

# An Olympic Moment

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> **Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.** They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

## I. Olympic Pageantry

- A. Opening Ceremony
- B. Closing Ceremony

## II. A God Story

### A. Opening "Ceremony"

#### 1. Formal acknowledgement of "beginning"

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

#### 2. Showcase 'the Host'

Genesis 1:3-5 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

#### 3. Meet the participants

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:15-25 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." <sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:1 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> **Now the serpent** was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

#### 4. Observations from the "opening"

- a. Creator & creation
- b. God's goodwill toward humanity
- c. God's purposes \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Humans easily \_\_\_\_\_

## B. The Closing Ceremony

Revelation 19:5-9 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" <sup>6</sup> Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) <sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, "Write: **'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'**" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

### 2. Achievements recognized

#### a. Jesus' accomplishments made evident

Matthew 19:27-29 (NIV)

<sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at **the renewal of all things**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

#### b. Christ "followers" rewarded

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

### 3. Celebration of the Journey

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Romans 8:18-21 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with **the glory that will be revealed in us.** <sup>19</sup> The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

1 Peter 5:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

### 4. Formal conclusion to this \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:3-5 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**KEY:** opposed, diverted, competition closed, episode