Jesus **IS** coming back to earth again!

Acts 1:11 states, *"Men of Galilee," they* . . . (two angels) . . . *said, "why do you* . . . (those who stood watching Jesus as He ascended back into Heaven) . . . *stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

Jesus had promised in John 14:1-4, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Paul teaches in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, "According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."

One hardly needs clearer promises than these to realize that Jesus Christ is coming back to the earth again.

1. The Scriptures above teaches ***a personal, visible***, return of Christ back to earth **FOR** His saints.

   When Christ comes back to earth, He will first raise the righteous dead and then change the righteous living, then both will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air to be with Him forever!

   The church...every born-again believer...will then be *married* to her Lord - Matthew 25:19; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10. (We will deal with this subject a little later)

2. ***When*** will Christ came back to earth again? No man knoweth the day or the hour of Christ coming (Matthew 24:36-42; Mark 13:32; Acts 1:7) While we do not know the day or hour, we may know when Christ's coming is near at hand - Matthew 24:36-42; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5. ***There is nothing to prevent the coming of Jesus Christ back to earth at any moment!***

3. Note that Luke 21:36; Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; and Revelation 3:10, together with many other Scriptures teach that Christ will return back to earth **BEFORE** the great Tribulation.

   (See study: "*Are The Saints Scheduled To Go Through the Tribulation?*")

4. Note the distinction in God's Word between Christ's coming **FOR** His saints and Christ coming **WITH** His saints. I will speak more fully of this later in this study, however, keep in mind that when Christ came the first time it covered a period of over 30 years...from His

birth to His crucifixion, just so, Christ's second coming will cover a **series of events over a period of time**!

Probability of fulfillment

If I predicted that it will rain tomorrow, I have one chance in two of being right because A prediction with only one detail in it has *one chance in two* of fulfillment!

However, if I predicted it will rain tomorrow and the rain will be ***accompanied by high winds***," I have one change in **four** of being right because a prediction with **two** details in it has *one chance in four* of fulfillment. (1) It could rain, but there wouldn't be any wind, or, (2) It might be windy but there wouldn't be any rain, (3) It might not rain or be windy either one, or, (4) I might be right!

Every added detail makes the probability of fulfillment less and less!

In mathematical terms, "The ratio of probability is one-half multiplied by itself as many times as there are details in the predictions."

If I predicted that it will rain tomorrow and the rain it will be large drops of water...and it will also be accompanied by high winds, and further, the winds will be from the north." Because there are four details in this prediction, I would have one chance in ***sixteen***...(one-half multiplied by itself **four times)**!

There are 333 details in the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Person career of Christ's coming, when He came the first time!

The fraction of probability of all these prophecies being fulfilled would be ***one-half multiplied by itself 333 times*** and, the result of that mathematical problem would be 1 over 84 - (with 97 ciphers...or zero's...following).

Every step of Jesus's coming into the world was prophesied in the Old Testament hundreds of years and, in some cases, thousands of years, before Jesus was born.

His virgin birth...His being born in the city of Bethlehem...the slaughter of all male children...His flight into Egypt...His ride on a colt into Jerusalem...His being betrayed by friends...His disciples forsaking Him...His being sold for 30 pieces of silver...His being *spit upon*...the fact that not a bone of His body would be broken...that He would be given gall and vinegar to drink...His being pierced in His side...are all *just a few of the 333 prophecies concerning Jesus Christ's first coming into the world!*

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy, therefore, it is impossible
for anyone to deny His credibility as the true Messiah!

All of these 333 Old Testament prophecies were miraculously, providentially, fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ, and one does not have to *strain*, or *force*, the facts of Christ's life...or the these Old Testament prophecies...to see that they match perfectly.

The manner in which Christ was born...the life He lived...the method of His death... were

all predicted in the Old Testament.

However, the Old Testament presents a mysterious prophetic puzzle with strange combinations of prophecies which often appear so conflicting...so contradictive of each other...that it would seem impossible for them to ever be fulfilled!

However, these amazing details of the coming Messiah prevents any *impostors*...or even over-zealous disciples...from **purposely** fulfilling these prophecies!

There are ***TWO GENERAL DIVISIONS*** of prophecies of Christ's coming in the Old Testament. The first division speaks of His birth...His ministry...His rejection...His suffering... and...His crucifixion, while the ***second division*** speaks of His appearance in ***glory and power, to rule and reign, in His Kingdom on earth***!

The question is, "***If the Old Testament prophets told the truth in the first instance of Christ coming, then isn't it only logically to believe that they were right concerning His SECOND coming!***

If these Old Testament prophets knew all about Christ's ***first coming*** and were able to give 333 prophecies foretelling it, isn't it reasonable to believe what they have to say about Christ's coming again?

The supernatural power that inspired these Old Testament prophets the knowledge of Christ first coming compels us to believe wheat they have to say about Christ's return to this earth again!

Scriptures prophesying Christ's second coming:

In addition to the Scriptural passages mentioned on the above pages, that is...John 14:1-4, Acts 1:11, and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18...in the 260 chapters in the New Testament and there are ***318*** times where the second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned!

For example: Matthew 16:27 states, "*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done*."

Matthew 24:44 states, "*So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him*."

Acts 3:19-21 state, "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ, Who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the times comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long also through His holy prophets*."

Philippians 3:20, "*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ*."

Titus 2:13, "*While we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*."

Hebrews 9:28 states, "*So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him*."

James 5:7 states, "*Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains*."

1 John 2:28, "*And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming*."

Revelation 1:7, "*Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen*."

D. L. Moody once said, "The whole subject of Christ's literal return to earth again was most objectionable to him, however, upon studying the Word of God concerning this matter."

Still, on another occasion, Moody stated, "I was so profoundly impressed with the insistence with which the return of the Lord was emphasized...(that is in God's Holy Word)... that I was compelled to believe in it, and to preach it. It is almost the *most precious truth of all the Bible*! One verse in thirteen throughout the New Testament is said to allude to this wondrous subject in some form or another. Now, I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord might use this sermon to call out the last of the saints who should go to make up the full number of God's elect and bring about Jesus' return to earth again."

What will happen when Jesus comes FOR His church?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 teaches, "*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words*."

I am grateful to those who inspired me to study the subject of prophecy because the subject of prophecy is primarily to teach the great truth of *"Christ's Coming Back to Earth Again*," and fills a large portion of the God's Word. The Lord's return brings comfort and hope to child of God. It furnishes a great incentive for right living. If we believed Jesus could come any minute, that we might meet Him face to face at any given moment, I would say, "*We would certainly be a better Christian and live a better life for my Lord*."

For instance, we would be much like the Apostle Paul who said in, 2 Timothy.4:7-8, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing*."

Many believe in a "***General Judgment***," that Christ will return, gather all people before Him, and pass judgment, sending them to either to right or the left. However, Scripture does not teach that, but rather it teaches that, first Christ will come in the air to take up all believers to be with Him, and, then at a later time, He will come back **with** His saints in power and great glory, to rule and reign on the earth for 1000 years. At that time, Christ will defeat all of His enemies, cast those who chose to follow Satan, together with Satan, into the Lake of Fire. Christ will, then, lead His own people into eternal bliss.

These lessons are an attempt to clear up some questions, such as, "*What will happen to various people of the earth, when Christ returns?*"

Christ today is in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit is at work on earth. Scripture teaches that there are only two classes of people on earth today, the saved and the lost. There are no in-betweens, all peoples of the world are in either class, saved or lost.

What will happen next in God's great prophetic drama?

According to the Scriptures, the next event to take place in God's calendar of events will be the return of Jesus Christ in the air. I want to take note of some facts concerning Christ's coming again.

Note again 1 Thessalonians 4:16 teaches, "***For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God***."

Note, the following,

1. **THE SHOUT -** "The victor's shout"

When Jesus returns back to this earth, He will come as a victor. There will be a mighty power in His shout. It will penetrate all the graves, pierce to the deepest depths of the sea, and it will be heard by every saint on earth.

One day, when Jesus was on earth, He stood at the grave of Lazarus and cried out, "***Lazarus, come forth***." Lazarus was dead, but he heard his Master's voice and came out of the grave. When Jesus shouts at His return to earth, all those who are "*in Christ*" who sleep in death on the earth, or in depths of the sea, will hear His voice and come forth to meet Him. They will have their "***redemptive***" body.

John, picturing this event in Revelation 4:1, says "*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**.'"*

2. **THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL**

The archangel is the leader of the heavenly hosts and will be directly connected with the descent of Jesus from heaven. There will be great commotion in heaven, as Jesus goes out to receive all redeemed souls who have been saved by God's grace. Jesus returns in the air to bring all the **glorified** bodies of the saints into Father's house.

3. **THE TRUMP OF GOD**

Trump of God sounded for great gathering together. When the trumpet was blown in the army camp, men rushed from their tents, and fell into line to march off to battle. When God's trump sound, every saved person, will fall in line that will be taken up to join the great multitude in heaven.

The shout will be so loud, the voice so clear, and the trump so distinct that every child of God will hear and go up to meet Him in the air!

Scripture teaches that "***The Lord Himself***" will return for His saints. There will be no substitute. The One who will return, will be none other than Lord, Jesus Christ Himself. Listen to Acts 1:11, "*`Men of Galilee,' they said, `why do you stand here looking into the sky? This **same** Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back **in the same way** you have seen him go into heaven.*"

Jesus said in John 14:3, "*If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am*."

Think of it! Heaven will open and Jesus will be ***suspended in air***. The One, who placed the sun, which is thousands of times larger than earth, into place, put the moon, the stars, and all the planets into place, when He returns, will descend from Heaven. The voice of archangel will be heard, the trump of God will sound, and Jesus will hover in the air, ready and waiting to take His children out of this sinful world and take them home with Him.

There was a time when He was suspended between heaven and earth, as cruel men hung Him on a cross. It was a cross of suffering, as He was dying for man's sins. But, when Christ returns to earth, He will be between heaven and earth, however, this time it is not to suffer, but rather, it will be a scene of beauty and majesty. His heart will be overflowing with anticipation to meet His bride and take her home with Him. He will gather His believers from all over the earth, as the greatest reunion this world has ever known takes place.

Every trouble, the believer has ever known, will be over as Jesus places His loving arms around us. His great heart will overflow with wondrous joy.

THE BIBLICAL ORDER OF THESE EVENTS

1. The dead in Christ shall rise

The trumpet will sound and all the bodies of believers, who are in their graves, will rise. This does not mean every grave will be opened, as those who died without Christ, their bodies will remain in the grave at this time.

Scripture teaches, "*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first** resurrection!"*

Those who die **without** Christ will not be blessed or holy, they will stay in graves for another 1000 years. After the tribulation period, and after the millennium, these will be raised, brought to judgment before Great White Throne, and receive their sentence.

"*Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord*"

That is the very reason we do not mourn like others who have no hope. Christians all over the world, most already in their graves, buried at sea, burned in fires, lost in some wild places of earth, their bones picked clean by birds of air . . . some have died in deserts places, their bones left to bleach in broiling sun. Some have died in a plane crash, their bodies never found. But, God knows where they are and their bodies will "*rise to meet Him in the air."*

2. LIVING CHRISTIANS WILL BE CAUGHT UP

Every Christian, still alive on earth, will hear Christ's voice and rise to meet Him in the air. Drivers will be taken from moving cars. Pilots will be taken from planes, even preachers, while they are still preaching, will be taken to meet the Lord in the air. Those who have been left will, then, realize the value of Christians.

There are those who teach that the only ones caught up the meet the Lord in the air will be those who have a certain spiritual experience, or have reached a certain depth of consecration, however, the Bible no where teaches a, "*partial rapture.*" of only certain believers. The basis of our salvation . . . and the basis of going up in the rapture . . . is not works, but, rather, faith in Jesus Christ. If you believe in Christ, trust Him for salvation, been '*born-again,*" then you will go to meet Him in the air. Not every "*church member,*" will rise to meet Him in the air, but every true child of God will.

If someone is saved at 9:15, and the Lord returns at 9:16, that person will rise to meet Him in the air. The basis of one going up in the rapture is not because someone has "*grown in grace,*" or, because they have "*learned much about Scripture* (as important as these are), but, rather, the basis of rising to meet the Lord in the air is faith in Jesus Christ and His Word.

Every believer will join Him, as a bride joins her husband. Christ's purpose is to come for the **whole** body of His bride, every believer within the Church.

Romans 14:10 teaches that we will, "*...stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*"

3. **ANOTHER GREAT EVENT ALSO OCCURS**

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 teaches, "*I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep* . . . (that is, the believer's body that sleeps in the grave) . . . *but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the*

twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality."

The bodies of the dead saints will be raised **incorruptible**, they will be changed. The bodies of the saints will be like Him (Like Jesus' resurrected body), immortal, sinless, and perfect. Now, we desire to be like Him, but are, at times, hindered by sin and desires.

The very "*second*" Christ raises believers to meet Him in the air, their bodies will be changed, Scripture says, "*in the twinkling of an eye*." God, Who said, "*Let there be light, and there was light*," Who saves instantaneously, One Who we have instantaneous conversions with, will change our vile bodies and make them like unto His own glorious body. What kind of body will the believer have? Paul calls it a "***spiritual body***." And, Scripture answers the oft asked question and affirms, "***yes!***" we will know each other in eternity.

The expression, "*caught up*," has the idea of an eagle catching up his prey and carrying it off toward the mountain peak, or, a strong man, rescuing a child from the path of danger, dashing off with child to place of safety. We will be snatched away **before** the Great Tribulation, while the unsaved will be left on earth to go through the terrible Tribulation Period.

A Christian man lay dying., He had three sons, two of who were Christians, but the third was a wayward sinner. The old man spoke to the two boys who were Christians and said, "*I am going to leave you for a little while, but it won't be for long. I will see you again some day, goodby, for now*." But to the third son, he simply said, "*Food-bye, my son, good-bye*," This third son with a breaking heart, cried out, "*Father, why do you say good-bye to me with such finality, and tell my brothers that you see them before long?*" The old man replied, "*Your brothers trust my Savior as their Savior. You have rejected Him and those who do this will never find the way to the heavenly home. This is the parting of the way for us forever*." The third son broke down and sobbed and said, "*Oh, Father, just tell me good-night for a little while, because I, right now, trust Jesus as my Savior and I will se you again some day*."

How is it going to be with you? Do you know Jesus? Are you ready for His coming? When He does come will you be one of His own?

What will happen to the saints **after** they are caught up to meet Jesus in the air?

That is the subject of our next lesson.

Even though no one knows *when* Christ is coming back to this earth, we should cry like John, who said, "*Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus*."

What Will Happen When The Church Is Gone?

As the scene opens, in our study at this moment, the saints have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air and taken with Him in Heaven, unbelievers are left behind on the earth.

With all believers in heaven, two great events take place:

1. **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

2. **THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

In heaven, the believers are a happy throng. Rapture has taken place, the sinners are left on earth and the redeemed are happy to be with Christ. What glory it will be when see Jesus. Some believer have gone through difficulties, or sickness, while on earth, however, now, they will never suffer again.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 states, "*So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God*."

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 states, "*So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad*."

These things are going to take place because God says so in His Book.

What will happen when the Church is gone?

1. - All saints will move into Heaven.

Jesus said, "*I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me*." He was lifted up, on the cross, and He has been drawing all men unto Himself down through the years. Not all men have responded to Christ's magnetic power. They have been drawn, but, they have resisted. Maybe you have resisted. If you have, God tells us that you are still lost in your sins.

Who will be with Christ after the Rapture of the Church?

All who believe on Him will be with Him. Some have died, others will be still alive when He returns, and will be caught up to meet Him in the air. Some believers have been beset by Satan, mystified by troubles of life, suffered, some racked with pain and disease. However, *now*, at this time in our study, they have their glorified bodies. They have known Jesus Christ by faith, now they know Him face to face.

2. This great throng of believers will be clean, inside and out!

The dead bodies of the saints have been raised incorruptible, changed in a moment, their robes are white, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

"***What a day that will be when His face I shall see***!"

The earth will be going through the Great Tribulation Period.

Will you be ready?

3. The Judgment Seat of Christ will take place

Only saints . . . (that is, believers, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ) . . . will appear before this judgment Seat of Christ, not one single sinner will be at this judgment. Sinner will appear before the **Great White Throne Judgment**.

The "*Judgment Seat of Christ*" (or "*Bema Judgment")* is one of rewards, not a court where a judge passes sentence upon criminal, but, rather, a bench where a judge sat when he distributed prizes to winners of various games.

Believers, or course, are saved by grace, and not by "works," however, they will receive eternal rewards for works.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 teaches which the kinds of works which will endure, when it says, speaking of believers, "*Every man's **work** will be made manifest, for that day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire will try every man's **work** of what sort it is. If a man's **work** abide he will receive a reward. If any man's **work** will be burned, he will suffer loss of reward, but he himself shall be saved*."

Some believers will receive rewards, while others will incur loss of their works. Our Christian life is like a building a house, if rotten material is put in the building, such as, wood, hay, and stubble, it will perish, just like our works, built on shoddy material, will in the day of judgment. Gold, silver, and precious stones, and materials representing *divine* things. No man can grow these materials, they come from God!

The "*works*" that will stand the fire of judgment are those characteristics which grow out of Christ's divine nature within us.

What will believers be judged for?

Scripture teaches that believers will be judged in two areas of their Christian life:

FAITHFULNESS - and - **ATTITUDE**

The crowns, which believers will receive, show the rank believers will have during Christ's rule and reign on earth.

After the Judgment Seat of Christ, will come the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, given to us in Revelation 19:7-9 which states,, "*Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, `Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' And he added, `These are the true words of God*.'"

Jesus is the Bridegroom at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Church (the company of believers) will be the bride.

A marriage supper is a time of joy and festivity, a period of mutual joy, harmony, and

love. The "*bride*" is presented to the Groom, Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-27 teaches, "*Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to* ***present*** *her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."* Word "*present*" here means to "***set alongside of***." Jesus will set "*set alongside of*" His bride, the Church. A wedding is a ***union***, a joining together! "*We will be like Him.*"

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON EARTH?

Jesus said in Matthew 24:21, "*For then there will be great tribulation unequaled from the beginning of the world until now - and never will be equaled again.*"

When Jesus returns to earth and takes His bride to Heaven, it is **NOT** the end of the world. The dead **UN**believers are still in their graves. They will rise **after** the 1000 years of Christ's reign on earth. Living unbelievers will be left on earth when Jesus returns. Many will have had an opportunity to receive Christ as their Savior, but have refused. They will be left on earth when Jesus comes for His own.

The Tribulation Period

1. The consternation of the world.

At the rapture of the church, all the saints have gone, in the twinkling of an eye, they have mysteriously disappeared. There will be world-wide pandemonium. There will be no time for farewells. There will be empty chairs of loved ones gone to be with Jesus. Clerks, in every kind of occupation, will be gone, mangers will, suddenly, experience gaps in their assembly lines. Husbands will be looking for their wives. Millions will suddenly be gone as if the sky had opened up and took them away.

Luke 17:34-36 teaches,, "*I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.*"

God said, in Proverbs 1:24-29, "*I have called, and you refused, I have stretched out my hand, and you ignored all My advice and would not accept my rebuke. I, in turn, will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you - when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and troubles overwhelm you. Then they will call to Me but I will not answer; they will look for Me but will not find Me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord."*

Men are sowing now, they will reap then.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 teaches, "*For this reason* (involved in all sorts of evil) *God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."*

Men who will not believe in Christ now, will then come to believe in the Antichrist

God, speaking of this time, says in Ezekiel 8:18, "*Therefore will I deal in fury, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and through they cry in min ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them*."

The judgments of the Book of **Revelation**: the day of God's vengeance, way, famine, death, earthquakes, the sun darkened, the moon turning to blood, God's indignation on earth, will come to pass. The judgments of Revelation speaks of things such as demon locusts attacking men and the heat of sun, so hot that men gnaw tongues in pain. Revelation speaks of the Antichrist (a real person) ruling the whole world and the False Prophet, the great "*religious*" leader of the end time, who will be able to perform miracles.

The Antichrist makes a pact with Jews, but after three and one half years, he turns on them and begins a terrible persecution of them. Then, after a period of time, things get even worse, as the Antichrist gathers all the nations of the earth to fight against the Jewish people. Then, when it seems that there is no hope, Christ will come back WITH saints.

Only one way to escape Tribulation is to be ready now!

I once saw a sign which stated, "***Perhaps Today***." How wonderful it would be if each of us would be reminded that Jesus could return in the sky to rapture His saints at any minute . . . *Perhaps Today!*

What Will Happen When Christ Returns WITH His Saints?

Revelation 19:11-16, "*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*."

We have learned what will happen when Jesus comes **FOR** His church, now we ask, "What will happen **AFTER** He comes for the Church?"

When Christ comes back to earth **WITH** His saints, the Antichrist will be ruling upon earth. He has grown so proud and conceited that he draws up his armies to fight against God's people. He draws his armies for battle upon earth, Christ, His saints, and the angels in heaven are poised for a descent toward the earth.

Christ returns to earth in glory WITH His saints. Remember, this is the second phase of His coming. Seven years before this, He had come in the air and caught up the saints to be with Him. They will be **WITH** Jesus forever. When Jesus came the first time " ***in the air***" **FOR** His saints. However, this time, He comes **WITH** His saints. The first time, was a ***secret*** appearing, with only believers will know about it, however, this time, "***every eye shall see Him***." Everyone will know Who He is.

The presence of the Lord is greatly needed on the earth. Only He can stop wars, give permanent peace, cast out fear, straighten out sinful earth, take sickness away, and destroy death forever.

Looking at world conditions today should convince anyone how much it needs the presence of Christ. If the world needs Him now, how much more will it need Him at the end of the Tribulation Period?

When Jesus returns **WITH** His saints, the Antichrist will be in full power, blaspheming, and denying, God. The majority of the world will be worshipping him, branded with his mark on their forehead, or their right hand. The godly Jewish remnant, in a last extremity, will cry, "*How long, O Lord, how long must Thy people suffer?*"

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 will be fulfilled, "*Give relief to you who are troubled. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."*

Revelation 19 gives us a vivid picture of this coming glory of Christ **WITH** His saints:

1. Jesus comes sitting upon a white horse

Revelation 19:11 "*I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doeth judge and make war*." The Greek intimates that this is a "*Steed of war*." White is the color of purity and holiness.

When Christ came the first time, He was born in a stable where horses slept, He rode upon a donkey into Jerusalem, coming in humility. **BUT**, this time, He comes **on a mighty charger**, "*coming in power & great glory*"

2. Jesus is called "*Faithful & True*."

Men not faithful, he can not tell the truth, but Jesus is **always** *Faithful & True*. He keeps His promises true. Some say, "*These things can never happen because God is a God of love*." However, Jesus is true to every word, even the threats He has made concerning judgment..

3. Jesus comes to "*judge*."

When Jesus came the first time, men judged Him, He stood before Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate. They convicted the innocent Son of God, however, Acts 17:31 states, "*For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice*." He will, *judge in righteousness*. When Jesus came to earth the first time, wicked men trumped up charges and lied against Him. Still they could not find a single count against Him. Pilate confessed, "*I find no fault in this man*," **YET** he sent Him to a cruel death. But, when He comes again, He "*will judge the world in righteousness*."

4. Jesus comes to "*make war*" on the earth.

When Christ came the first time, He came to ministered to the needy. He held His arms out and said, "*Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest*." All that will change when He comes the second time, He comes for the express purpose of making war against the hosts of Satan and those who dare to oppose Him.

5. Jesus' eyes will be as a "*flame of fire*."

When Jesus was on earth the first time, His eyes shone with tenderness. Even children were attracted to Him. One look of those tender eyes melted Perter's heart and caused him to go out and "*weep bitterly*." When Jesus stood at grave of Lazarus, His eyes filled with tears, but, when He comes in glory, His eyes will flash with fire. He will, then, be filled with holy indignation. His eyes will pierce through all hypocrisy and see men as they really are. His eyes, like a searchlight, will penetrate every thought of man's heart.

6. Jesus will be bedecked with "*many crowns*"

When Jesus was on earth, men crowned Him with a crown of thorns, a symbol of a curse, but when He returns to earth this time, He will be crowned with glory and honor, a symbol of His authority.

When Jesus came the first time, He came as lowly man to suffer, however, when He comes again, He will come as the victorious conqueror. He will have "*many crowns,*" showing His absolute authority, King of all Gentiles, as well as Israel. He will come as "*King of kings & Lord of lords*"

7. Jesus will have "*a name that no man knew, but He Himself*

In Bible times, a person's name expressed his nature. (For instance, Peter name meant, "*the rock.*") When Jesus comes back to the earth, He will be so majestic, and full of unspeakable of glory, He will have a name which no man can fathom, such mysterious depths in Him, that no one is able to understand Him.

8. Jesus will "*clothed with a vesture dipped in blood*"

When Jesus was on the cross, His raiment was stained with His own blood, but, when He returns to earth, He comes to slay offenders and shed **<u>their</u>** blood.

9. Jesus will be called "*the Word of God*"

No longer called will He be called just "*Jesus,*" which means **Savior**, but He will be called, "*the Word of God*" His saving work will be over. His name, then, will point to the dignity, majesty, and the glory of God. John 1:1 states, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*."

This Great Eternal One, who existed before the world was made, when He came the first time, His humanity was most prominent, but, when He returns to earth, His deity, will be the most prominent thing about Him.

10. Jesus will "*smite the nations with the sword of His mouth*"

When Jesus was on earth before, words of blessing, and comfort came out of His mouth, but when He returns to earth, His words, like a sword, will smite the nations.

Throughout years He has sent out His Word to slay the **sin** that is within men, but, in that day His Word will slay men in sin. Isaiah 63:3. speaking of this day of judgment, says, "*I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing*."

All the nations of the world will be gathered under the leadership of the Antichrist to fight against the Lord and His hosts, but Christ trample them under His feet.

Revelation 14:20 states,"*They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 200 miles*." 200 miles around Armageddon the bloodshed will be so great that blood will be up to the horses' bits. Jesus will be the Victor in this greatest battle ever fought. All the punishment which He metes out, will be fully deserved. He, who was rejected and a murderer accepted in His place, will judge the world. God has been openly blasphemed, but now, the Divine Executioner steps forth to do His work, to inflict vengeance upon the blasphemers.

13. Jesus comes followed by great armies

Revelation 19:14 tells us that "*armies will follow Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen white and clean*." This army, includes believers of all ages, saints of God who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They were caught up to meet Him in the air seven years prior to this time, now, they come back **with** Him to "*reign with Him.*"

I would, a billion times, rather follow Him that day, than to be waiting for Him on earth that day. Those who follow Him will be saved forever, those on earth will face the wrath of a rejected King. You can get on the right side today, then, on that day, you will be safe.

The picture we see in Revelation 19, is of the Antichrist and his hosts on earth ready to fight the Lord. Heaven open and Jesus, in all of His glory and power, comes riding on white horse, followed by the mighty armies of those who have loved and trusted Him. A tremendous crash is inevitable as this, the greatest battle of all time, will take place.

BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

1. God has birds ready to devour the flesh of the dead

Revelation 19:17-19 states, *"And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, `Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.' Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army*."

"*Flesh*" is mentioned fives in this passage. On earth, men lived after the flesh (not spirit), now their flesh is going to be literally devoured.

An angel "*stands in the sun*," everyone sees him, he cries with a loud voice, everyone hears him. Things are getting ready for the slaughter of the armies of the world. He speaks to all the birds of the air, telling them to get ready for the great supper, when they will eat the flesh of all those who are gathering against God. Millions will be slain in this battle, then the **Millennial kingdom** will be set up.

The millennial kingdom will not begin with a plague which the festering out carcasses would cause, therefore, it will be necessary for the birds to get this dead flesh out of the way.

2. The Antichrist (and the false prophet) will be *"cast into lake of fire"*

The first ones to be cast into the "*lake of fire*" will be the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Satan will be cast into this "*lake of fire*" as well. (However, he will be let loose "*for a little season*" at the end of the 1000 years, to be allowed to test those on earth, who live through the millennial period.)

When Jesus comes back **WITH** His saints, all those who have been deceived by Satan, and follow him, will be, "*cast alive*" into the lake of fire, to suffer and pay for their rebellion against God.

The Antichrist will boast of his power and defies God, but he will be thrown from his throne and cast into hell. Christ will merely speak and all of the Antichrist's vaunted power will be over. He will not have a chance to lead his army against the Lord, but will be taken and cast into the lake of fire.

Men defy God, laugh at any thought of Him and continue on in their sins. God warns them of their fate, but they answer, "*I'm master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."* However, the day is coming when God will take the Antichrist and the false prophet and brings them down with such ease, that men will realize that God is indeed, Lord of everything.

The so-called "*armies*" do not last long, they do not fire one shot, or make one charge. A "*sword proceeds out of the mouth of that mighty One on the horse. His sword cuts them all down and they die in their tracks.*" Millions upon millions die! No wonder there is blood for 200 miles around the valley of Megiddo.

Ezekiel 39:17 states, "*Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out . . .to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood*."

When you ride along highway, you see animals on the side of road killed by a car. The odor of decaying flesh is a stench in one's nostrils. You may see vultures pulling a carcass to pieces. It is a horrible sight. This is the sight that will take place after the battle of Armageddon. Dead bodies for 200 miles, scavengers of the air devouring their flesh, is a picture of what sin brings!

One cannot defy God, reject His Son, and get away with it.

3. Israel will accept Jesus as their Messiah

Zechariah 12:10 teaches, *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on Me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son*." Israel rejected Christ, they pierced Him, but now, they will recognize Him as their Messiah. They will repent of their sins and return to the Lord. At one time, under David and Solomon, Israel a mighty nation, but fell as a result of her sins and rejection of God, however, she will again be a mighty nation, with Jesus Christ reigning on the throne of David, "*King of all kings and Lord of all lords*"

4. Judgment for the nations!

Matthew 25:31-33 states, "*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left*."

Saints will assist Him, for 1 Corinthians 6:2 teaches, "*Do ye not know that the saints will judge the world*?" Who will be judged? It is not individuals here, but, rather, nations which are existing when Christ comes in glory.

Believers are judged at the rapture of the church, at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**. Sinners will be judged *after* the Millennium, at **Great White Throne Judgment**. However, when Christ returns **WITH** His saints, He will judge the "***nations***," to see which ones will enter the Millennium Kingdom. What basis of this judgement? These nations will be judged on basis of how these nations treated "*Jewish brethren*," especially during the Tribulation period. Some nations will be saved enter into the kingdom, if they have treated Jewish brethren well, clothed them, gave them drink and visited them . . . these nations will be saved. "***Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me***." Jesus will say to them, "*Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you*." This is not speaking of heaven, but, rather, it is speaking of the millennial kingdom under Christ. The nations that have not treat Jews right, Jesus will say, "*Depart from Me, ye cursed into everlasting fire*" The Antichrist and the false prophet are already there, now those of the nations who have not treated the Lord's "*brethren*" well, will be cast there also.

WHERE ARE WE AT THIS POINT IN OUR STUDY?

Jesus comes back to earth in glory, with His saints and the angels with Him. The Antichrist and the False Prophet, who caused all the trouble during Tribulation period, has been cast into lake of fire. The armies of the world that gathered against the Lord have been slain and the birds have eaten their flesh in great feast. The Jews have looked to Jesus and owned Him as their King. Israel has become a great nation, and Jesus has set up His rule, with the center of activities being the land of Palestine. All the living nations have been judged, some cast into lake of fire and others left to enter Christ's glorious kingdom age for 1000 years.

Is the world, at this junction in time, ready for Millennium? No! There is still one more thing that must take place. Satan, and his influence, must be throttled, so Jesus binds him and puts him in the pit for 1000 years. The world will, then, be ready for a 1000 years of peace, prosperity, and plenty.

Are you ready? Your opportunity is now. There will not be a second opportunity. Christ has done all that is necessary. He holds before you the power of life and death. Accept Him and be taken up with Him forever when He returns in the rapture of the Church, reject Him and be left on earth to suffer through the Tribulation and then, perhaps, cast into lake of fire.

What will happen on earth during the Millennium?

John states in Revelation 20:1-10, "*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth - Gog and Magog - to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever*."

God, speaking of Satan's existence before man was created, says in Isaiah 14:12-14,, *"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, `I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit*."

God promises , in Isaiah 9:6-7, "*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this*."

Fulfilling this promises, Luke 1:30-33 states, "*But the angel said to her, `Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end*."

Luke 19:17, promises that the saints will reign with Christ, when it states, "*Well done, My good servant!, because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten*

cities."

Philippians 2:9-11 tells us that the time is coming when, God will "*exalt Him* (Jesus Christ) *to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*."

God promised the land of Israel to the Jews, for an everlasting covenant. Genesis 13:14-15, "*The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever."*

God promises in Isaiah 11:6-9, that the time is coming when, "*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."*

Revelation 11:15, announces the beginning of the millennium when it states, "*The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: `The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.'"*

Isaiah 2:4 teaches, "*He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*

Zechariah 14:16 tells us, "*Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles."*

In our study, so far, we have seen:

- What will happen when Jesus comes **FOR** His Church
- What will happen **AFTER** the Church is gone
- What will happen when Christ comes back **WITH** His Church
- What will happen on earth during the Millennium?

We saw Christ cast the Antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire, and slay the armies of the world with the sword of His mouth. He saw Him judge the nations and restore Israel to a national standing. Now the King of kings is ready to mount the everlasting throne.

John says in Revelation 20:1-10, "*And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They*

had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth - Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

"*Millennium*" is a period of 1000 years, this will be Christ's " ***Kingdom age***" Through the ages men have dreamed of the "*golden age*" and talked of the time when all men are brothers and the earth is filled with righteousness and peace. Many thought they could bring in the "*kingdom age*" through education, the league of nations, better social conditions, or other human agencies. But they were wrong! It would take a superman of enormous proportionate abilities to straighten out this old world. Human hands and human plans cannot do it. There is only One who can do it, His name is the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. Satan will be bound for the 1000 years during the millennium

Note In verse. 2, four names are given him, "*the dragon, that old serpent, the Devil, Satan.*" These names are expressive of all the evil which exists in him. An angel comes down from heaven with a key in his hand, a great chain on his arm, He seizes Satan and binds him tightly for 1000 years. Satan is put in a pit and locked up and a seal is placed upon his prison.

When Jesus died they put Him in a tomb and demanded that a seal be placed on His tomb, so the Roman authorities placed a seal on Jesus' tomb, but Jesus' mighty power was able to burst that seal and He come back to life again! But, Satan will <u>not</u> be able to break this seal that is put on this pit. When Christ puts him there, he will stay there until Christ releases him "*for a little season*!" The millennium is a time of righteousness and peace. It is absolutely necessary that Satan be removed from the earth.

There have been those who have attempted to picture a "*golden age*" here on earth without getting rid of the devil, however, it can never be done. Satan is behind every war, every evil custom and every sin. He is responsible of all opposition to the Gospel. He is too strong to overcome by any human being, or human method. As long as Satan rules in man's heart, legislation will not move him. Passing laws won't help.

Church is Victor over all things, but, in spite of all the He does through the church, the devil is still on the job. Never forget, there is One who is mightier than Satan, and that is Jesus Christ! The time will come when He will lock the devil up, then His Kingdom will rule.

Note, how easy he overcomes Satan. He simply sends an angel to bind him. It doesn't even take Michael, or Gabriel, Jesus only has to use a lesser one. During the Tribulation, the hosts of earth, and all the fallen angels, fall down before Satan and worship him, however, now God's angel (a single angel) lay hold on Satan and ties him up for 1000 years.

Remember, Isaiah 14:12-15, which tells of Satan's fall from Heaven, says, "*How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit*."

At last the roaring lion will be overcome by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The One with the bruised heel will crush the serpent's head. Though the years, Satan has tempted men and made them fall, and he's broken their hearts through sin. But, now, **for 1000 years**, Satan locked up and Jesus will take the world over personally and run it in His own blessed way.

2. Christ sets up His millennial throne

Christ is spoken of in the Word as *Prophet, Priest, King*. Believers have seen Him as Prophet and Priest, but now, they will see Him as King, sitting on throne of David, reigning over all the world - A Supreme, and Beneficent, Sovereign!

Isaiah 9:6-7, that promises, "*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given . . .*" Has only partially been fulfilled. This verse goes on to prophesy, ". . . *and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this*."

Also, Luke 1:30-33 promises us through the message given to the virgin Mary, "*But the angel said to her, `Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.'"*

These Scriptures tell us that Jesus is going to be King, that He will reign upon the throne of David. He has not assumed His Kingship yet. He has not yet set upon throne of David. These prophecies do **NOT** refer to His first coming, but, when He returns to earth again, He will sit upon His throne, not only as King of the Jews, but as King of all kings!

The first time Jesus came to earth, He came as poor peasant, who had no place to lay His head, but, when He comes again, His regal power and majesty will be the Highest of the high. First time Jesus came to earth, He was a victim, but, when He returns, He will be Victor! The first time He came, men put Him to death on the cross, but,. when He comes again, He will rule over all men! Jerusalem will be center of His kingdom. The first time He came to earth, it was at Jerusalem that they tried Him, beat Him, spat upon Him, and, finally, killed Him, but when He comes again, He will reign over all the world from that same city - Jerusalem!

3. Who will assist Him in this reign?

All saints will be His assistants. Jesus took them up to meet Him in the air, when He came for them at the rapture of the Church, now He brings them back to earth to reign with Him. They ***lived*** for Him upon the earth, now they will ***reign*** with Him on earth.

Revelation 20:6 teaches, "*They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years*." Through the years, Christians have been persecuted, ridiculed, and put to death, now, they will be glorified with Him!

Paul says in Romans 8:18, "*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us*.

Jesus teaches, in Luke 19:17, that we will hear Him say, "*'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities*."

These passages of Scripture tell us that the faithful will have a prominent place in the government of the world. Jesus and His saints will be one. He will share His glory with them. The world looks down on Christians, they laugh, and sneer, but, in **THAT** day, Jesus will give His saints a place higher than, even than angels in heaven.

4. The scope of Christ's reign

This reign with Christ will cover everything on the earth, under the earth, and in the heavens. This exaltation is described in Philippians 2:9-11, which says, *"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*." This has not happened yet, all men have not yet bowed down to Jesus, but, in **THAT** day everyone will bow before Him.

What will happen at the Great White Throne Judgment?

Revelation 20:11-15, "*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the death that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire*."

All believers are in heaven after the rapture of the Church. With the Church is gone, the Antichrist has been ruling on earth during a period Scripture calls the Tribulation. We have studies, in past lessons, the subject of what happens when Christ comes back **WITH** His church to set up His glorious kingdom on earth.

Scripture speaks of a "***Great White Throne***," which will take place at the end of the Millennium. As the scene opens, at this juncture of our study, we have come to the end of the 1000 years of peace, plenty and prosperity. Satan, bound in the pit during this time, is loosed for

a season - masses of the earth's inhabitants follow him against Christ. Fire comes down from heaven destroys the armies of those who follows Satan at the end of the Millennium Period. Satan is cast into lake of fire, his career will be over forever.

The next event in God's program, according to the Bible, is the wicked dead being raised from graves and brought before Great White Throne and judged according to their works. This is the second resurrection. This judgment will all be under the supervision, and power, of Jesus Christ

Daniel 12:3 teaches that the day is coming when, "*Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

John 5:29 teaches, "*And shall come forth, they that have done good , unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation*."

Revelation 20:5-6 teaches, "*The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished . . . Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first** resurrection, on such the second death hath no power*."

These verses, and many others, tell clearly that there are two resurrections:
(1) The resurrection unto life which will be accomplished
when Jesus comes in the air for His saints - and
(2) The resurrection unto death which will be accomplished
when lost men will be called up before the Great White Throne .

God's Word definitely, specifically, speaks of "*a **first** resurrection," which* clearly implies that there will be a "***second** resurrection*."

When Jesus returns to gather the saints unto Himself, at the Rapture of the Church, "*The dead **in Christ** will rise*" or, more accurately, "*Will rise **out** **of** the dead*."

The second resurrection will take place at the end of the millennium, because Scripture teaches that after the first resurrection "*the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished*." At this time, all dead, lost, men and women everywhere, will be raised to appear before the Great White Throne Judgment. The graves, the seas, and the deserts, give up their dead . . . not one person will be left anywhere in graves, or wherever their bodies were placed.

1. Distinguish this judgment from other judgments

First, there was the judgment of believers' sins, which took place at the Cross. We were all guilty and Someone had to pay the penalty of our sins. Jesus did this at Calvary. "*I am free from the judgment of sin because He took my condemnation on Himself there*."

Romans 8:1 states, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*."

John 5:24 states, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that send Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation,*

but is passed from death unto life."

The next judgment is the one which takes place at the Judgement Seat of Christ, Romans 14:10 states, "*We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*." When Christ returns for His saints, we will all be judged according to our works. We will be judged according to our faithfulness and attitude at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We will be given crowns and rewards which we will enjoy throughout eternity.

The next will be a "***Judgment of the Nations***," when Christ returns in glory at end of the Tribulation Period. Christ will call the nations of the wold before Him and judge them according to their treatment of Christ's Jewish brothers. Some nations will be cast out and not allowed to enter into the glorious kingdom of Jesus Christ, others will be left on earth to live during the period of Christ's Kingdom

NOW, in our study, we come to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, where all lost men will be judged and sent into everlasting punishment.

Bible does not teach one general judgment!

2. Where will the Great White Throne Judgment be located?

While we cannot be absolutely confident where this judgement will take place, Scripture seem to teach that this judgment will take place in heaven,

People speak of "*The 7th Heaven,*" inferring that there are several heavens, however, God's Word speaks only of **three** heavens.

- It speaks of the first heaven, which is, basically, the clouds drifting about in our sky.
- It speaks of the second heaven, where the stars, moon and the sun is.
- It speaks of a third heaven, where God dwells

Paul tells us that he was "*caught up to **3rd heaven***" Saw wonderful things, that he could not talk about. Evidently this "*third heaven*" is where Great White Throne is.

3. Who will be judged at the Great White Throne?

John said, "*I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God*." The saved ones have already been resurrected, therefore, it is only the **WICKED** who are still here on earth.

Keep in mind that the "*spirits*" of the wicked have been in the place Jesus referred in Luke 16, as "*hades*," however, while their "*spirits*" have been very much alive in hades, their bodies have laid in graves. Now, their spirits and their bodies will be joined together and brought before Great White Throne.

They realize how they have rejected Christ, and *now* comes the penalty of rejection.

Revelation 6:15-17, "*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, `Fall on us,*

and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?'"

God's Word says of the wicked, that at this judgment, all "*small and great will stand before God.*" Their wealth will not be able to save them from appearing at this Great White Throne. Some may have been "*good*" men, living well for their families and their communities. However, at this judgment, there will be no respecter of persons. The question that will be asked is, "*Have you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior?*"

This judgment will be final, thee will not be any opportunity for an appeal from it's verdict. If you live without Christ, and die without accepting Him, you will appear before Great White Throne Judgment.

4. Who will be the Judge at the Great White Throne?

Act 17:31 teaches, "*He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained, whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, the that He has raised Him from the dead.*"

Jesus, the One whom God raised from the dead, will be the Judge at this judgment. He will settle all accounts at that time. He has already dealt with Satan, by casting him into the lake of fire, now He will deal with all those who followed Satan in life.

Jesus stood before Pilate and the creature judged the Creator, now, at this judgment. all creatures will stand before the Creator and receive the ratification of their damnation. In Pilate's hall Jesus stood speechless, but at the Great White Throne Judgment, it will be man who stands speechless. Christ once stood condemned before the throne of the world, but, in that day, He will sit upon a throne and judge the world.

His face was once spit upon, beaten and stained with blood, but, at this judgment, His face will be so majestic sinners will seek to flee from the sight of it.

How terrible for men to go through life rejecting Christ when some day they will come face-to-face with the unapproachable Light, unforgiven and doomed forever. Today Christ is filled with mercy toward you. You can come to Him and be saved, but in that day, mercy will have passed and the time of condemnation will be at hand.

The story is told of a judge who saved a man's life. Latter on this man committed a crime and was brought before this very same judge to be sentenced. Recognizing the judge, the man cried out, "*Don't you remember me, Judge? I am the man whom you saved! Have mercy on me now!*" However, the judge grimly replied, "*I remember you, but things are different now . . . I was your savior then, but I am your judge now.*"

Jesus is our Savior now, offering to save all who come unto Him. If you do not come to Him now, in that day He will be your Judge.

5. The Purpose of the Great White Throne Judgment

The purpose of this Great White Throne Judgment is **not** to decide whether a man is

saved or lost, because that has been decided on earth. Those who die without Christ have already condemned themselves, while here on earth. "*He that believeth not is condemned already*." Those who die without accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior, are already guilty of rejecting Jesus Christ, they do not have another chance, or opportunity, to receive Him. They are already condemned and facing eternal death. That sentence will meted out at Great White Throne Judgment, a just confirmation of their eternal death sentence.

No one can blame God, or every say it is His fault that anyone goes to hell. It is because of the hardness of man's heart, that they do into eternity without Christ.

There will be no more sin after this judgment, because in God's new creation, sin will be forever excluded. Satan, author of sin, has been cast into the lake of fire. All those who die without Christ will be, also, (according to Scripture "*be cast into the lake of fire*."
God's people, will be made perfect, like unto Jesus Christ. It will be a wondrous thing

- no more sin anywhere!

Degrees of punishment for the wicked will be decided at this Great White Throne Judgment. Scripture refers to some punishment being "*more tolerable*" (meaning, less punishment) for some.

Those who have *"shed innocent blood and brought affliction upon human race*," will, somehow, receive more torment, than one who . . . (has not accept Jesus Christ as his Savior) . . . yet has lived a good, clean, moral, life. Both are lost, and cast into lake of fire, however, Scripture teaches that those whose sins are more grievous, will suffer more intensely.

The wicked will not only judged for what they have done, but, Scripture teaches, they will be judged for their works, even the influence of their works that live on after they have died. Someone writes a book that leads men away from God. He will be punished according to all his works. Someone leads a young person into sin, and then, when he, perhaps is older, he dies. He will be punished for leading that younger person into sin.

At the Great White Throne Judgment all evil is ended as full punishment will be determined for all sinners.

6. The Books used at the Great White Throne Judgment

God's Word mentions "***books***," that are to be used at the Great White Throne Judgment. The only one that is listed is, "*The Lambs book of life*," evidently it is Christ's records of those who are saved. Whenever anyone accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior, their name is written in the Lamb's book of life. Luke.10:20 says, *"Rejoice, because you name is written in heaven.*"

There is the book of records, evidently, containing every deed and thoughts of unsaved. The wicked will be judged according to these deed. The sinner may forget his sin, but God is keeping a record. All these sins will be written in His book. I know this sounds impossible to our finite minds. To tell you the truth, I can't believe what computers are able to do in this day and age. Our government has records of you, and know almost everything there is to know about you.

Scripture teaches that God keeps a record of all you do or say.

Detectives, in order to catch a criminal, hides a mike, or a camera, and can record everything, in secret, that the lawbreaker does. The offender can't deny what he has done, because every deed, and word, has been recorded. It's all right there for before them.

The Great White Throne Judgment will be a great public manifestation of facts which are already settled and recorded.

In the "*Lamb's book of life*" all the names of all people who have accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and, since the names of these at the Great White Throne Judgment are not in this book, Scripture says, "*Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*."

There may be some who will attempt to make a vain plea. They may say, "*We did thus and so. We gave money, or we performed many good deeds*." However, the Judge will simply show them that their name is **NOT** in the book. Some may say, "*My mother was a Christian and my father was a godly man*." The Judge will reply, "***Your*** *name is not in the Lamb's book of life!*" It may be true that you have done many good things in this life, trying to get through life, doing good things. You have been helpful, kind and considerate of others. All this may make you feel good about yourself, even ease your conscience, but, there still is no hope at this Great White Throne Judgement, if name not written in book.

7. The Sentence of the Great White Throne Judgment

"*Whosoever was not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*."

Someone may say, "*I don't believe these things will happen*." The question I ask is, "*Will you accept your fancies or the plain teachings of God's Word?*" The place of punishment for the lost is given various names in Bible. The language God uses are words like: *"fire;" "the second death;" "outer darkness;"* and "*a place of wailing and gnashing of teeth*." If there is no such place, then why does the Bible have so much to say about it?

We are told in Revelation 20:10, "*The devil shall be cast into the lake of fire and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever*." If you are lost, God says that you will go to same place, the same thing will happen to you. Those there will suffer day and night forever and ever. Man did not say this, God said it! Are you going to call God a liar? God says, "*They* (the sinners) *will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone*." There will be those who will hear Christ say, "*Depart from Me ye cursed, to the place prepared for the Devil and his angels.*"

The thought of the awful judgment should solemnize us, however, I want to emphasize, again, that the Christian will **not** be at the Great White Throne Judgment.

This Scriptural truth should make us want to win the lost to Christ, so that they will be kept from this terrible Judgment. That's the reason why I preach. That's my task, to preach Christ to a lost and dying world.

How can you escape from appearing before this Judgment?

Simply by coming to Jesus Christ now. He will save you and keep you. Then, when He comes in the air to catch His bride away, He take you to be with Him. If you refuse Him, God will raise you up at the Great White Throne Judgment and you will be judged and cast into the lake of fire, to be tormented day and night, forever and ever. You followed Satan on earth, now you will stay with him throughout eternity.

Ethan Allen, an infidel, and a famous New England soldier, spoke out everywhere against religion. One day his daughter lay dying and she called for him to be at her bedside. She said, "*Daddy, I am going to die. Mother says that there is a Christ and a hereafter. You scoff at such things. I am dying now, and I must make my final decision in this minute. Which one of you shall I believe? Shall I accept my mother's Christ or your infidelity?*" History states, that this great soldier's frame shook with sobs as he cried out, "*Oh, my darling, it would be better for you to die in your mother's faith and not in my unbelief. Give your heart to Jesus*."

That is good advice. Do not go on any longer in sin and unbelief. Come to Jesus now because it is only through Him that you will find a way to escape the damnation of the Great White Throne Judgment.

What will Happen When This World is No More?

Revelation 21:1-4, "*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and he first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, `Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death nor mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away*."

I have attempted to give a proper order of all events connected with our Lord's return to earth again. We have seen Christ's return in the air, to gather His saints into Himself. We have seen Christ in heaven rewarding His saints at the Judgment Seat ("*Bema*") of Christ and, then sitting with them at Marriage Supper of Lamb. We have looked upon earth *after* the Church has been taken away and seen what happens on earth then. We saw Jesus returning in glory to set up His glorious kingdom, as we studied about the millennial period. We witnessed the Great White Throne Judgment, when God judged the wicked for their rejection of Jesus Christ. Now, we come to the closing of time and the beginning of eternity.

"*What will happen when this world is no more?"*

When I left my home state, California, and came back east, I wanted to know everything I could possibly find out about what was to be our "*new home.*" Every true Christian has the desire to know something about his future heavenly home. Jesus is the only One who has ever come back from that place, and He lets us know about it.

John, banished to the Isle of Patmos, wrote the book of Revelation. Jesus wanted to give us a message about future events, but also about what heaven would be like. Jesus pinned the

curtain of eternity back and permitted John to look into heaven. This great old man of God began to pen his picture of the heavenly city and, he felt that language was inadequate to describe the glories of that lovely place so, in describing what he saw, he uses symbols and metaphors that we could understand.

Someone asks, "*Why doesn't the Bible tells us more about Heaven?*" The truth is, if God told us more about heaven, we would be so anxious to go there, we wouldn't do our work here as it ought to be done. Paul, on one occasion, was taken into heaven and it was so wonderful, God almost had to tie him down to keep him on earth. Paul said, "*To depart and be with Christ is far better*."

John saw the glories of heaven. He knew that Christ's return would be the prelude to entrance into heaven. As this old saint told of the glories that awaited him, his heart overflowed, and he cries out, "*Even so, Come, Lord Jesus*"

After Great White Throne Judgment, and Satan has been cast into the lake of fire and all sinners with him, comes the perfect age of eternity. Every purpose of God for man will now find its fulfillment.

PRESENT HEAVEN AND EARTH - PASS AWAY

This heaven above us and the earth will not be destroyed, but, rather, it will be cleansed and purified into a "*New heaven and a new earth.*" This earth has been given to Israel "*forever and ever*."

Revelation 21:1 states, "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away*."

2 Peter 3:10 states, "*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* . . . [the heavens will disappear with a roar] . . *and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up*."

Isaiah 65:17 states, "*For behold I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind*."

God said that He would "*create new heavens and a new earth.*" What does that mean? The word "*create*" to call into existence something which did not previously exist. For instance, Genesis 1:1 states, "*In the beginning God **created** the heaven and the earth*." God "***created***" the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He "***created***" the animals, the growing things. God created them out of nothing. He had nothing to begin with, but, simply spoke the words and these things came into existence.

If you were to build a table, or bake a cake, or "*make*" anything, you must start with pre-existent material. However, God "*creates*," makes something out of nothing.

God said in His Word that He will "***create***" a new heaven and a new earth, the "*old will pass away*," be utterly destroyed. Jesus, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away*."

Jesus will create a "*new creation,*" so different, that there will be no need of the sun, or moon, or stars . . . even laws of nature will pass away.

Remember after resurrection, how Jesus could transcend space and walk through closed doors? The word that is used is that He simply, "*appeared,*" showing His disciples that He no longer was a part of this earthly realm, He belonged to a realm where "*All things were new.*" In Revelation 21:4 we read, "The *former things are passed away,*" meaning that heaven and earth and all things in them are ***new!*** This earth will be destroyed, the heavens, and all we see in them will be destroyed, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth. **All in a second of time**.

Man's history is over and, now, God's order begins. The dark days, brought on by man's sin, is over and the sun . . . [more accurately, the "**Son"**] is risen to shine forever. There will be no more weeping. Sin, which held sway over humanity, bringing disease and death, sorrow, sadness, and broken hearts . . .is gone forever. This old world has been cursed and we will be glad to see it go.

NEW JERUSALEM

John saw a new heaven and a new earth and then, in his vision, he sees a great city, **the New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven.

John says in Revelation 21:3, "*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, `Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.*'"

1. THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE A REAL, LITERAL, CITY

The Bible describes the city literally, and tells us that it is made of real materials. Why does God tell us of the gold and the pearls and the other precious materials, if they were not made of real material? Why did God give us the dimensions of the city if it were not real? How can one measure a city that is not real? God tells us of the inhabitants of city, but how can there be a dwelling, if it is not a real city? God said, "*we will dwell therein.*"

Hebrews 11:10 states, "*Abraham looked for a city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*" The old earth, which at this point in our study, has now passed away, as a very real place, a New Jerusalem, comes out of heaven to earth. Jesus said, "*I go to prepare **a place** for you."* This "*place*" is not just some condition, but, rather, a *real* place.

2. The New Jerusalem is "*a city out of heaven.*"

Anything out of heaven is infinitely good. Two thousand years ago, Jesus came down as God's best gift. When Christ brings this "***city***" to earth, it will be a blessed gift. A king once gave a diamond to one of his friends. The friend replied, "*Oh, Sir, this is too great a gift for me to receive.*" To which the King said, "*It is not too great a gift for a king to give!*" That's how it will be when the New Jerusalem comes out of heaven. Heaven is too much for us, we don't deserve it, but, it is not too much for God to give.

3. The New Jerusalem will be a VAST city

In Revelation 21:15 John hears God give the command to, "*Send an angel and measure the city, the gates, and the walls.* And the New Jerusalem is described as a great city lying foursquare, one thousand five hundred miles square, beautifully laid out by the hand of the Great Architect, God Himself.

Travel will be "*in the spirit.*" Traveling in with glorified body, transcending space and devouring distance in the fraction of a second.

4. The New Jerusalem will be God's Home

Think of it, "*God's home!*" We are apt to think of God away up in the clouds, far away from our lives. We think of God as in a high and mighty position. We have never seen His home, but, now, in the New Jerusalem, we will be at home with Him, and we will know Him as He is.

Jesus had no home while He was here on earth. He said, "*the birds have their nests and the foxes have their holes, but I have no place to lay My head,*" but, now, in the New Jerusalem, we will have wonderful new home with Him.

5. The New Jerusalem will be a city of God's Government

Up to this moment, the judgments in heaven and during millennium, Christ has been the ruling figure, God, the Father, in background, however, now, Christ has finished His work and He will "*Deliver up everything to God, the Father,*" 1 Corinthians 15:24.

Revelation 22:3 tells us, "*But the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it."* After Christ delivers up kingdom to His Father, God elevate the Son to His own throne and Christ will with Him. The Holy Spirit be there, in His respective position, doing His respective work.

6. The New Jerusalem will be a city of the saints

In Revelation 21:7 we read, "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things,"*

1 John 5:5 tells us who the "*overcomer*" is, "*Who is he that overcometh the world, he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God*" The city, the New Jerusalem, will be inhabited by saints of God.

Revelation 22:4 declares, "*His name shall be in their foreheads.*" God's Name reveals the nature and character of God. God's Name being in our foreheads, for all to see, means that each of us will perfectly and publicly reflect the character of God.

7. The New Jerusalem will be a city of blessed fellowship

God's eternal plan was to be with man, enjoying fellowship with Him. Satan's eternal purpose was to separate man and God, but, now, in the New Jerusalem, Satan's day is over, man and God are together forever.

In Revelation 21:3 John says, "*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold*

the tabernacle of God 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."

In Revelation 3:4 he says, "*they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy*!"

In Garden of Eden, God walked with man and had fellowship with him. Sin soon entered into the garden and man separated from God and that fellowship was broken. All through the Bible we see God marching against all obstacles, over every mountain, through every valley, even through Gethsemane and Calvary, in order that finally He could be at home with man. God will wipe away every tear and cause us to forget every bad thing, and to enjoy God forever.

We will also have blessed fellowship with others. In the words of an old hymn: "*Friends will be there I have loved long ago, Joy like a river around me will flow!*"

Now, down here on earth, friendships broken here, but that will not be so in heaven. "*Good-bye*" not be in our vocabulary. We will never have to part again.

8. The New Jerusalem will be a prepared city

Jesus said in John 14:2, "*I go to prepare a place for you*," And we read in Revelation 21:1, "*I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*." A bride comes to the altar clean. spotless and she is happy. She has been prepared. The New Jerusalem will be a prepared city.

When man builds a city, he gathers many materials from many places. God uses many materials in building New Jerusalem, the most expensive materials that exist . . . gold, pearls, and precious stones. One of the stones mentioned in Revelation is Sardius. The color of this stone is bright red, the color of Christ's blood. In the New Jerusalem we probably will learn what every precious stone used there is significant of some great spiritual truth and God will have eternity to reveal it all to us.

Scripture tell us that "*the street of the city is pure gold*." Gold stand for divine righteousness. With our sins gone forever, we will walk in that city in a state of perfect righteousness. Today, man do anything for gold, he will rob, cheat and murder in order to get it. However, in heaven, gold will be under our feet, worship it no longer.

9. The New Jerusalem will be a city of divine Light

Revelation 22:5 tells us, "*And there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light*"

Niagara Falls, New York is called, "*The City of lights*" because it is, supposedly, the most brilliantly lighted city in all the world, however, no city can compare to the New Jerusalem as it is lighted by God's glory. The saints will not depend upon nature's light in that city, not even the sun, or moon, or stars because they will all be gone. All the light that will be needed will come from God and, *"His glory shall fill the city!"*

"*There will be no night there!*" Night is a symbol of evil. Most crimes are committed

during the night hours. Those who are sick watch for the morning. Scripture states, "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning*." There will be no night in that wonderful city, the New Jerusalem. All of us will be blessed by the divine Light forever, and ever. What a contrast to our present world of darkness . . . spiritual darkness and physical darkness fill the world.

Think of it, only half of the world can have light at one time. but, then, in that New Jerusalem, God's light will fill all of heaven - at all times! What a contrast to the place of the lost, where "*outer darkness*" rules. The saved will be living in the city of light.

10. The New Jerusalem will be a walled city

Revelation 21:12 teaches, "*The city had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel*."

The New Jerusalem will have twelve gates and each gate will have the name of one of the tribes of Israel. It will have twelve foundations (Revelation 21:14) and each foundation will bear the name of one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. This wall will be a memorial wall, covering both the Old Testament and the New Testament, constantly reminding us of the works of Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church.

The wall is made of jasper. God is rich and He does not have to use common stones, such as bricks, or even marble. God will use precious stones in building this great wall. The wall of China is one of the wonders of the world. however, there are places were it is in ruins, but God's wall will last forever as a symbol of His eternal protection and as a picture of the manner in which His love surrounds us.

11. The New Jerusalem will be a city with a new Temple

John tells us in Revelation 21:22, "*And I saw no Temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it*"

The purpose of a temple is to finish a place for the worship of God. We don't see God in our earthly temples. They are merely shadows of the great Temple in the New Jerusalem, where we will worship God as we have never worshipped Him before. **He is the Temple!** We will not, then, worship unseen Being, but, rather, we will look into His dear face. All of our worship will center in Him.

Down here, our church services, are not always joyful, (or even always, worshipful), but then our worship will always be full of great joy, and blessing. The other day someone said to me, "*I look forward to attending **every** service*." Surely that be our attitude in that day, where every act will be one of worship, every day we will learn something new about Jesus. Every day we will be expressing new gratitude to Him as we learn how much He has meant to us and how much He has done for us. **What joy just to be with Him there!**

12 The New Jerusalem will be a city of one language

In Zephaniah 3:9 we learn, "*For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent*."

At tower of Babel, God brought about the confusion of tongues, as a result of man's sin. Today there are thousands of languages and dialects all over the world, but, in the New Jerusalem, there will be only one language. Every sentence will be filled with praise to the Lamb who was slain for our salvation.

13. The New Jerusalem will be a city of service

Revelation 22:3 tells us, "*His servants shall serve Him*."

We will not sit through eternity playing a harps and just doing nothing. We will be able to render perfect service to Jesus Christ. We will never grow tired, or never be discouraged, but, we will enjoy every minute of our service to Christ.

14. The New Jerusalem will be a city where there will be no more curse

Sin brought the curse upon the earth and mankind, but, in the New Jerusalem, there will be no more sin, and no more curse. Satan will be banished into the bottomless pit and sin will be forever absent. There will be no tragedies. We will never hear of murder, war, or suicide. The present Jerusalem is unholy, but the New Jerusalem will be a **holy** city.

God built the first Garden of Eden and sin came into this garden and ruined everything. All things that grew in the garden withered and died. This was true, not only of the flowers of the field, but of the man, also, whom God made for Himself. However, in **that** day the curse will be removed, not only from man, but even from plant life and they all will have eternal life.

Revelation 21:27 tells us, "*And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth*."

Those things which sin brought on will never be able to get into heaven

No wonder it is such a marvelous city!

There will be no more tears. Now, tears flow freely . . . all of us shed them at time.
In the New Jerusalem, however, there all tears will be wiped away by the loving hand of our Heavenly Father. There will be no more sorrow there.

A pastor, probably, sees more sorrow than most people. I have been with many whose hearts were breaking, and tears flowed freely, but, thank God, sorrow will never enter the New Jerusalem. There will be no more pain. Pain is a tragic thing . . . it comes to the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad, however, no pain will ever enter the Jew Jerusalem. No one will ever worry about sickness, disease, pestilence, or broken limbs.

What a difference between the New Jerusalem and land of the lost. Those in the "***lake of fire***" will be *"tormented day and night forever and ever*." In heaven there will be no pain. We know what pain is here on earth, but, pain will be a million times worse in hell, and there

will never be any relief.

You can choose now . . . it is Christ or sin . . .heaven or hell . . .torment or bliss.

John was exiled on Isle of Patmos, the sea separated him from his loved ones, but, in that New Jerusalem, "*There will be no more sea.*" In heaven there will be nothing to ever separate us from our loved ones. - ***Hallelujah!*** The Lord's people will be together forever! Here, in this world, we need the sea to equalize the temperature. The earth, the sky and the sea all combine to furnish an atmosphere we can live in, but, in that New Jerusalem, in our glorified bodies, we will be adjusted for eternity. **There will be no need for the sea**!

Sea is a type of restlessness, however, in the New Jerusalem there will be no more restlessness of any individual.

In the New Jerusalem there will be "*no more death"* Now death may knock at your door and you can say "*Go away, death, I'm not ready*." You can bolt the door against death, but death will knock down door and come in just the same. In the New Jerusalem there will no more death. There will be no graves on the hillside of glory. We read in Revelation 20:14 that, "*death cast into lake of fire.*" The last enemy will be destroyed. Death stings here, in this life, crushes us, and breaks hearts. but, thank God, it will never enter into the New Jerusalem.

15. The New Jerusalem will be an eternal city

Hebrews 13:14 teaches, "*For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come*!" Here, in this life, we have no permanent city, no fixed resting place, but we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.

The great cities of the world will not continue, they will perish into dust, but, thank God, the New Jerusalem will last forever. Revelation 22:5 tells us, "*they shall reign for ever and ever.*" The New Jerusalem will be an eternal city in which God's people will dwell.

16. The New Jerusalem will be a city where we will see Christ's face

If the New Jerusalem was simply a great city, with gold streets, gates of pearls, and precious stones, that, in itself, would not be enough. It would not be worth the struggle of this life, but that city will be more than that. It will be a place where we will see Jesus. face to face. If He is not there, it would not be heaven.

Oh, the dear ones in glory,
How they beckon me to come,
And our parting at the river I recall;
To the sweet vales of Eden
They will sing my welcome home;
But I long to meet My Savior for of all

Then we will understand all things. We will forget the struggles of life, when see Jesus. We will know that everything that has ever happened was simply leading to that great hour and that great privilege.

Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Face to face - what will it be;
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me?

In the New Jerusalem, there will be only one word to express our feeling. David used it when he said, "***I shall be satisfied when I awake, with Thy likeness***."

When we see Him - know that we are going to dwell with Him throughout eternity - forever and - "***Fully satisfied***."

You can have a part of this glory and enjoy these eternal blessings. all because there was One who made it possible by His death on Calvary's cross. Believe in Him. He will receive you and give you a place in heaven.

In Revelation 21:8 we are told who will not be there, "*But the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, the whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death*."

Do you see what becomes of sinners? You may say, "*I'm not a Christian, but I am surely not included in that list*?" Included in this list are "*all unbelievers.*" The message is plain: Believe in Jesus Christ and heaven will be your portion . . . live without Him and you will be cast into the lake of fire.

In Vienna, Austria, there is a famous chapel where royal members of Hapsburg family buried for 500 years. When a member of the family dies, they are taken to chapel where an impressive ceremony takes place. The chaplain performs the funeral service in the palace and leads the procession down toward chapel for burial. Upon arriving at chapel the chaplain knocks upon the door, and the keeper of the chapel comes to the door, but does not open it. Instead he cries out, "*Who is there?*"

When the Emperor Franz Josef was being buried, the other formal rituals had taken place, the chaplain answered the keeper of the chapel, "*I ask admittance for the body of Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, King of the Romans, King of Illyria.* "The keeper of the chapel spoke through the little wicket, "*I know no Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, King of the Romans, King of Illyria*." Once more the chaplain knocked. Again he gave the titles of the great man, and again he received the same answer from the keeper of the chapel. The chaplain hesitated a minute, then knocked again - said, "*I ask admission for Franz Josef, a poor sinner*." The keeper of the chapel immediately swung open the door and said, "*Enter Franz Josef, poor sinner*"

You may come with all your good works and boast of many good deeds you have done, but you will not get into the gates of the New Jerusalem, even though be 12 of them. However, come to Jesus, your Savior . . . come as a poor lost sinner. He will take you into His heart at once. Someday you will enter the New Jerusalem with Him, and never, never be forced to leave it.