

The Resurrection of the Saints

Revelation 20:1-6

Please notice the two conditions, or descriptions of those who will have part in the First Resurrection.

1. **Blessed** from the Greek word **markarios**, which means supremely blest, fortunate, well off, blessed and **happy**.
2. **Holy** from the Greek word **hagios** which means sacred, pure, blameless, consecrated, holy, saint.

[13] Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

[14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

I Corinthians 15:51-58

There are **FIVE RAPTURES THAT MAKE THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION.**

1. Christ and the many saints who were raptured, or resurrected when Jesus rose from the dead. (Matthew 27:51-53, Ephesians 4:8-10)
2. Everyone who is truly in Christ, dead or alive at the Rapture of the Church. (1 Thesalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Revelation 4:1)
3. The 144,000 Jews who are saved in the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. (Revelation 7:4-8, Revelation 14:1-3)
4. The great multitude of Tribulation Saints who are saved. (Revelation 7:9, 13, 14)
5. The Rapture of the Two Witnesses. (Revelation 11:3, 7-12)

Signs of His Coming

Matthew 24:1 - 3

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. When will Jerusalem be destroyed?
2. What will be the sign of your coming?
3. When will the world end?

TEN IMPORTANT ANSWERS

1. False Christs (verse 5)
2. Wars & Rumors of War (verse 6)
3. Nations & Kingdoms Attempting Overthrows (verse 7)
4. Famines (verse 7 & Revelation 6:5, 6)
5. Pestilences or Diseases (verse 7 & Revelation 6:8)
6. Earthquakes & Tsunamis (verse 7 & Revelation 6:12-17)
7. Anti-Semitism (verses 9 & 10, Ezekiel 37-39; Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-3)
8. False Prophets & False Religions (verse 11 & Revelation 13:1-7)
9. Sin Abounding (verse 12 & Jude 1:3, 4)
10. Backsliding & Coldness (verse 12 & Revelation 2:4, 5; 3:1; 3:17)

Jesus gave these as signs of His Second Coming, which is to take place after the Rapture and The Great Seven Year Tribulation, and yet, as we see many of these signs already beginning, we know we are nearing the **Rapture**.

When The Battle's Over

Chorus

And when the battle's over
We shall wear a crown
Yes we shall wear a crown
Yes we shall wear a crown
And when the battle's over
We shall wear a crown
In the new Jerusalem
Wear a crown wear a crown
Wear a bright and shining crown
And when the battle's over
We shall wear a crown
In the new Jerusalem

Verse 1

Am I a soldier of the cross
A follower of the Lamb
And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name

Verse 2

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed thro' bloody seas

Verse 3

Sure I must fight if I would reign
Increase my courage Lord
I'll bear the toil endure the pain
Supported by Thy Word

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THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Let us notice that the word **Rapture** does not appear in the Bible. The word, **Rapture** is taken from the Greek word, **harpazo**, which means to **grasp hastily, snatch up, carry off**.

The **Rapture** of the church is not the Second Coming of Christ. At the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus will come all the way back to the earth. At the **Rapture**, Jesus will come in the clouds and His people will be **caught up** to meet Him.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Titus 2:11-15

1 John 3:1-3

Revelation 4:1

Signs that indicate the Rapture of the Church will take place before the Seven Year, Great Tribulation.

The Sign of Noah Genesis 6:6-8; 17-21; 7:10-16; Matthew 24:37-39

The Sign of Sodom Genesis 18:16-25; Luke 18:26-30

The Sign of the Church (Scriptures already given)

The Sign of the Antichrist 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

Is there anywhere in the Bible where God tells us to be looking for the Antichrist?

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:9

So many have asked, "Pastor, will there be food in heaven? Will we eat in Heaven?"
I just can't imagine a feast without food.

It seems as though the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be one of, if not the last event taking place in Heaven before Christ's Second Coming.

This will no doubt take place after The Judgment Seat of Christ.

The rewards will have been handed out. The positions of authority as to what we will be assigned to do when we come back to the earth will have been awarded.

The seating arrangement at the tables will have been decided.

And what a feast that will be!

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb has been an event to which I have looked forward to with great excitement for many years.

I believe Jesus also has looked forward to this event for a long time.

[26] And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

[27] And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

[28] For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

[29] But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Matthew 26:26-29

Did you get it? "Until that day."

And what a day that is going to be. It will be a happy day. A joyful day. An exciting day.

[7] Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

[8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 19:7, 8

No dirty garments here. No soiled garments here. Remember, these are the saints. These are the overcomers. No playing around with the world for these.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity (a bitter enemy) with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. **I John 5:4**

The word faith in this verse is taken from the Greek word, "pistis" which not only means assurance, but also fidelity, or faithfulness.

[25] Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

[26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

[27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **Ephesians 5:25-27**

No dirty garments! No soiled garments! No spotted garments! No wrinkled garments!

And did you notice that this is included in the context of the earthly marriage of men and women?

Surely, Jesus must be looking forward with great longing and excitement to the Heavenly marriage.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be worth anything we may have to give up down here.

Can it be that while the happiness and excitement is still upon us, we will hear our blessed Savior say, "Up from the table, I have arranged for a horse for each of you. Let's go and take our kingdom."?

Notice the event taking place immediately after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

[11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

[14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:11,14

Where are they headed? To the earth, to fight at the Battle of Armageddon, then to set up Christ's earthly kingdom for 1,000 years. Remember, these are the victors, the overcomers.

[26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

[27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. **Revelation**

2:26,27

Yes, it looks as though His people will go from the table, to the horse, to the throne.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them...

Revelation 20:4

Those who are resurrected, or raptured at the end of the tribulation will also help Christ rule and reign.

Let's keep our garments white, by living a holy life so that we will be ready for this great marriage feast.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

[10] But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

[11] For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

[12] So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. **Romans 14:10-12**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:10

The Judgment Seat of Christ is to be distinguished from the Great White Throne Judgment spoken of in Revelation 20:11-15.

While the Great White Throne Judgment takes place after the millennial kingdom, the Judgment Seat of Christ seems to take place sometime during the 7 year tribulation, and will be for believers only.

Many have read about believers being judged, and instead of being placed in hell, are saved but lose their reward. Misunderstanding this, they mistakenly believe the doctrine of eternal security that teaches Christians can never be lost.

[14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

[15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

I Corinthians 3:14, 15

Only believers who have been raptured, or resurrected will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This judgment is not to see if someone is saved, but rather what their reward shall be.

Quite possibly this judgment of believers only will take years to complete, and may start immediately after the rapture of I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

It is very likely to continue right up until the final rapture, or resurrection of believers spoken of in Revelation 20:4, 6.

These believers must also go before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The truth of the Judgment Seat of Christ sorely needs to be preached in our churches.

So many have the philosophy of being satisfied to just barely make it into Heaven. There is no fire or zeal for the Lord's work. This is an extremely dangerous attitude and probably will result in an undisciplined and careless lifestyle and possibly missing the rapture altogether.

[17] For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

[18] And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

I Peter 4:17, 18

I have heard people declare that they were doing their best, and if God didn't like it, He could just leave it. And that is just what God will do. He will leave it, and them.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching...

Luke 12:37

Why is that person blessed? Because he will be serious about serving the Lord. When we are serious and dedicated in our service to God, we will have confidence to be ready for the rapture.

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. **I John 2:28**

Oh, to be confidently and eagerly looking forward to His coming. Many believers are nervous, if not terrified of the Rapture taking place.

What will be our answer when we are questioned as to how we have spent our lives? Will it be the same answer so many pastors have heard so many times? "I'm so tired." "I just don't have enough time." "Someone else could do it so much better than I." Or how about this one? "I go to church three times a week, how much more can God expect me to do?"

How foolish these and other **excuses** will seem on that fearful day. Are we not aware that we have the same number of hours in our day that others have?

God is looking for laborers, not undedicated, slovenly believers who major in making excuses.

When we feel we are really serving God profitably, could it be that we will all be ashamed that we didn't do more?

Even the disciples who walked with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry were terrified when they saw Him in His glory.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me. Fear not; I am the first and the last. **Revelation 1:17**

Those who think they will boldly stand before Christ and make excuses need to realize it will be a terrifying experience.

[10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

[11] Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... **II Corinthians 5:10, 11**

Notice the word **therefore** which points us back to the preceding verse.

What a shameful eternity it would be, walking around Heaven with little or no reward or honor, and meeting great men and women of God.

Why is the passing out of rewards so important? No doubt, this will influence our position in the coming kingdom of Christ when He comes to earth to set up His government.

[16] Then came the first, saying. Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

[17] And he said unto him. Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. **Luke 19:16, 17**

His lord said unto him. Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21

Just to hear His "Well done" would make our toiling and suffering worth everything. Just to hear His "Well done" would be reward enough, but that is not the way it is to be.

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be one of the exciting events taking place in Heaven as the seven year tribulation is taking place on the earth.

The Reign of the Antichrist

The Reign of the Antichrist

We know the **Great Tribulation** is a time when God deals with Israel.

We must also realize it will be a time when the devil shows his wrath and cruelty.

We can see the beginning of the **Great Tribulation** in chapter six of the Book of Revelation. Let me quickly sketch some of the events.

Revelation 6:2: The revelation of the Antichrist. Notice he has a bow and not a sword. The real Christ does not go forth to conquer until Revelation 19:11.

Revelation 6:4: The red horse and rider symbolizes the war that will take place because of the Antichrist.

Revelation 6:5, 6: The black horse and rider symbolizes the famine brought about by wars and calamities. Remember, when food is measured like this in the Bible, it usually points to scarcity or famine.

Revelation 6:8: The pale horse and rider symbolizes **death and hell.**

There is no doubt in my mind that souls will come to God in the tribulation. We see from verses 9-11 the souls of martyrs killed for their testimony. Verses 12-17 tell us of the beginning of the wrath of God in the tribulation.

Chapter seven seems to be a parenthetical insert between the sixth and seventh seals for chapter six ends with the sixth seal, and chapter eight begins with the seventh seal.

In chapters eight and nine we read about six of the seven trumpet judgments.

Notice in chapter 9:20, 21 God calls attention to the hardness of men's hearts. It seems anyone would want to repent and cry out for mercy during or after these six trumpet judgments, but remember II Thessalonians 2:8-12.

All of chapter ten, and the first 14 verses of chapter 11 are a parenthetical insert between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments.

Revelation 12:1: A symbol of national Israel.

Revelation 12:2-5: The travail of Israel and the birth of the man child.

Some believe the man child is speaking of Christ. I believe it is speaking of the 144,000 spoken of in chapter 7:1-8, and chapter 14:1-5.

Please let me say here, in all honesty, that I believe there is a lot of Bible prophecy we do not know for sure. Let me also say that with all of us who teach about Bible prophecy, there is surely a lot of speculation.

Also, I think it is important to remind us all that we can get so caught up in the future that we waste precious opportunities we have now. I call to your attention the events of Acts 1:6-8.

The disciples were excited and curious about the coming kingdom. Jesus politely told them it was none of their business, but they needed the Holy Ghost baptism to witness and win souls now.

Let us guard against trying to be Bible prophecy experts, but missing the opportunities we have in the world to win people to Christ now.

Revelation 12:7-9: **Satan still has access** to God's heaven to accuse the brethren as in Job 1:6-12, but here we see him cast out into the earth. The announcement is made in verse 10. In verses 11 and 12 we still find the grace of God is sufficient, and in verses 13-17 we read of the wrath of the dragon (Satan).

Revelation 13:1-15: We read of **the rise of the Antichrist** and his deception of those that dwell on the earth.

Revelation 13:16-18; 14:9-11: Here we read of **the mark of the beast** and the fate of all those who accept it. Most Bible scholars believe this time is getting very near.

Revelation 14:12, 13: Lets us know of **the blessing of dying as a believer**.

Revelation 14:14-20: **The harvest of Armageddon**.

Revelation 15:1-8: **Another glimpse into heaven**, where we see the blessed state of those who were saved in the tribulation period, and the preparation of the seven vials of God's wrath to be poured out upon the earth.

Revelation 16:1-21: Here we see **the awfulness of God's wrath**. Please notice again the hardness of men's hearts in verse 21. Wouldn't you think that when hailstones weighing somewhere between 90 and 100 pounds begin falling out of Heaven on men, there would be repentance? Again we see the foolishness of those who reject Christ now and think they will serve Him in the tribulation period.

Revelation 17:1-18: **Again a parenthetical insert**, this time during the seventh vial.

Revelation 18:1-24: **The destruction of Babylon** during the completion of the seventh vial.

Revelation 19:1-10: **Another glimpse into Heaven**.

Revelation 19:11-21: **The second coming of Christ** all the way back to the earth. In verses 17-19 we see the Battle of Armageddon being fought. In verses 20 and 21, we see the beast (the Antichrist), and the false prophet captured and cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:1-3: **The capture of Satan** and his doom for the next one thousand years.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Tribulation: Greek (Thlipsis) Anguish, persecution, trouble.

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **Matthew 24:21**

The great tribulation is a seven year period of great trouble that is coming after the rapture of the church.

Why do we believe the tribulation will begin after the rapture, and why do we believe it will last seven years?

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. **Daniel 9:2**

Keep in mind that Daniel is talking about years, not days or weeks. So when he refers to weeks in verse 24, he is talking about weeks of years. I believe this will become clear to you as we continue.

Seventy weeks (of years) are determined upon thy people (Jews) and upon thy holy city (Jerusalem), to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. **Daniel 9:24**

Words in parenthesis () are mine to call attention to certain truths we need to notice.

Notice in verse 24, **thy people**, and **thy holy city**. The tribulation is a time when God will once again deal with the nation of Israel. And when God deals with Israel, the whole world will be affected.

Let's look now at the **seventy weeks of years** Daniel writes about in verse 24. Seventy weeks of years, or seventy sevens of years is a total of 490 years. So we know it will be a time period of 490 years that God will deal with the Jewish people.

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (seven weeks of years, or seven sevens of years is 49 years), and threescore and two weeks (62 weeks of years, or 62 sevens is 434 years): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Daniel 9:25

Notice that we now have accounted for 69 of the 70 weeks of years, or $69 \times 7 = 483$ years.

There are still 7 years unaccounted for.

[26] And after threescore and two weeks (483 years) shall Messiah be cut off (crucified), but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come (the antichrist) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

[27] And he (the antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (7 years): and in the midst (3 1/2 years) of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the obla-

tion to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations (Matthew 24:15) he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 9:26, 27

Remember, in verse 24, Daniel talks of 70 weeks of years or 490 years.

In verse 25 he talks of seven weeks of years and 62 weeks of years, or a total 69 weeks of years. So we now have 69 of the 70 weeks of years accounted for.

$7 \times 7 = 49$ years (We find the remaining 7 years in verse 27)

$62 \times 7 = 434$ years

Total 483 years

 +7 years

= 490 years

This final week, or 7 years will not begin until the church is taken out of the world at the time of the rapture.

[6] And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

[7] For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

[8] And then shall that Wicked (the antichrist) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

II Thessalonians 2:6-8

A quick look at the book of Revelation will reinforce the position that the tribulation will not begin until after the church is taken out of the world.

Revelation is not a closed book as some believe. The very name Revelation, means revealed.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

Revelation 1:19

The preceding verse is the key to understanding the Book of Revelation.

The things "thou hast seen" is the vision of Christ in the midst of the candlesticks, verses 12-16.

The "things which are" refer to the churches in chapters two and three.

The "things which shall be hereafter" refer to the events which must be **after** the churches, (church age) or the future.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said. Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:1

I believe this first verse of chapter four refers to the rapture of the church for we do not see the church again on the earth.

Chapters four and five give us a view into heaven, and chapter six begins Daniel's 70th week, or the seven year tribulation period which is divided into two 3 1/2 year segments. Let's look at the verses that show this.

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Revelation 11:3

One thousand, two hundred and threescore days = 1,260 days.

3 1/2 years = 1,277 days.

Let's let God take care of those other 17 days any way He chooses.

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (1,260) **Revelation 12:6**

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time (one year), and times (two years), and half a time (1/2 year), from the face of the serpent. **Revelation 12:14**

one year

two years

+1/2 year

=3 1/2 years

And there was given unto him (antichrist) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. **Revelation 13:5**

3 years = 36 months

+1/2 year = 6 months

=3 1/2 years 42 months

You can readily see that these verses go along with Daniel 9:27 where we read about the seven year covenant being broken in the middle of the week.

The Antichrist will deceive the world into believing he is the Christ for 3 1/2 years.

His deception becomes apparent to those who study the Word of God when he sets up his image to be worshipped in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; II Thessalonians 2:3-5)

This begins the second 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.

[16] *Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.*

[21] *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.* **Matthew 24:16,21**

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. **Revelation 12:6**

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. **Revelation 12:14**

[4] *And they (those who do not flee) worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying. Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

[5] *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.* **Revelation 13:4, 5**

The seven year tribulation period is going to be a horrible time. You may read about it from Revelation 6:1 through Revelation 18:24.

Some have told me they were not worried about living a steadfast Christian life, because if they missed the rapture of I Thessalonians 4:13-18, they would hide somewhere and not receive the mark of the beast. That reasoning is so foolish and misplaced.

According to II Thessalonians 2:9-12, those who loved not the truth will believe a lie and be followers of the Antichrist.

The Kingdom of Christ On the Earth

The word Millennium is a combination of two Latin words, **mille**, a thousand, and **annus**, year.

The phrase, thousand years, is found six times in Revelation 20:1-7.

Men have talked, written and preached about the Millennium for centuries.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **Romans 8:22**

The Apostle is talking here about our adoption and deliverance. We know this begins when we are born again and set free from sin. It will surely be realized in a greater way in the millennium.

In the previous chapter I wrote about natural peoples being on the earth during the millennium.

[31] When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

[32] And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

[33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

[34] Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:31-34

It would be profitable to read that entire 25th chapter.

[3] And many people shall go and say. Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

[4] And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more

Isaiah 2:3,4

In Matthew 25 and Isaiah 2, we can see there will be natural people on the earth during the Millennium. In fact, they are who Christ and the saints will rule over. This world has become so violent and perverted that it will never be right until there is a theocratic government in place. Theocratic government is the rule of a state, nation or world by God.

The Millennium will be a time of great joy and praise to God. Read Isaiah 35:1-10.

Conditions of growth of vegetation will be ideal. Many people will be healed. There will be a literal highway, and the name of the highway will be, "The Way of Holiness".

Doesn't it seem strange that so many churches resist holiness and still expect to be ready for the rapture? In that day, everything will emphasize holiness.

[20] In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

[21] Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judea shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts.

Z e c h a r i a h

14:20, 21

This reign of Christ and His saints will be so perfect that even the animals will get along with each other.

[6] The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together: and a little child shall lead them.

[7] And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

[8] And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' (a deadly poisonous serpent) den.

[9] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:6-9

There is so much about the Millennium in the Bible, it would fill one whole book just to try to cover it. God has such wonderful things planned for His faithful people. I have told people that even if there were no hell, (and there is) I would still want to live right and make Heaven just to get in on everything God has planned for us.

And don't think for one moment that Heaven is just sitting on a cloud, playing a harp. I would be bored inside of 30 minutes.

No, Heaven will be so exciting. In fact, we may not stay in Heaven very long. We know that after seven years in Heaven, we will come back to this earth for one thousand years.

It is a mystery to me why so many so-called Christians are not even excited about the future God has prepared for us.

Let me just leave you with this final thought on the Millennium. It will be required of nations that they send a representative to Jerusalem once a year.

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:16

ARMAGEDDON

And I saw the heavens opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:11

He is not coming as the babe in the manger this time! He is not coming to turn the other cheek this time! He is not coming to be spit upon and crucified this time!

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:16

This is His second coming. He is coming to declare war, and we are coming with Him.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:14

Please read the entire context from verse 11 to verse 21.

This army will be invincible. This army cannot be destroyed.

Imagine with me the armies of the Antichrist. They are shooting their most powerful missiles, but nothing can stop this heavenly army. We will be in our glorified, supernatural bodies and no weapon that is formed against us will prosper.

This is Christ's day! This is our day!

The slaughter will be horrible to behold. The blood will run deep. (Revelation 14:17-20)

The Antichrist that will cause so much fear upon the earth will be taken. His prophet will also be captured. Such victory for Christ and His armies.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Isaiah 24:21

Let's look at some verses from the Book of Ezekiel.

[18] And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face.

[19] For in my jealousy and in my wrath have I spoken. Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel.

[21] And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

[23] Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself: and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 38:18, 19, 21, 23

This Battle of Armageddon must be fought, for this battle is to set up Christ's kingdom upon the earth.

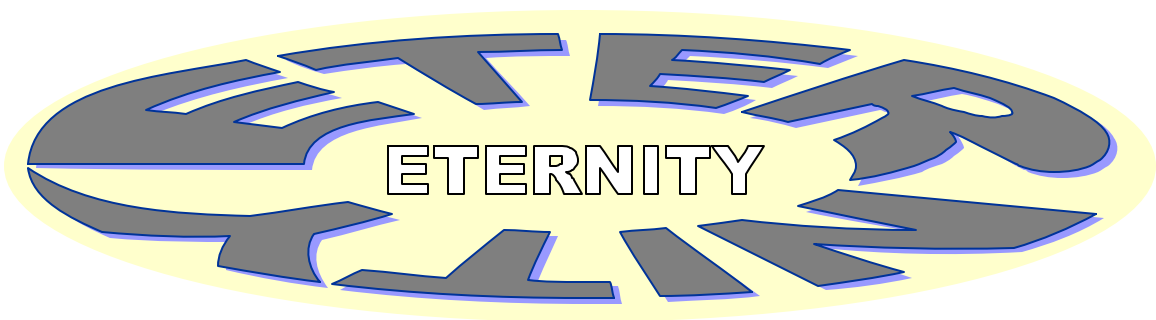
Even as Satan now fights us spiritually for our souls, so he will fight a great battle for control of the earth.

So many times the thought has come to me, **even if there were no hell**, I would still want to live holy just to be a part of God's great plan.

Such a great victory will be won on that day that there will be no need for another war for almost 1,000 years.

Let me share with you a childish fear I had when I was young. I worried that after making Heaven, going before the Judgment Seat of Christ, eating at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, I would mount my horse, come back through the skies, then get killed by a missile from the armies of the Antichrist.

It was such a relief when I understood that our resurrected bodies will be immortal, incapable of being killed. (I Corinthians 15:51-58)



[5] *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God, the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

[6] *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

[7] *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

[8] *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

[9] *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

[10] *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.* **II Peter 3:5-10**

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **Revelation 21:1**

In the previous verses of Scripture we see the destruction or renovation of the heavens and the earth. Man has so polluted and corrupted this planet that it is easy to see why it will take fire to get rid of the corruption. Only fire can burn up all the damage we have done.

Then begins the wonderful unfolding of what God has planned for His people.

The large oceans covering almost three-fourths of the earth will be no more.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Revelation 21:2**

This is not the Jerusalem that is now on the earth, but it is the **new Jerusalem**, the **holy city**.

As in other areas of prophecy, there are different opinions as to the new Jerusalem. Some believe it will come all the way down to the earth, or **on** the earth. Some believe it will hover just above the Jerusalem that is now on the earth, and that the highway of holiness spoken of in Isaiah 35:8 will lead slightly upwards into a hovering new Jerusalem.

I will leave that for God to reveal, and you the reader to ponder.

What we do know beyond the shadow of a doubt is that this will be a marvelous occasion when a part of Heaven comes down to earth.

[3] *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself*

shall be with them, and be their God.

[4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:3, 4

Think about it. Everything will be made new. No more death. No more sorrow, crying, or pain. No more curse to live under. We will have the strength and energy we have often longed for.

Again, as in chapters two and three of Revelation, the promise is to the overcomer.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my people.

Revelation 21:7

Then in verse eight we are reminded of the class of people who are not overcomers, who will not inherit the things of God.

For the remainder of chapter twenty-one, verses nine through twenty-seven, then into chapter twenty-two, we are given the description of the great things God has prepared for His people. What a glorious reward for those who have been faithful and true.

And yet there are those who are careless and slothful about the things of God. Some believe they can pray a last minute prayer and cover up a lifetime of self and sin.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Revelation

22:11

If for some reason you do not know you have been saved and redeemed by the blood of Jesus, open your heart to Jesus Christ right now. Pray and repent (turn away) from your sins. Ask Christ to forgive you and come into your heart and life. Be baptized in water by immersion. Faithfully attend a Bible believing, Bible preaching church that believes in inward and outward holiness.

Study the Word of God and live expecting Jesus to come at any time.

Look again at Revelation 20:15, then read Luke 10:17-20.

Many times at the conclusion of a service where I have preached, then given an invitation for people to get saved, watched many come forward to pray for salvation, or be prayed for to be healed, I have gone off by myself and with tears flowing, rejoiced because I am saved, and my name is written in Heaven.

Let me say again, if there were no Hell, and there is, I would still want to live for God and be part of His great plan.

I have not gone into my interpretation of the description of the new Jerusalem. The description God gives in His Word is exciting enough.

Many believe the city will be 1,500 miles square. That's long, wide and high. We do know there will be plenty of room for all God has planned. He makes no mistakes. I hope to see you there.

THE SECOND RESURRECTION

[4] And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

[5] But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

[6] Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-6

Let us look at the rest of chapter twenty of Revelation. As we do this, we see the unfolding of God's plan for the devil and his followers.

In verse ten, we see the devil's doom.

In verses eleven through fifteen, we see the doom of multitudes who rebel against God and His Word.

Let us go back to Revelation 13:16-18, and then on to Revelation 14:9-11.

Hell is real. Just as sure as there is a judgment day for all who follow Christ, so will there be a judgment day for all who follow Satan. See Revelation 19:1-3, and remember what we read in Revelation 20:12-15.

There will be no escape from hell, or the lake of fire. There will be no love, or friendship in Hell. No water, no beer, no rest, no relief.

What will be our choice?