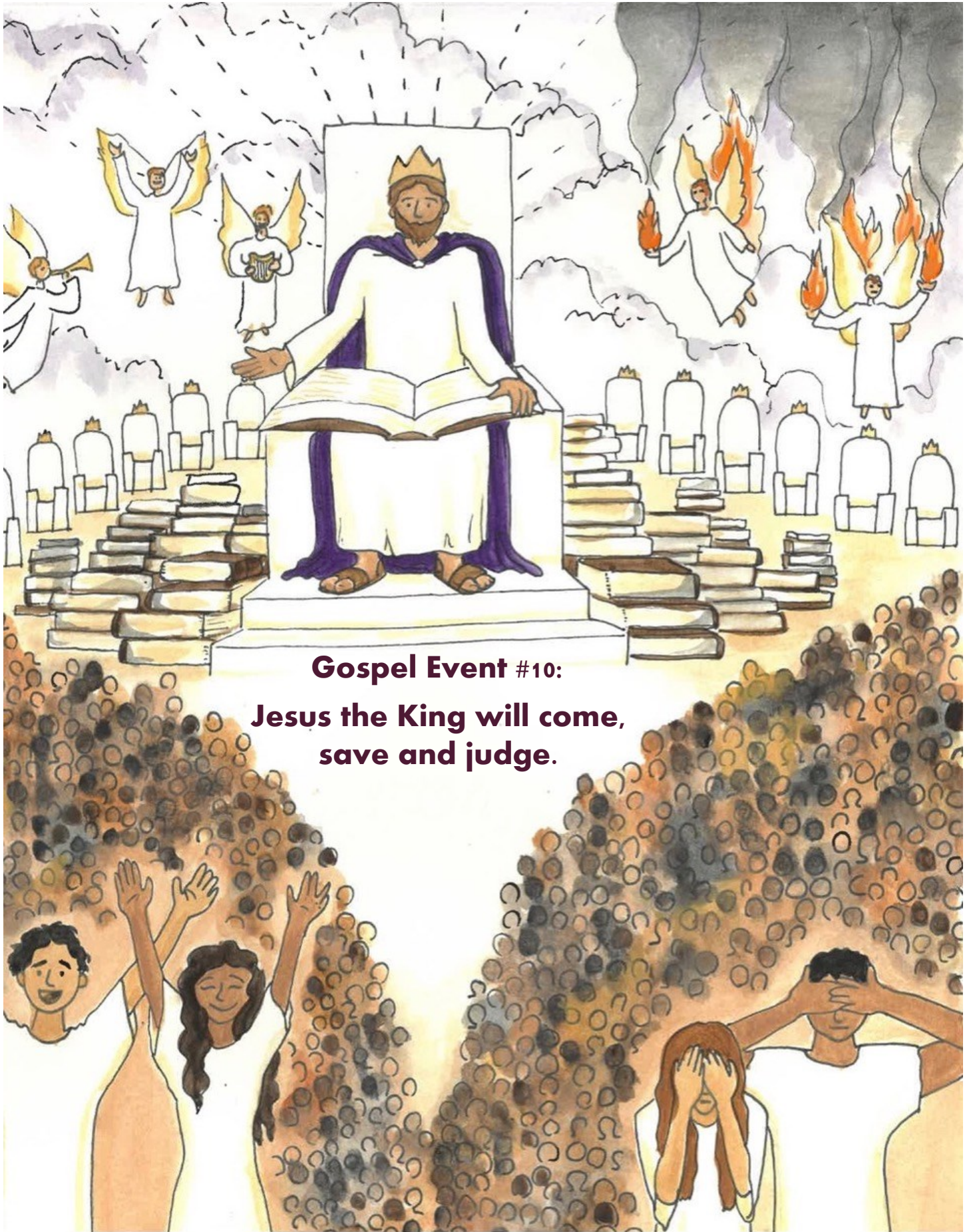
2Th. 1:8 *in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

2Th. 1:9 *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

2Th. 1:10 *when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.*

BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: ONE VISION OF THAT DAY.

Let's take a long look at Kierra's depiction of King Jesus' return. You'll find it on the next page. What's the main passage Kierra had in mind? What other details do you notice? Where are they found in the Bible?



Gospel Event #10:

**Jesus the King will come,
save and judge.**

Kierra's painting is full of Scriptural references, including Matt. 25:31-46, which is the main scene. Look them up if you have a chance: multitudes (Dan. 7:10; Joel 3:14); angels (Dan. 7:10); a great white throne (Rev. 20:11) thrones for God's people (Rev. 20:4), books (Rev. 20:12, 15; Dan. 7:10), flames (2 Thes. 1:6); happy euphoria (1 Pet. 4:13); and bitter sorrow (2 Thes. 1:9).

BETWEEN 12:00 PM—1:30 PM: LET'S READ THE PASSAGE THAT SHOOK ME UP.

I love Kierra's take on the sheep-and-goats judgment of our Saving King. I remember the first time I heard this passage. It was the summer of 1987 and I was a 17-year-old Camp Hammer counselor. In the evening meeting, another counselor named "Hula" (Sergio Perez, pictured to the right) did a skit depicting the scene. I was shocked. I had never read it. No pastor had ever taught it to me that I could remember. It seemed at odds with the gospel of "accepting Jesus into my heart." I was disturbed — to say the least — but it was the beginning of a deepening process in my life that increased my joy, sobriety and urgency. Let's read it together. (By the way, I'll tell you more about Hula on the last page of the guide.)



Matt. 25:31 *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.*

Matt. 25:32 *Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

Matt. 25:33 *And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.*

Matt. 25:34 *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Matt. 25:35 *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,*

Matt. 25:36 *I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'*

Matt. 25:37 *Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?*

Matt. 25:38 *And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?*

Matt. 25:39 *And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'*

Matt. 25:40 *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

Matt. 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Matt. 25:42 *For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,*

Matt. 25:43 *I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'*

Matt. 25:44 *Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'*

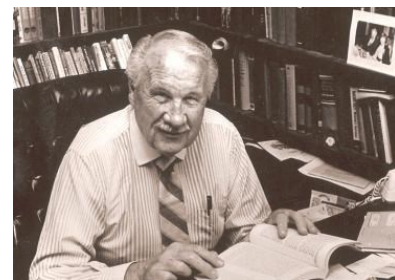
Matt. 25:45 *Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'*

Matt. 25:46 *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Should we take this passage individually? Sure. Should we take it corporately? Yes, absolutely. Let's hear this challenging passage as the family of believers who make up the church on N. Stelling. Let's measure our maturity as the Valley Church nation in doubling, tripling and quadrupling our efforts to help the poor, seeing Jesus' face in their faces.

BETWEEN 1:30—3:00 PM: LET'S READ WHAT A TRUSTY BIBLE TEACHER WROTE ABOUT THIS PASSAGE.

Ray Stedman, who served at Peninsula Bible Church for 40 years, wrote the following about the last judgment in Matthew 25 in his book *What on Earth is Happening?* He had a wonderful gift for speaking the truth in a reassuring way. I quote from it below.



THE REAL TEST. *The arresting thing about the Lord's message at the close of His discourse is that He clearly states the ultimate mark of an authentic Christian. It is not his creed, his doctrine, or his Bible knowledge. It is the reality of his heart. It is the Christlike love and concern he shows to those who are in need. The practical demonstration of love is the final proof. The most orthodox Christian of all is the one who demonstrates the orthodoxy of love.*



At this judgment Jesus does not ask anyone to present his case or argue his defense. He asks no questions. He examines no evidence. As judicial processes go, it is a brief and simple proceeding. He simply says to one group — the sheep — 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

Then Jesus explains the basis of His choice: When the sheep had an opportunity to help someone in need, they did it. Nothing more is required. It is sobering to realize that Jesus identifies Himself with those in need. 'If you help people in need,' Jesus says, in effect, 'you're really helping Me. And if you ignore them, you ignore Me.' Jesus flings the cloak of relationship around the needy and identifies with them as 'brothers.'

The sheep who inherit the kingdom are those who have responded to the needs of others. We may protest, 'But it is costly and expensive to meet the needs of others.' Or, 'It's risky and dangerous to meet the needs of others.' Well, yes, it is costly and risky to reach out in love to needy people. Jesus paid that price and took that risk every day of His public ministry. If we call ourselves 'Christians,' shouldn't we be willing to pay the price and take the risk to follow His example? (p.202 of What on Earth is Happening?)

Did the Spirit speak to you through Stedman's words? What's your takeaway?

Unwed, pregnant mothers are truly in need. We can help. If you're interested in attending a one-hour event on Zoom with me [Darren] on Thursday, May 6 at 4:00 PM, please email me at darrens@valleychurch.org. Please also check out this website: friendsofrealoptions.com. There's a great, short video featuring a woman who got help.

We'll learn about how churches can offer love, compassion, hope and help to women, men and student who are facing pregnancy decisions.



BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.

BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM: Join the EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.



3:00 PM Prayer Gathering

PATTY GRIMM *[Our sister will share her story. I'm curious why she chose these verses. I expect to forever associate them with Patty.]*



2Cor. 3:5 *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,*

1John 4:16 *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

1John 4:18 *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*

7:00 PM Prayer Gathering

GAIL HUGGER *We're excited to hear Gail. Here she is with her cousins and sister. Is that pizza?*



John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:2 *He was in the beginning with God.*

John 1:3 *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (5 min.): **John 5:22** *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,*

Our Good Shepherd is also our Judge. That's the best news we could ever hear. Thank the Father the Son holds our fate..

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (5 min.): **John 5:24** *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

"Does *not* come into judgment? Wait a minute! I don't get it. I thought we *do* get judged?" Here's what's going on. "Judgment" sometimes means the sentence that goes *against* the person, meaning condemnation and expulsion. However, those who confess and cling to Jesus — despite a thousand failures — will be sifted, but not condemned (Rom. 8:1). Praise him again.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (10 min.): **Rom. 8:33-34** *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

Judge, Savior and King Jesus loves, comforts and intercedes for his own sheep. We won't collapse under the pressure of Judgment Day. He'll make us stand and pass the review! (Rom. 14:4). Then, we'll help judge angels and men before reigning with him over his kingdom in the new creation. Pray that unbelievers will repent and believers will remain close to the King. Name names to Jesus. Name needs to Jesus. Name your sins and confess them. Do spiritual business, whatever that means.

Remembering “Hula” (Sergio Perez)

I love church history from all the centuries, the giants whom historians like Eusebius, Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kenneth Scott Latourette have written about. We’ve talked about the greats, but how about the obscure heroes who embraced the gospel and who made much of King Jesus?

Let me tell you about one. His name was Sergio Perez. Like I wrote above, I met him at Camp Hammer in the summer of 1987. He was a Biola University student from Los Angeles. He was beloved on the Camp



Hula with Camp Hammer staff in 1987.

Hammer staff, as you can see from this picture to the left. He was an absolute kid magnet. They loved him. He had such a great reputation, that the boy campers practically cried if they didn’t get put in Hula’s cabin. He was only two years older, but he helped coach my brother Dan and me as we learned to take care of kids in a camp-and-cabin setting. He understood kids and loved to share Jesus with them.

You could tell that Hula and the Lord had a longstanding connection. Hula gave off Jesus-aroma, Jesus-welcome and Jesus-truth. He was serious about his faith and wanted to help the poor as an expression of gratitude

for King. He studied elementary education at Biola and became an elementary teacher in Whittier. There he established himself as (no surprise) legendary teacher at Laurel Elementary School.

God blessed him with a wife and two daughters. He was taken with Taline on their first date and wanted to tie the knot. He was just motoring along as an educator who was modeling Christ to his students. You wouldn’t know that this educational professional —all dressed up in shirt and tie — was the funny and colorful camp staff member doing hilarious skits, chucking water balloons and sharing the gospel with kids for many summers.



Hula at 50 in 2017, before he fell asleep in the Lord.

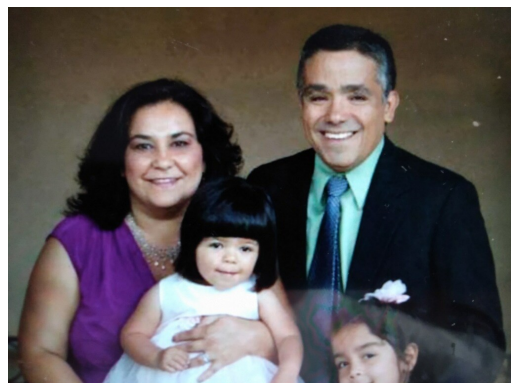
Then in the summer of 2016 Hula was diagnosed with a brain tumor followed by two strokes that robbed him of speech. There was an enormous outpouring of financial and emotional support. A local ministry called “Families Helping Families helped raise money for his care.

His faith and the faith of his wife remained solid to the end. I encourage you to watch a short news clip about him where you’ll learn about his life and the faith of his wife. Just put “Serge Perez cancer Whittier” in your search engine and click on the abc7./com video that pops up.

When you watch, notice also how at the end of his life, he couldn’t speak, but God gave him the ability to keep singing his King’s praise. Check out it. Have Kleenex with you. Hula’s resting with the Lord now, and someday the King will raise him.



Hula with my brother Dan and me in 1987.



With his wife Taline and two daughters in about 2008.