

THE KINGDOM AGE

CHAPTER ONE

So far in our studies on the Order of Prophetic Events, we have covered prophetic events: (1) The Rapture of the Church, (2) The Tribulation, (3) The Battle of Armageddon, and (4) The Second Coming of our Lord.

When our Lord returns (His second coming) there will be FIVE events that will take place in rapid succession.

First, He will take the beast and the false prophet and cast them into the lake of fire, (Revelation 19:20).

Second, He will bring an end to the Battle of Armageddon, (Revelation 19:21).

Third, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit, (Revelation 20:1-3).

Fourth, will be the resurrection of those who were martyred during the Tribulation. (Revelation 20:4-6).

Fifth, will be the judgment of the nations.

This brings us to prophetic event number five, the Kingdom age of one thousand years, when the Lord Jesus, the Lord of lords and the King of kings, will rule and reign on earth from His throne in Jerusalem.

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.” (Revelation 20:2-7)

The words “a thousand years” is mentioned six times in these brief verses. Satan is bound a thousand years, (v. 2). Satan should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years are up, (v. 3). The martyr’s of the tribulation will live and reign with Christ a thousand years, (v.4). The unsaved will not be raised from the dead until the thousand years are over, (v.5). All who have a part in the first resurrection will be priests

of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years, (v.6). After a thousand years Satan will be loosed out of his prison, (v.7). Now, there must be something special about this “thousand years” that starts with the second coming of Christ, and will last until Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit.

Apart from “living and reigning with Christ” that is mentioned in verse four and verse six, no other information is given in this Scripture as to what takes place during this thousand year period. For the answer we must look elsewhere in Scripture. This will not be difficult for we have a great deal of information as to what happens in this period of time.

With so much information given in the Word of God concerning this “golden age” there should be no confusion at all on this subject. The Scriptures dealing with this subject are so clear even a child can understand. However, even with the crystal clear revelation concerning this wonderful event, we still see a lot of confusion as to the time, place and duration of this event.

Three Views

Apart from those who view the golden age of peace and prosperity upon earth as a description of Heaven, there are at least three views of this event that are in complete disagreement with each other.

The first view is that the Lord will return and set up His Kingdom before the Millennium. This view is called “pre-millennial.” (“Pre” means before).

The second view is the “post-millennial view, (“post” means after) which teaches that through the preaching of the gospel the whole world will be converted which will result in this golden age of peace and prosperity, and then the Lord will come back at the end of this golden age. Then there will be a general resurrection of the dead of all ages, to be judged. However, this interpretation is in direct conflict with both history as well as the Word of God. One look at the front page of the newspaper, or the lead story on the nightly news is testimony to the fact that the post-millennial view is not in harmony with the Word of God. The Word of God teaches that “evil men shall wax worse and worse,” and this age will end in apostasy and corruption. After 2000 years of preaching the gospel, by no stretch of the imagination can one say that God’s will is being done “in the earth as it is in Heaven.”

The most recent view is the a-millennial view. (“a” means no millennium). They tell us that there will be no Millennium at all; that the Scriptures dealing with this subject are not to be taken literally, but spiritually or symbolically. A good description of the a-millennialist is a disillusioned “post-millennialist.” When the post-millennialist found that they were losing ground in their efforts to convert the world, instead of accepting what the Bible teaches, that Christ will return before the Millennium, they adopted the theory of a-millennium, which is a denial of the literal reign of Christ on earth.

Although you may not believe that there will be such a day, you cannot deny that the Bible teaches there will be a period of time (1000 years) when Jesus will reign on earth.

It has been the dream of man to create a one world utopia, but all of his efforts have ended in absolute failure.

To explain the Kingdom age in simple terms, “it is a restoration of all Adam lost in his transgression.” Adam lost more than just his physical and spiritual life. Unless we

understand all that Adam lost we will never understand what the Kingdom age is all about.

The plain and simple record is recorded in the first book of the Bible. The first part of God's creation to come under the curse was man himself.

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:17)

The curse that God placed on the physical body of Adam, in the Garden of Eden, has been passed down from generation to generation to this very day.

**“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (I Corinthians 15:21, 22)**

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12)

One seventh of our economy is spent trying to fix up this old body. With the great strides made in the medical field, along with the sale of wheel chairs, crutches, walking canes, eye glasses, hearing aids, plus a multi-billion dollar drug industry, there has been no impact at all on the death rate. It is still one per person.

The divine healing programs of the many churches have not stayed the grim reaper of death.

Since the day of Pentecost not one person who was healed, or raised from the dead, has escaped this fact, “for in Adam all die.” All those who claimed to be healed today, unless the Lord returns first, will one day face the same fate.

The reason is simple. This body is still under the curse God placed upon Adam and will remain so until this body is done away with and we receive our new glorified body.

**“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.
There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”
(I Corinthians 15:42-44)**

We also read in Romans 8: 22 and 23:

**“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.
And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”
(Romans 8:22-23)**

Not only are we waiting for “the redemption of this body,” but neither has man’s wickedness been brought under control. Over five hundred dollars per person, per year, is spent on law enforcement to try and curb man’s wickedness, with very little success.

Secondly, we see the animal kingdom come under the curse as well.

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.” (Genesis 3:14)

The “animal rights” movement, with all of their good intentions, has made no progress at all in taming the wild animals. They have not been able to stop the mountain lion from killing smaller animals. After thousands of dollars was spent to restore a young seal to health, when it was released into the ocean, within minutes it became lunch for a killer whale. The animal kingdom, as well as man, still remains under the curse.

The ground also, as well as all vegetation, came under the curse. **“...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.” (Genesis 3:17b)**

The extreme environmentalists with all of their rules and regulations have not been able to restore any part of the curse that God placed upon the earth. It is impossible for them to make the desert bloom like a rose. We see people in the fields struggling to fight the thorns and thistles with a hoe. It is a constant struggle. Any farmer knows first hand the meaning of Genesis 3:18, 19.

“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:18,19)

If common sense was practiced there would be no need for environmental laws. However, because many do not practice common sense, the laws then become necessary.

I do not mean to be critical of those who are trying to make the world better. The point I am trying to make is that it is absolutely impossible for man to restore any part of what Adam lost. I understand when I am sick, I want to get well. I understand the desire of the environmentalist who wants to clean up this old earth. I understand the animal rights people who want to restore the animal kingdom; and the farmer who wants to produce a good crop.

If man was successful in his effort’s to clean up this old earth, it would just be to make a better place for unregenerate man to wait while he is going to Hell.

There is only one Person who was and is able to accomplish this restoration. The Lord Jesus Christ paid for everything Adam lost in the transgression. There is one problem. We must wait for the perfect healing of the body, the restoration of the animal kingdom and the restoration of the earth.

No better description can be given of our present condition than the one given by Paul, in Romans 8:18-23.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole world groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

**And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”
(Romans 8:18-23)**

We see from verse twenty-one that all of creation, the animal, mineral and vegetation will one day be restored, or delivered from the curse. “We groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of our bodies,” verse 23.

**“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”
(Philippians 3:20, 21)**

Waiting is the most difficult part. Any healing that we may receive today, however achieved, is only temporary at best. Be patient. One day, if you are a believer, you will receive a glorified body that will never need healing; a body that will never grow old and will never face death. What a day that will be!

CHAPTER TWO

We have covered in some detail a specific period of time following the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, where He, the Lord Jesus, will rule along with the saints in their glorified bodies here on earth for one thousand years.

The Bible proof of this truth of “one thousand years” is mentioned SIX times in Revelation 20:2-7. This period of one thousand years takes place here on earth. After the one-thousand years are expired, the earth is still standing.

**“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.
(Revelation 20: 7, 8)**

There is no way that this period of time can be explained away by spiritualizing or symbolizing. Although no information is given in these Scriptures as to what takes place, no amount of theological gymnastics can side-step the plain teaching of the Word of God. What takes place during this period of time will be a complete restoration of all that Adam lost in the transgression.

We saw in the preceding lesson that because of Adam's sin God placed a curse, or judgment upon man, the animal kingdom, the ground and all vegetation.

With all of man's knowledge, good intentions and scientific discoveries, man has not been able to make any progress at all in solving any part of any of these judgments that God has pronounced upon the earth. Only Jesus Christ has the power and authority to remove the curse from the earth.

The Restoration

This brings us to the very heart of our study, the restoration of all of creation. By comparing our present condition in this age to that of the Kingdom age, will give us a better picture of what takes place in this glorious age that is yet future.

When the Lord appears at the end of the Tribulation, He puts an end to the battle of Armageddon, destroying all of the wicked. After all of the destruction that happens on this earth during the Tribulation, the fire, flood, hail, and the most devastating earthquake in the history of the world, creation will then undergo a dramatic and physical change never seen before in history.

The following Scriptures tell us something of what the earth will be like when it is restored. All of the land and vegetation will return to its original state as it was in the Garden of Eden.

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.”

(Isaiah 35:1, 2)

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing” (Ezekiel 34:26)

After this transformation of the earth, peace will prevail.

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2:4)

Out of the six thousand years of history, historians tell us there has been less than two hundred years of peace. However, in this coming Kingdom age, with Israel at the center, there will be no Army, Navy, Air Force, or weapons of destruction for one thousand years. There will be no armed conflict of any kind.

We must remember, apart from the saints (those who have gone with Jesus at the Rapture and the resurrection of the saints of the Tribulation) the people living during the kingdom age will be the same as you and I are today. They will still be born of the flesh; but all of the sickness, disease and shortness of life caused by Adam's sin will be replaced by good health and long life.

When Adam sinned he reduced the life expectancy to seventy years. A few live longer, but all are accompanied by sickness and feebleness.

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10)

No More Sickness

However, during the Kingdom age there will be no sickness.

“Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” (Isaiah 35:6)

There will be no more blindness or lameness. There will be no more killer diseases, like we see today. Sickness will be unknown.

“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.” (Isaiah 33:24)

There will be no need for doctors, hospitals, or pharmacies. There will be no infant deaths. No one will die under one hundred years of age, and then only because of rebellion.

“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.” (Isaiah 65:20)

The Animal Kingdom at Rest

We see, too, that the animal kingdom will be at rest and made tame, with the exception of the serpent.

“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 65:25)

Isaiah 11:6-9 confirms this same truth. These verses are so plain that they need no comment. They speak for themselves.

“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.

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

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den.

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)

Next we see there will be no poverty, or housing shortages, during the Kingdom age. There will be no problem with rent payments, mortgage payments, taxes or repossessions.

I have witnessed, in my lifetime, the program of our political system trying to solve these problems. We have had the “new deal” of the mid-thirties; we had the “great society” of the mid-sixties, which has been of little help to whom it was promised. The greatest plan of all was the “war on poverty.” There is no question as to who won this war. It was the wealthy and the politicians. I think the reason the wealthy won is because the poor had no means to fight back. However the day is coming when there will be plenty for all.

“And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” (Isaiah 65:21, 22)

Every person will own their own home, and have plenty to eat, without the need for a welfare system. There will be no corrupt justice system, slick lawyers, or crafty politicians who will promise anything, to buy the votes of the poor, just so they can hang on to power; and there will be no criminals to rob, murder or rape.

With man’s utter failure to bring about any part of this glorious time, why is it going to be possible at this time? There are two reasons why there will be this wonderful age of peace, prosperity and plenty. First, there will be a perfect Ruler. **“...they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:6b)** Sin, greed and lust for power have been, to some degree, the major reasons for man’s failure. We see, then, to have a society such as we have just described there must first be a perfect leader who is beyond corruption.

Second, Satan will be bound. **“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:2)**

For one thousand years Satan will not be able to tempt, accuse, or in any way interfere with the people of the kingdom age.

From the description in the Scriptures, we have some understanding of the intense interest shown by the disciples, in this glorious age.

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)

Listen to how Isaiah describes this wonderful age. **Isaiah 55:12, “...the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you with singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”**

Jesus gave a definite answer to the disciples. God will restore the Kingdom, but Jesus said, **“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” (Acts 1:7)**

We also see the great disappointment of the disciples, on the road to Emmaus. **“But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel.” (Luke 24:21a)**

The time when God will redeem Israel is secret. We do not know when the Tribulation will take place. We do not know the day, hour, or even the season when God will redeem Israel; but by the revelation of God’s Word we know that it will take place at the end of the Tribulation, at the public appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

End of the Millennium Age

The Millennium age will end with prophetic event number six. The final battle, the final attempt of Satan to overthrow God, however, it will be a very brief battle.

**“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.
And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.
And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.
And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:7-10)**

This gives a brief, but accurate description of the last conflict between God and Satan. After a thousand years of a perfect society, Satan will still find a multitude to follow him. How many? “...the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

Mankind will still have his dream, his idea and perception of equality and fairness. It is impossible for man, in his unregenerate state, to comprehend the things of God. This is why the “one God and one mediator between God and men” (I Timothy 2:5) is vehemently rejected.

Man will have no choice but to bow and give homage to the King of kings, but it will be only lip service; because of the severe consequences of not doing so. However, man's dream will still be alive; the idea that he can still do a better job than God.

To the unregenerate heart, God's plan is too strict and narrow to accommodate all of mankind. Man still thinks that he could do a better job by promoting education and reformation, and eliminating the handicapped and mentally retarded by abortion, but this will never work. Man would still be no different than he is today. In the Garden of Eden, where they had a perfect environment, they still rebelled against God.

This time God says, "enough." He will put an end to man's madness.

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." (Revelation 20:9)

CHAPTER THREE

The Great White Throne Judgment

We come now to prophetic even number seven, the great White Throne Judgment. This, no doubt, is a most unpleasant subject. However, the Scriptures describing this subject are just as much a part of the Word of God as "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Even though the subject is unpleasant, we make no apology; for we must declare the whole counsel of God.

**"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works.
And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-15)**

In spite of the clear teaching of these verses, I am amazed that so many professing Christians still hold the unscriptural doctrine of a general resurrection at the end of time; when both the saved and unsaved will stand before the Great White Throne and will finally know their destiny.

The Bible is crystal clear about there being two resurrections. One is called the "first resurrection" where only believers are raised. At the second, or final, resurrection only unbelievers will be raised. We covered the first resurrection in our study on

prophetic event number four, the Second Coming and the First Resurrection. The final resurrection of the unsaved will come at the end of the Kingdom age.

**“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.
But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
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)**

Notice verse five, “but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” This identifies those present at that time. The “rest of the dead” can be none other than the unsaved, or unregenerate. Those buried in the concrete of the great Hoover and Grand Coulee dams, those buried at sea, those whose ashes were scattered to the four winds; this includes every person born, from wicked Cain to the last one deceived by Satan at the end of the Millennium; every person who died without Christ.

The judgment at the Great White Throne will be to determine the degree of punishment, not the fact of punishment. The fact of one’s punishment is established when they die without Christ as their Saviour. **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)**

God, being a just God, will take into account many factors in His dealing with the unsaved. He will take into account the opportunities one has had to receive Christ as Saviour, the enlightenment one has received, the environment, and the degree of sins committed.

**“Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee Bethsaida!
for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.
And thou Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.
But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”
(Matthew 11:21-24)**

The cities mentioned here did not have the same opportunity as Capernaum. The lesson here is plain. The penalty for those who have heard the gospel, and have rejected Christ as Saviour, will be more severe than the penalty for those who have never heard.

If I had to die without Christ as my Saviour, I had rather have lived in the darkest corner of the earth, where the gospel was never heard, than to have lived in a country, such as ours, with its multitudes of Churches and ready access to the Word of God; where the Word of God is going forth by radio, television and the printed page. There will be absolutely no excuse as you stand before the Great White Throne. You will have only yourself to blame.

After having established the purpose of the Great White Throne Judgment, to determine the degree of punishment for the unsaved, we must mention the great library of Heaven. "And the books were opened and another book was opened." There will be no one standing here who has their name in the Lamb's Book of Life.

In these books are recorded every sin you ever committed and every idle word you have ever uttered. All of those sins that you thought nobody knew about are on record. God has kept a detailed record.

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Mathew 12:36)

To have these sins forgiven and blotted out, you must have Christ as your Saviour. Your name must be in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Another book is present to show that God meant what he said in John chapter 3, verse 3: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." It will be an answer to those who have tried to climb up some other way.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." (John 10:1)

"Then Jesus said unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." (John 10:7)

This book will be there also to answer those who have said, "It makes no difference what religion you have, as long as you are sincere, you will be alright." Then, too, it will be there in answer to those who thought they were going to Heaven, but were not.

**"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:
depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21-23)**

Among all the people who stand at the Great White Throne Judgment are the religious but lost; those who thought they were going to Heaven by their religious works, but they were not born again.

Whatever the cost, make sure your name is in the “Lamb’s Book of Life.” Jesus said: **“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” (John 6:38)** What is God’s will?

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40)

“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.” (II Peter 3:9)

CHAPTER FOUR

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Following the Great White Throne Judgment, we are introduced to the last prophetic event recorded in the Bible, the “new Heaven and the new Earth”

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (II Peter 3:12, 13)

This truth is confirmed in Revelation 21:1.

“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)

Our first view of the new heaven and the new earth is a structure beyond our comprehension. In Revelation, chapter twenty one, we are given a detailed description of this city. We are told what material is used for construction in Revelation 21: 18-21.

A description of the enormous size is given in Revelation 21:16.

“And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.” (Revelation 21:16)

Can you imagine a city covering land from Washington to Southern California, and halfway across the United States from California to New York; fifteen hundred miles square and towering fifteen hundred miles high? No wonder Paul says:

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things

**which God hath prepared for them that love him.”
(I Corinthians 2:9)**

The only way to comprehend such a place, according to I Corinthians 2:10, is by the Spirit of God. The only knowledge we have of Heaven comes from the record given in the Word of God.

Heaven, a Literal Place

Now the question is, is Heaven a literal place?

**“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:2, 3)**

A number of facts are revealed in these two verses. We are told where Heaven is, what it is and how to get there.

First, we are told where Heaven is----“my Father’s house.” We are told what Heaven is----“many mansions.” The abode of the saints is called “mansions,” which literally means “residence” or “resting places.”

Heaven is not merely a condition, sentiment, or figure of speech. Jesus called Heaven “a place.” He says, “...I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again.” Yes, Heaven is a literal place. It is a literal place where actual literal things exist.

Somewhere in God’s great universe is a literal place, called in the Bible, “Heaven,” with God’s throne and the Lord Jesus Christ seated at God’s right hand, with the holy angels and all the saints of ages past.

Heaven must be a literal place because John tells us in Revelation chapter 11, verse 19, that he saw a temple there.

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” (Revelation 11:19)

In this temple John saw the “ark of His testament.” Later John witnesses something else.

**“And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.”
(Revelation 15:5)**

This explains what happened to the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant, with the blood sprinkled upon it.

Then, too, we must not overlook another very important object witnessed by the apostle John, the library of Heaven. In this library there are many, many books.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12)

John tells us that there are BOOKS in Heaven that contain all the works of the lost; also a book called “the book of life.” The book of life, we are told, contains the names of the redeemed, while the other books contain the deeds of the unsaved. Matthew and Luke give specific details as to the contents of these books.

“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the house-tops.” (Luke 12:2, 3)

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matthew 12:36, 37)

Whether you believe these to be literal books, or only figurative, it makes no difference. The fact remains that your whole life is recorded in Heaven. This record can be blotted out.

“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” (Isaiah 43:25)

All of your sins can be blotted out by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. **“...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (I John 1:7b)**

Not only does the revelation of the Word of God tell us that Heaven is a literal place, but we have the testimony of a number of unimpeachable witnesses who either went to Heaven, or were permitted an unobstructed view of this marvelous place. We have the testimony of the apostle Paul: **“How that he was caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (II Corinthians 12:4)**

Paul tells us that the sight was so wonderful that it defied all description, and simply could not be put into words. No wonder Paul longed to be there. Heaven is such a glorious and wonderful place that, in these earthly temples, we would not be able to stand the revelation of its glory.

Stephen, too, caught a glimpse of Heaven just before he entered, and that glimpse of Heaven, with Jesus standing there, transfigured his whole being. Even those who were taking part in stoning him to death noticed the marvelous transformation.

“And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.” (Acts 6:15)

But it is the apostle John whom God used to give us more information about Heaven than any of the other writers.

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice I heard was as it were of a trumpet taking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” (Revelation 4:1)

From this point on John unfolds one mystery after another about the place called Heaven.

Does Heaven Immediately Follow Death for the Christian?

There are three prominent teachings among professing religions concerning what happens to the Christian immediately following death.

- (1) The Christian goes to Purgatory.
- (2) The soul sleeps until the resurrection day.
- (3) The Christian goes immediately into the presence of God.

We can find no scriptural foundation whatsoever for “purgatory,” so we dismiss this without consideration.

The second school of thought is that of “soul-sleeping,” which comes from a misunderstanding of the word “sleep,” used to describe the death of a Christian. “Sleep” is the term used in the New Testament to describe the event when a believer leaves this temple of clay, or “the death of a believer.” This term is used in connection with what happens to the body, not the soul. Sleep is a faculty of the body, not the soul. A number of Scriptures bear this out.

“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:59, 60)

Here we are told that the body “fell asleep.” His spirit was received by the Lord Jesus. Revelation, 6:9 and 10, also teaches clearly that the soul does not sleep.

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:9, 10)

What happens when a Christian dies is also made very plain in II Corinthians chapter 5, verse 8. **“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”**

If further proof is needed, consider Philippians chapter 1, verses 22 and 23.

**“But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour:
yet what I shall choose I wot not.
For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to
depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”
(Philippians 1:22, 23)**

We can add to all these Scriptures the clear statement made by Jesus in Luke, chapter 23, verses 42 and 43.

**“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou
comest into thy kingdom.
And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today
shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42, 43)**

The word “today” leaves no room for doubt as to what happens to the Christian following death.

Will We Know Each Other In Heaven?

Certainly we will not know any less in Heaven than we know now! We find, in the account of the transfiguration, Luke chapter 9, that there was no need for an introduction between Peter, John and James to Moses and Elijah. We read:

**“But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with
sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and
the two men that stood with him.
And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said
unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us
make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses,
and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.” (Luke 9:32,33)**

Actually, in Heaven we will know each other better than we know each other here on earth now. On earth “man looks on the outward appearance.” Our dearest friends and loved ones here often misunderstand us. They cannot know the desires and motives of our heart. The Lord “looks on the heart.” We misjudge people because we cannot see them as they really are. We may see their faces and hear their words, but how imperfectly this reveals the heart within.

In Heaven not only shall we know those we knew here on earth, but we shall know others also. No one will need to introduce us to those who have gone on before. No one will have to introduce me to David, Paul, or to Abraham. The disciples recognized Moses and Elias immediately. In Luke chapter 16, verses 22-24 we see the same thing---recognition beyond the grave.

**“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried
by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also
died, and was buried;
And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth
Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on
me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger**

in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” (Luke 16:22-24)

The rich man in Hell recognized Lazarus and Abraham when he saw them together. The Bible clearly states, “...he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham...” You see, he recognized Abraham immediately. Then he said, “...send Lazarus...” He even called him by name.

People in the next world, both the saved in Heaven, and the lost in Hell, retain all their senses, although their bodies are yet in the graves. They see as if they had eyes, they hear as if they had ears, and they speak as if they had tongues and lips. The rich man felt the “torment of Hell,” the same as Lazarus felt the “comfort of paradise.”

We think that the eyes see but they do not. It is the soul that sees, using the eyes for windows. We think that our ears hear, but they do not. They are merely the physical instruments that the soul can use while clothed in these physical bodies. The soul can hear without ears.

We are under the impression that the tongue speaks, but it is not the tongue that speaks, it is the personality behind the tongue. This temple of clay, the human body, has no senses when the soul has departed. It is lifeless, and unable to use even one muscle. The Bible teaches, in John 4:24 that **“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.”**

God is Spirit, yet His voice spoke from Mt. Sinai. The Bible says: “And God spake all these words...” The Bible also declares:

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...” (II Chronicles 16:9)

In Revelation, chapter 6, John saw the souls of those under the altar who had not as yet received their glorified bodies. They were able to cry out and say:

**“...How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”
(Revelation 6:10)**

Yes the ones in Heaven, who have gone to be with Christ, can see, hear, speak and rejoice. I am convinced that life is fuller, richer, and more glorious than at any time while they were here on earth. The Bible teaches that recognition and personality does exist beyond the grave.

Do Loved Ones In Heaven Observe Us Here On Earth?

When this question arises, there are those who would ask, “How can a person in Heaven be happy if they know about the sadness, wickedness, crime, failures, disease, wars, divorce, and all the sins of this wicked world? How can a mother be happy in Heaven knowing her son, or daughter, has rejected Christ and is on their way to Hell? The answer is simply this: These people are measuring saints in Heaven by the standards of carnal earth-minded Christians. My friend, you may be sure that when you get to

Heaven you will not see things as you do down here, and you will be perfectly happy and satisfied with everything that the Lord Jesus does.

Yes, in Heaven they know what goes on here on earth. This is made clear by the many scriptural illustrations. For our first Scripture we turn to Luke chapter 9, verses 30 and 31.

**“And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.”
(Luke 9:30, 31)**

There is absolutely no question about the identity of these men, Moses and Elias. They are saints who had gone to Heaven and had returned to the Mount of Transfiguration. When Moses and Elias met Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, these saints from glory spoke of the things that were to transpire on earth. They spoke of “His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.” The saints in Heaven knew what Jesus was doing on earth; knew the course of events that led straight to the Cross. They talked with the Lord Jesus about “His death” which He should accomplish at Jerusalem. We read in Revelation:

**“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:9,10)**

Here John saw souls in Heaven; the souls of those who had been slain because of their Christian testimony. They had not yet received their resurrection bodies; but were gathered below the altar of the temple in Heaven. They cried out, “How long O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”

Yes, the saints in Heaven see and know about the persecution of Christians. They know about the wickedness that’s on every hand. Their hearts cry out that sin be punished and the saints be avenged. And when they ask, “how long?” they are not left in ignorance, because the Scripture reveals:

**“And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”
(Revelation 6:11)**

As Abraham and Lazarus knew about the rich man in Hell; as the souls in Heaven knew about the events on earth; so our beloved dead, who are alive in Christ, know what we do here day by day.

What is the chief concern of the saints in Heaven? This is not a difficult question to answer. Their concern would be the same as the Lord Jesus Christ’s, and His concern

is made very clear. **“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth...” (Luke 15:7a)**

**“Likewise , I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”
(Luke 15:10)**

Yes, there is rejoicing in Heaven when one person turns from their sins to God, through faith in Jesus Christ. This should be an encouragement for every believer to redouble their efforts to try and get just one person to receive Christ as their Saviour.

There are many things that we do not know about Heaven. We do not know for certain where it is, how large it is, or even when it was created. But God, in His gracious and wonderful love, has been pleased to reveal to us many things about Heaven. One thing that He has revealed is that our loved ones in Heaven know what is going on here on earth. They are at rest, peacefully awaiting that grand and glorious day when Jesus shall come and we shall be reunited with them in resurrection bodies, never to depart again.

We know that they are continually praising God. There they understand the affairs of life. They behold the things that God is doing here upon the earth with an understanding that only the presence of God can give.

Heaven is often referred to as “the place of no more.”

“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 21:4)

There will be NO MORE tears, NO MORE death, NO MORE sorrow, NO MORE crying and NO MORE pain. What a wonderful place God has prepared for them that love Him!

Heaven is for ETERNITY! It is FOREVER! Here we have joys, but we know that they must pass. Sometimes the brevity of our joys spoils them even while we are enjoying them----but not so in Heaven. There will be no more tears, no more death, no more parting, no more sorrow, and we shall reign with Him for ever and ever!

Heaven and How to Get There

In John chapter 14, Jesus not only told us where Heaven is, “in my father’s house;” what Heaven is, “many mansions,” He also told us HOW TO GET THERE.

**“Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
(John 14:6)**

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (I Timothy 2:5)

Jesus makes it very plain that HE IS THE WAY. To try any other way, regardless of how good it may sound, is to miss the way to Heaven altogether.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” (John 10:1)

If you go to Heaven you must enter by the door. JESUS IS THAT DOOR!

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

