Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 8 The Resurrections at Jesus 2nd Coming







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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over

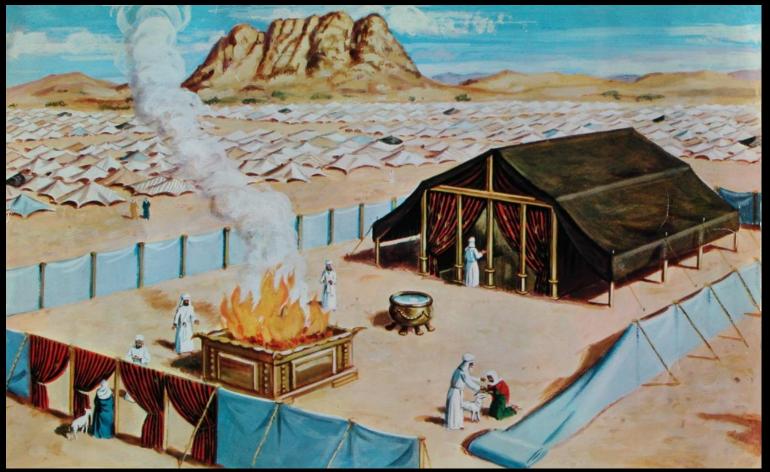
"WORSHIP"

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary





And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet - Ginger

Health Benefits of Ginger (Seek Medical Advise)
Ginger appears to be highly effective against nausea. It may help relieve nausea and vomiting for people undergoing certain types of surgery. Ginger may also help chemotherapy-related nausea, but larger studies needed.

2. Can treat nausea, including morning sickness:
Ginger may be the most effective when it comes to pregnancy-related nausea, such as morning sickness.
According to a review of 12 studies that included a total

of 1,278 pregnant women, 1.1–1.5 grams of ginger can significantly reduce symptoms of nausea.

 However, this review concluded that ginger had no effect on vomiting episodes.

Contra-indications in pregnancy:

- It's recommended that pregnant women who are close to labour or who've had miscarriages avoid ginger.
- Ginger is contraindicated with a history of vaginal bleeding and clotting disorders as well.

Although ginger is considered safe, talk with your doctor before taking large amounts if you're pregnant.

It's effective treatment for nausea and vomiting and safe.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!



The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28:5-6



Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 8 The Resurrections at Jesus 2nd Coming







Introduction

The time of Michael's intervention is also described as a time of trouble without parallel. This corresponds to the time when God's Spirit will be withdrawn from rebellious humankind. Then the seven last plagues, as expressions of God's wrath upon the nations, will be poured upon the end-time Babylon (Revelation 16:1-21; Revelation 18:20-24) and the powers of darkness will be unleashed upon the world.

"Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old". — The Great Controversy, p. 614.

But God's people will be delivered during this terrible time because, in the investigative judgment conducted in the heavenly tribunal, they have been vindicated by Jesus, the heavenly High Priest, and their names have been written in the book.





Introduction (cont'd)

In order to understand the meaning of this book, we should keep in mind that the Bible mentions two kinds of heavenly books. One contains the names of those who belong to the Lord and is sometimes designated as the book of life (Exodus 32:32, Luke 10:20, Psalms. 69:28, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 17:8).

In addition to the Book of Life, the Scriptures mention books containing the records of human deeds (Psalms 56:8, Malachi 3:16, Isaiah 65:6). These are the books used in the heavenly tribunal to determine every person's commitment to the Lord. These are heavenly records "databases" containing the page and deed to the cords. records, "databases", containing the names and deeds of every human being. Some people frown upon the idea of having their names, and especially their deeds, written in heaven. But once we commit our lives to Christ, our names are inscribed in the book of life, and our bad deeds are deleted in the judgment. This heavenly record provides judicial evidence to the entire universe that we belong to Jesus and therefore have the right to be protected during the time of trouble.



Daniel 12:2 - The Resurrection

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And many of them that sleep - Here we have a resurrection taking place during the time of the 7th of the 7 last plagues.

Some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt - The many that awake, or are resurrected, are a mixed multitude consisting of some that will gain eternal life and others that will not. These are being resurrected at the same time. This cannot be only the first resurrection that takes place when Jesus comes as only the righteous dead are raised in it. (1 Thessalonians 4:16) It also cannot only be the second resurrection that takes place at the end of the thousand years as only the wicked dead are raised in it. (Revelation 20:4-6, 14-15)



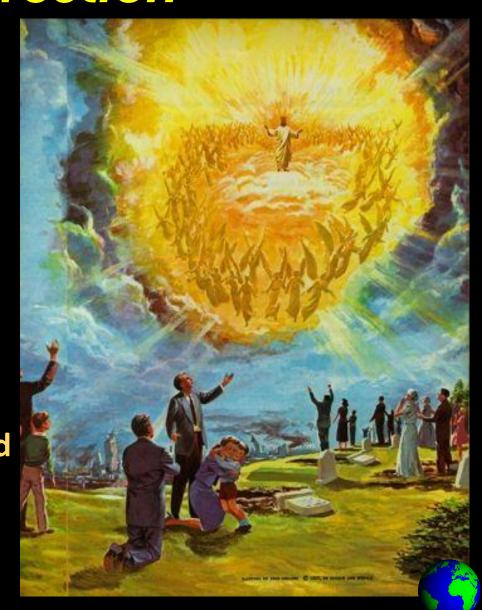
The Special Resurrection

At His trial, what did Jesus predict would eventually happen to the high priest and the members of the council?

Matthew 26:63, 64 compare Revelation 1:7. Who are raised in this partial resurrection? Daniel 12:2.

Jesus assured Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin that they would be raised from the dead to see His coming in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 26:63, 64). All those who took part in His unjust trial and crucifixion will be raised from the dead to witness this glorious event.

Daniel 12:1 indicates that some righteous people, some who died with faith in Jesus, will also be raised to witness the advent. This is a wonderfully kind act on God's part. He wants to give a special reward to some of the faithful saints because they believed and taught the Bible truth about His advent. He wants them to see the fulfilment of their hopes.



The Special Resurrection (cont'd)

This can only mean that we have a special resurrection taking place as well. Does the Bible support this? The answer is yes it does. In Revelation 1:7 and Matthew 26:63-64 we learn that those that took part in the crucifixion of Christ and the high priest will be raised to see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven. This takes care of those that will be raised to everlasting shame and contempt.

The righteous that will be a part of this special resurrection are found in Revelation 14:13. The voice from heaven told John to 'write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth'. Henceforth means from this time onwards, or from now on. The time frame is found in the preceding verses which is none other than the proclamation of the third angels message of Revelation 14:9-12 that commenced in 1844. So from 1844 onwards those that die in the Lord were to be blessed. The reason why they are blessed is that they are a part of the special resurrection which has to take place during the seventh plague if they are to see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven. What a fitting reward for those that held their faith in proclaiming the last message to a dying world to usher in the coming of Christ, to see Him come in the clouds of glory.





The Special Resurrection (cont'd)

"Graves are opened, and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. They also which pierced him' (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.

"Those who derided His claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic sceptre, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life now turn from His piercing gaze and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse. With awful distinctness do priests and rulers recall the events of Calvary."--The Great Controversy, pp. 637, 643.





What will Happen to God's People when Christ Returns?

If you've ever lost someone you loved very much, you might find yourself wondering if somehow you will ever see them again.

The good news is, we don't have to wonder. The Bible tells us that everyone will wake from their graves and rise again during the final resurrections—when Jesus Christ returns to earth to judge the world, save His followers, and put an end to sin and death.

We'll take a deeper look at:

What does resurrection actually mean?

What is The Resurrection?

Why are there two resurrections at the end of earth's history?

When will these resurrections happen?

How Jesus' resurrection makes this all possible Jesus the Saviour's promise

• There's a lot to unpack here, so let's dive in.

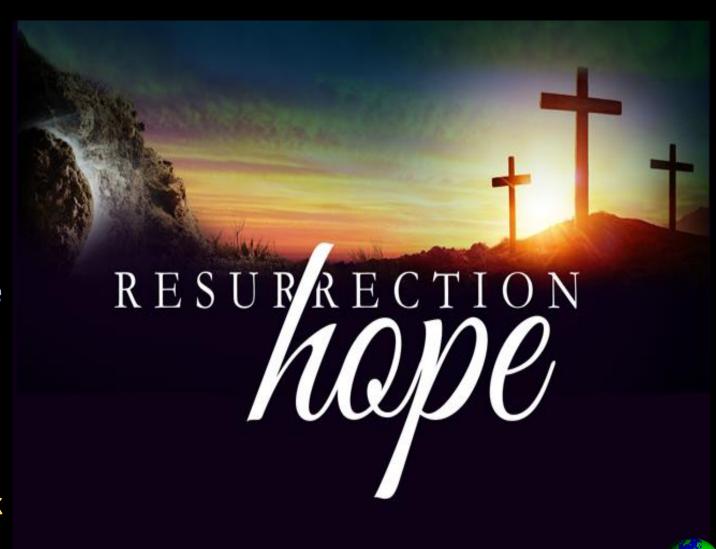


What Is Resurrection?

Before we get into the significance of the final resurrection at the Second Coming of Jesus, let's look at what "resurrection" actually means.

The dictionary defines resurrection as restoring a person who was dead back to life. In the Bible, we find that the word resurrection is used a number of times to describe events where people who have passed away were brought back to life through God's power.

The word resurrection is used 42 times in 40 different verses of the New Testament (King James Version) and comes from the Greek word anastasis, which is also the root word for "anesthesia."



Here are some of the people in Scripture who were resurrected, or raised from the dead.

Widow of Zapethath's son (1 Kings 17:17-24)

Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18-37)

Israelite man (2 Kings 13:20-21)

Widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17)

Jarius' daughter (Luke 8:49-56)

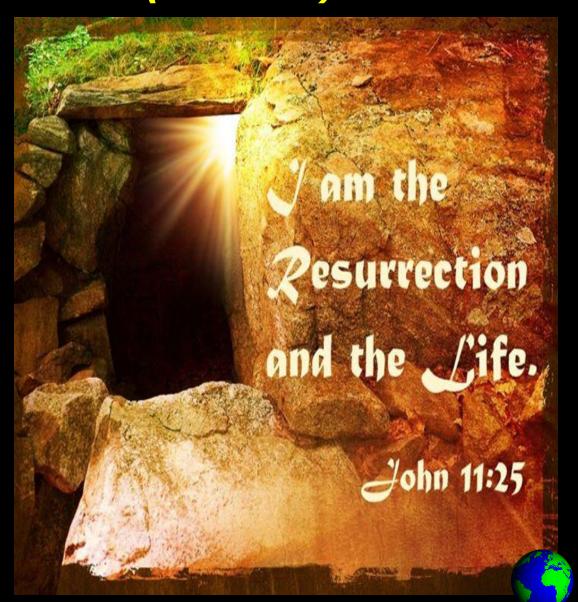
Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

The saints in Jerusalem (Matthew 27:50-54)

Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42)

Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)

These people experienced their body and mind being brought back to consciousness, to the current state of humanity. After this miracle of resurrection occurred, they lived out their earthly lives to later die again. They were not given eternal life at that time.

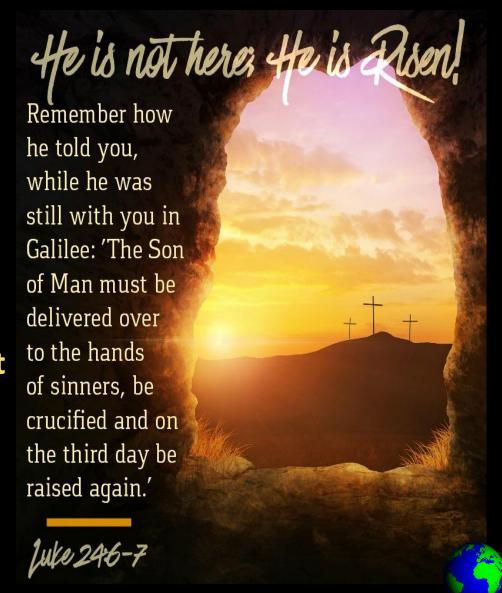


However, there is a highly significant resurrection coming when earth's history reaches its end and Jesus returns to earth, as He promised in John 14.

This resurrection will happen at the end of time. God's people will be redeemed to the perfection He originally intended mankind to have. We will still be ourselves. You will recognize loved ones—but we will all be changed from having perishable, sin-corrupted bodies to imperishable bodies that will allow us to fully enjoy eternity with God.

The definition of resurrection remains the same—a physical event in which a person dies, lays at rest in the grave, and then God returns the breath of life into them. But the resurrection at His Second Coming will be the one to end the need for resurrection at all.

It's the event that Christians expectantly await. It gives us hope for the future, no matter what happens.



In fact, the resurrection is the most wonderful thing we can hope for! The Bible reassures us that no matter what, in the end, followers of Christ will have no more pain or sorrow. God will wipe away every tear! The resurrection is part of God's plan, when death shall be no more (Revelation 21:4).

It's so hard when we lose someone we love and we want to see them again. Death was not a part of God's initial plan for mankind. We were originally made to live forever! So when someone dies, it feels unnatural. It hurts.

We all long for that day when we can see our loved ones again.

The resurrection is the promise all believers in Christ cling to: one day all who have died in Christ will be resurrected and given a new life.



It's also important to note that whenever people were resurrected in the Bible, they didn't talk about what heaven was like. This is because they hadn't been there yet. They were "sleeping" in their graves, in an unconscious nonexistence.

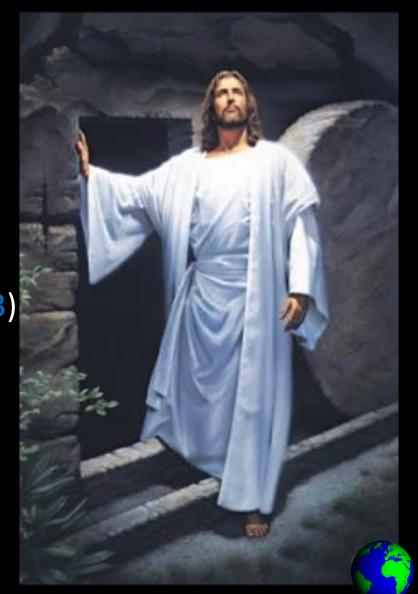
"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." (Psalm 146:4)

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

When we die we are "asleep" until the resurrection. The breath of life from God that makes us a living soul is returned to God until He gives it back.

So those brought back to life on earth weren't yanked away from paradise to be brought back to a sinful earth.

We can take comfort in the idea that our loved ones are resting peacefully in the grave until Christ's second coming.



Why are there two resurrections?

The Bible also tells us there is more than one resurrection at the End Times—the First Resurrection and the Second Resurrection.

- One for the followers of God (the resurrection of life)
- One for the lost, the resurrection of condemnation (or death)

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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." (John 5:28, 29).

This means that all who have ever lived and died will one day be resurrected. Let's take a closer look at the differences between the two resurrections.





The first General Resurrection

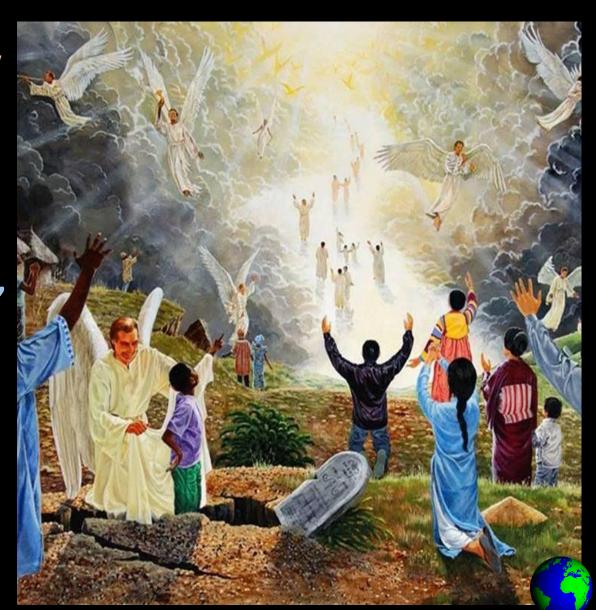
The First Resurrection is of the "dead in Christ." The dead in Christ are those who, by the time of their death, loved God and accepted the sacrifice of Jesus.

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

When the dead in Christ are resurrected, they are made imperishable—they cannot die again. They will have been made perfect, as humanity was always supposed to be.

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:52).

After this resurrection, they will live for eternity in heaven and then in the New Earth. They will no longer experience pain, sorrow, or death.



The Second Resurrection

The Second Resurrection happens one thousand years after the First, as told in the Book of Revelation. Those who were resurrected in the First Resurrection will have spent this Millennium in heaven with God, learning about His judgment and everything that happened in earth's history.

This resurrection is not a happy occasion. This is when those who rejected Jesus as their Saviour will be resurrected.

As God presented His judgment during the Millennium, these names were not found in the "Book of Life," where the names of God's followers are recorded when they accept Jesus' sacrifice.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." (Revelation 20:5).



The Second Resurrection (cont'd)

When this second group of people are raised from the dead, they will not experience eternal life. Instead, they will experience the Second Death—complete separation from God for eternity. And when anyone is separated from their life force, they cease to exist.

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:14, 15).



Is The Resurrection The Same Thing As The Rapture?

While similar in theme and association, the short answer is no. The Resurrection is what happens when the dead are raised to life. "Rapture" is what happens when we are caught up in the air with Christ and His host of angels in the clouds of heaven.

However, upon hearing the word "rapture," many will think of an event defined as the "Secret Rapture." Popular teachings surrounding this idea have led to many Christians believing that one day believers will simply disappear before the "Great Tribulation" begins.

You may have seen books or movies about the secret rapture, like the series, Left Behind. Unfortunately, the idea of a secret rapture contradicts what the Apostle Paul says will actually happen at the end of time.

Believers go to heaven when the Lord Jesus Christ returns. And this event will be anything but secret.



Is The Resurrection The Same Thing As The Rapture? (cont'd)

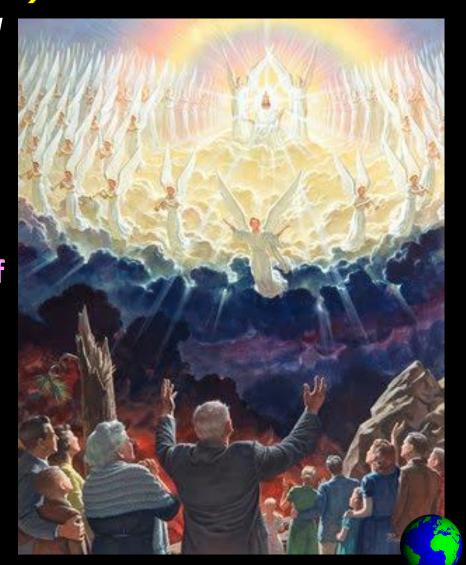
"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

The word rapture actually means "the transporting of believers to heaven at the Second Coming of Christ."

Believers will be "raptured," or caught up together with the Lord in the air and go to heaven together. But notice how the event will be preceded by the trumpet of God. This is no secret rapture!

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Revelation 1:7).



Is The Resurrection The Same Thing As The Rapture? (cont'd)

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:30, 31).

Every eye will see and every ear will hear. That trumpet call will be so loud it literally wakes up the dead!

Instead of a secret snatching away of God's people, the rapture happens as a component of the "Parousia."

Parousia is a Greek word used in the Bible that means "a coming" or "a presence."







Is The Resurrection The Same Thing As The Rapture? (cont'd)

In the New Testament, the word "Parousia" is primarily used in reference to Jesus' return, but is also used to talk about others who were coming to visit or someone's presence.

So to recap what happens at the second coming of Jesus Christ:

The first resurrection happens and all of the dead in Christ are raised back to life.

Then all of God's people will be caught up in the air with Jesus and his angels.

We can be comforted knowing our loved ones are resting in their graves waiting for Jesus' return. And we know the day is coming when all who believe will meet Jesus in the clouds to go with Him to heaven.



When does the resurrection happen?

The Bible gives us signs that Jesus' return is near. But we're also told that God's timing is not for anyone to know but the Father God Himself.

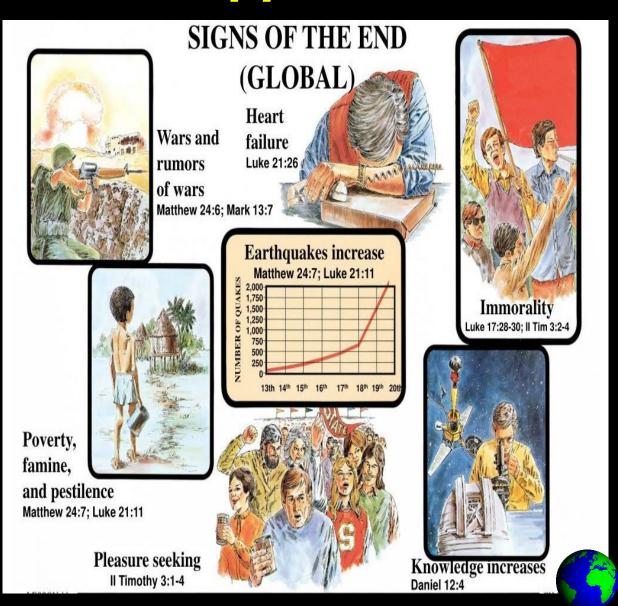
"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36).

But here's what Scripture does tell us concerning the timing of this grand event.

Matthew 24 describes certain events that will occur in the world as the earth grows more sin-sick and the time of the end draws closer.

Among these are:

False Christs seeking to deceive many (vs. 5)
An increase in natural disasters (vs. 7)
Global conflict (vss. 6, 7)
Food shortages (vs. 7)
Increase in selfish disregard for humanity (vs. 12)
Persecution of Jesus' followers (vs. 9)



When does the resurrection happen? (cont'd)

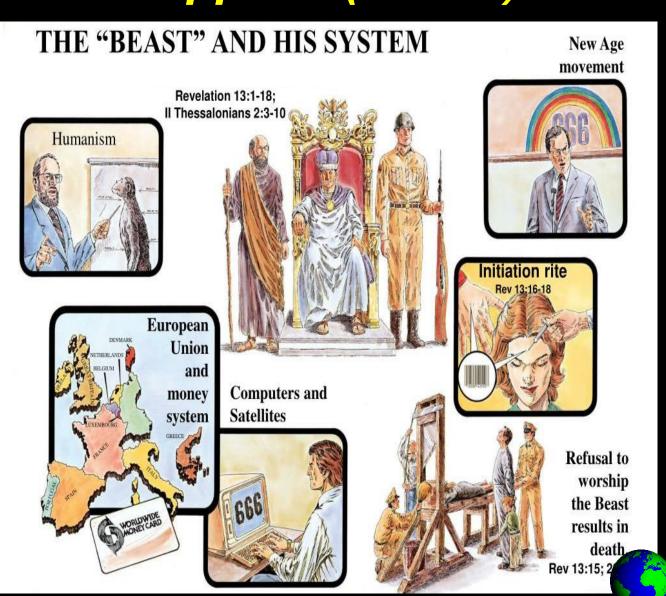
However, we're also told these things are: "All these are the beginning of sorrows." of the end times (vs. 8).

But one positive thing will happen for sure—everyone will have had the chance to hear about Jesus.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (vs. 14).

As for the Second Coming itself?
An early clue is in Job, where we are told that when a man dies, he does not rise again until the "heavens are no more."

"So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." (Job 14:12).



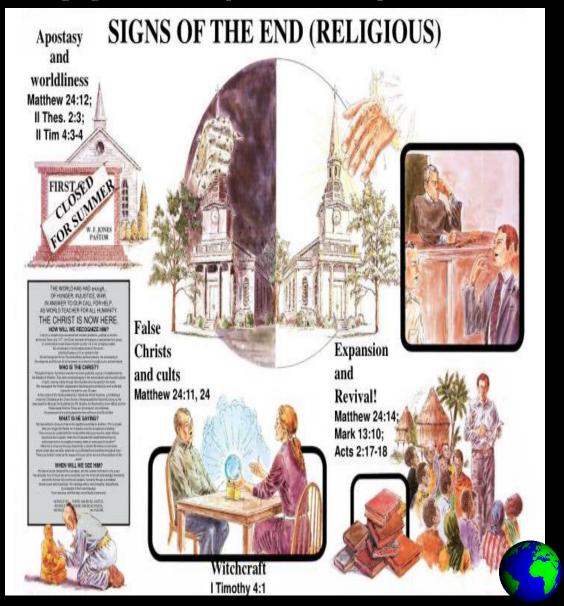
When does the resurrection happen? (cont'd)

When Jesus comes again, the sky will dissolve. It's pretty crazy to think about what that will be like, but the Bible is clear. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will involve the sky or heavens "passing away."

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." (Isaiah 34:4).

The Second Coming will be a sudden event that surprises those who are not ready. Just like you would be surprised if a thief broke into your house, most people will be surprised when Jesus comes again—because they weren't watching for Him.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10).



When does the resurrection happen? (cont'd)

But with this focus on "readiness," why isn't anyone supposed to know when Jesus will return?

Well, the exact timing is none of our business, and it's futile to obsess over it. If we've accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we are to have our hearts ready for it at all times.

We still have our lives to live on earth. And though God wants us to know that His Coming is near, and to know it could happen suddenly, anytime, He doesn't want us to forgo the roles we're given in our current lives. He doesn't want us to be living in a countdown, simply biding our time until the end.

He wants us to focus on caring for those around us and spreading the Gospel message—sharing with others the very hope we're talking about here: that we all will be brought back to life!



Looking Back At Jesus' Resurrection

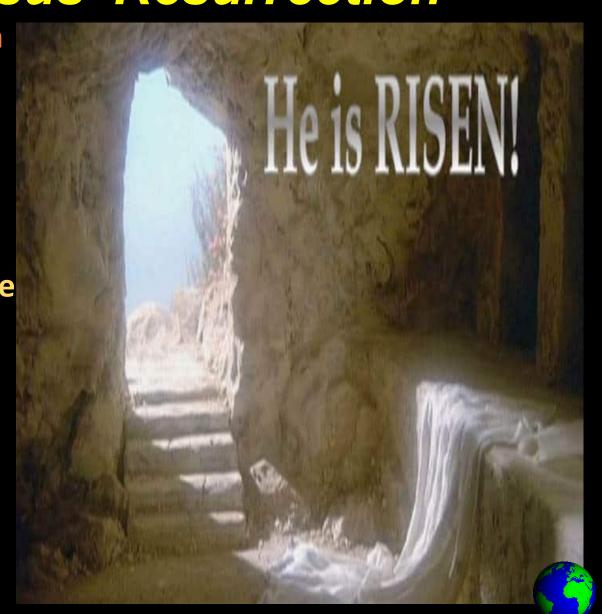
It's because of Jesus' death and resurrection that we have the hope of eternal life. It's because of His sacrifice that we can look forward to seeing our precious loved ones who have passed away.

His ultimate sacrifice, which makes the resurrection possible:

When Jesus died on the cross, He took on the punishment meant for us. He knew there was no other way to save us from our sins.

From the very beginning of time, when sin entered the world, this was God's plan. The Bible tells us that Jesus was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8).

Scripture reveals to us the prophecies of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection long before Jesus was even born into this world (Isaiah 53).



Looking Back At Jesus' Resurrection (cont'd)

Jesus died to save you! That's how much He loves you. He was willing to die a humiliating and painful death on the cross, as well as experience separation from His Father—the second death.

Remember how those who are part of the second resurrection (those whose names are not written in the Book of Life) also will experience the second death? That's what happened to Jesus when He died on the cross.

As Jesus hung on the cross, He couldn't feel God's presence. He cried out in anguish:

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

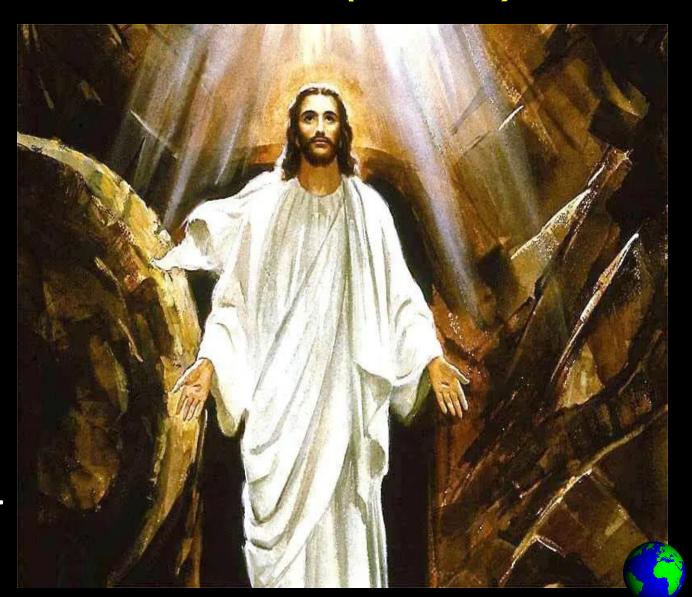


Looking Back At Jesus' Resurrection (cont'd)

And as Jesus breathed His last breath, he felt the weight of the world's sin on His shoulders. He who had no sin was made sin for our sake.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21).

His sacrifice made it possible for us to one day go to heaven, to be redeemed at the First Resurrection. This is humanity's ultimate lesson in what true, unconditional love is.



His Empty Tomb

The good news is that death had no power because our God is mighty. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we know He has the power to conquer death.

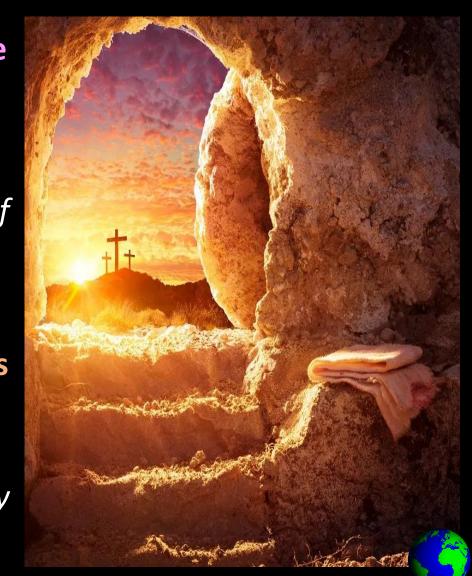
The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross on a Friday (the preparation day) and was resurrected on Sunday morning (the first day of the week).

"Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." (Acts 2:24).

Jesus rested in the tomb after his death until his resurrection. He did not go to heaven during that time. He was sleeping in the grave just like the others who were resurrected from the dead in the Bible.

When He saw Mary after his resurrection, Jesus said:

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." (John 20:17).



His Empty Tomb (cont'd)

It's the message of the Gospel. The good news everyone needs to hear. The tomb is empty!

"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him." (Mark 16:2).

"And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you." (Mark 16:5-7).

Jesus was raised to life. The second death had no hold on Him. But that's not all! When you choose to follow Jesus and accept His free gift of salvation, you will not die the second death. Instead you will receive the gift of eternal life.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).



His Empty Tomb (cont'd)

That blessed hope we talked about? It's a living hope found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

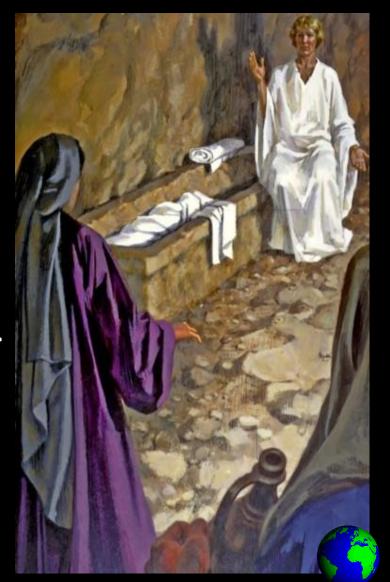
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," (1 Peter 1:3).

Because of Jesus's resurrection from the grave, we have the hope of heaven. We have the hope of being resurrected at Jesus' Second Coming.

"... To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,..." (1 Peter 1:4).

Our hope of resurrection at the end of time is based on the foundation of His resurrection two thousand years ago. What would we do without that hope and promise?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a historical event that many people witnessed. He spent 40 days on earth before going up to heaven and He appeared before hundreds of people.



His Empty Tomb (cont'd)

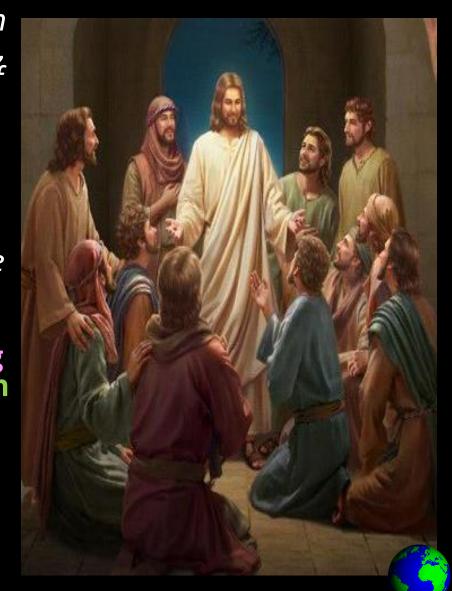
"To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:" (Acts 1:3).

"And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

Because of His resurrection, many believed—including Jesus' brother James who had been a skeptic. The man who wrote the Epistle of James grew up with Jesus.

For whatever reason, James didn't believe his brother was the Messiah. In fact, none of Jesus' brothers believed in Him (John 5:7).

But after James witnessed His resurrection, he was convicted and believed.



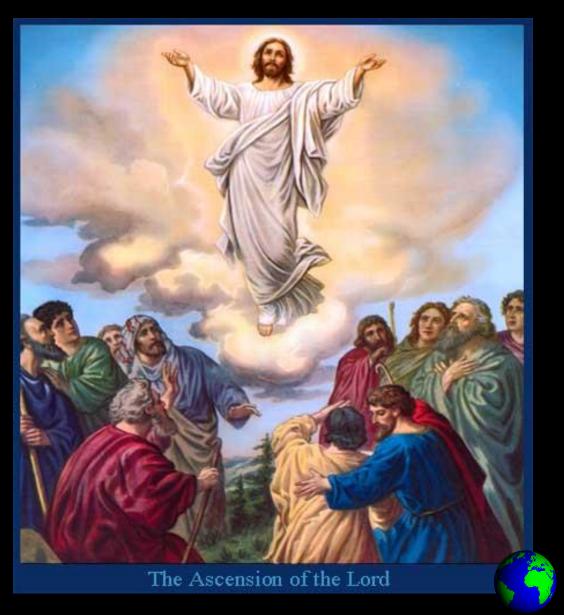
His Promise To Come Back

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus ascended into heaven. But before His ascension the disciples asked Him if He would restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6). Jesus answered saying:

"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:7, 8).

Jesus came out of the tomb in bodily form on the resurrection morning. He was still in that same body as He ascended into heaven.

The disciples watched as their Lord went into heaven and two men appeared next to them wearing white robes. These two men said words to comfort them.



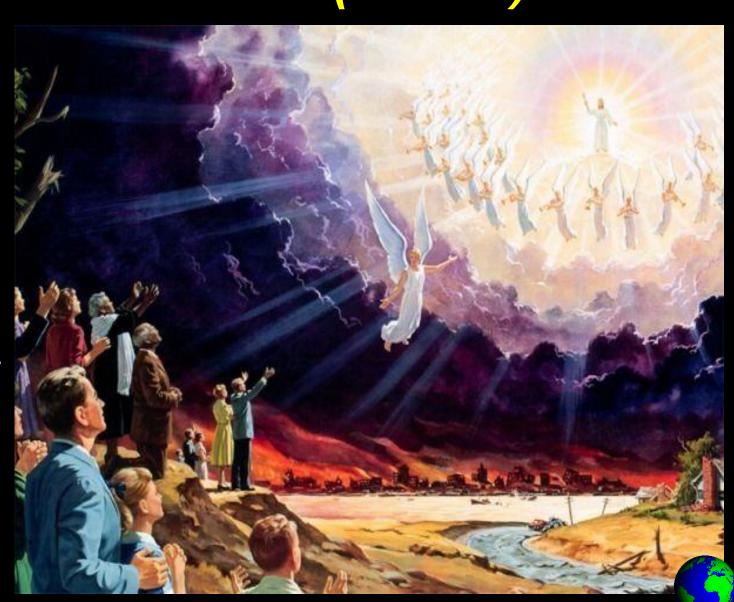
His Promise To Come Back (cont'd)

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11).

Earlier, before His death, Jesus said similar words to the disciples to reassure them. He made a special promise. He promised to one day return!

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3).

Our hope of salvation and the Second Coming of Jesus would not be possible without the resurrection.



The Process of Jesus 2nd Coming

The thought of God judging each person—to determine which resurrection they will be part of—can feel intense and intimidating. But God doesn't want us to fear.

We can rest assured that God is fair and just. He loves each one of His children with an everlasting love. It's His desire that no one should perish (2 Peter 3:9).

We can trust that He will correctly judge those who will want to be with Him for eternity, and those who will not.

In the end, God's people will rejoice. There will be no more sorrow and no more pain. God promises that for each one of us!

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4).

We can look forward to eternal life after God's perfect judgment and the eradication of sin. This is it!

This resurrection is the end of the story for Satan, death and evil—but it's not the end of the story for God or His people.



The Seventh Plague and the Special Resurrection

There is a mighty earthquake, "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great" (Revelation 16:17, 18). The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side.... The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters.... Great hailstones, every one "about the weight of a talent," are doing their work of destruction (verses 19, 21) LDE 271.1

Graves are opened, and "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth ... awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. "They also which pierced Him" (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory, and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.—The Great Controversy, 636, 637 (1911). LDE 271.





God Announces the Time of Christ's Coming

Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back. Then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God.—LDE 272.1

Soon we heard the voice of God [The voice of God is heard repeatedly during the period immediately preceding Christ's return. See The Great Controversy, 632, 633, 636, 638, 640, 641.] like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.—LDE 272.2

As God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming, and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Hallelujah!" Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look upon them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honoured God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image.—LDE 272.3

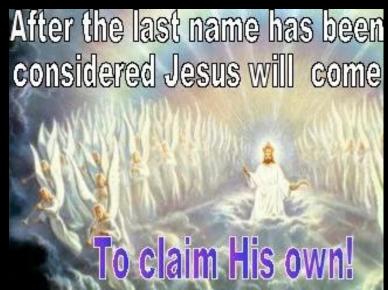




The Terror of the Lost

When the earth is reeling to and fro like a drunkard, when the last name has been the heavens are shaking and the great day of the Lord has come, who shall be able to stand? One object they behold in trembling agony from which they will try in vain to escape. "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him" (Revelation 1:7). The unsaved utter wild imprecations to dumb nature—their god: "Mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne" (Revelation 6:16).—That I May Know Him, 356 (1896). LDE 273.2

When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life.... The gain of a lifetime is swept away in a moment. The rich bemoan the destruction of their grand houses, the scattering of their gold and silver.... The wicked are filled with regret, not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellow men, but because God has conquered. They lament that the result is what it is, but they do not repent of their wickedness.— The Great Controversy, 654 (1911). LDE 273.3





Jesus Descends in Power and Glory

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour, and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror.... LDE 274.1

With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene, no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendour.... LDE 274.2

The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.—The Great Controversy, 640-642 (1911). LDE 274.3



The Reaction of Those Who Pierced Him

Those who have acted the most prominent part in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ come forth to see Him as He is, and those who have rejected Christ come up and see the saints glorified, and it is at that time that the saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. The very ones who placed upon Him the purple robe and put the crown of thorns upon His brow, and those who put the nails through His hands and feet, look upon Him and bewail.—Manuscript Releases 9:252 (1886). LDE 275.1

They remember how His love was slighted and His compassion abused. They think of how Barabbas, a murderer and a robber, was chosen in His stead, how Jesus was crowned with thorns and scourged and crucified, how in the hours of His agony on the cross the priests and rulers taunted Him, saying, "Let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He saved others, Himself He cannot save." All the insult and despite offered to Christ, all the suffering caused to His disciples, will be as fresh in their recollection as when the satanic deeds were done. LDE 275.2

The voice which they heard so often in entreaty and persuasion will again sound in their ears. Every tone of gracious solicitation will vibrate as distinctly in their ears as when the Saviour spoke in the synagogues and on the street. Then those who pierced Him will call on the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.—Letter 131, 1900. LDE 275.3





"Awake, Ye That Sleep, and Arise!"

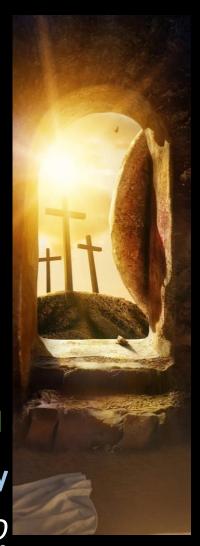
The clouds begin to roll back like a scroll and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know what that cloud means. The sound of music is heard, and as it nears, the graves are opened and the dead are raised.—LDE 276.1

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth" [John 5:28, 29]. This voice is soon to resound through all the nations of the dead, and every saint who sleeps in Jesus shall awake and leave his prison house.—LDE 276.2

The precious dead, from Adam down to the last saint who dies, will hear the voice of the Son of God and will come forth from the grave to immortal life.—

LDE 276.3

Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.—LDE 276.4





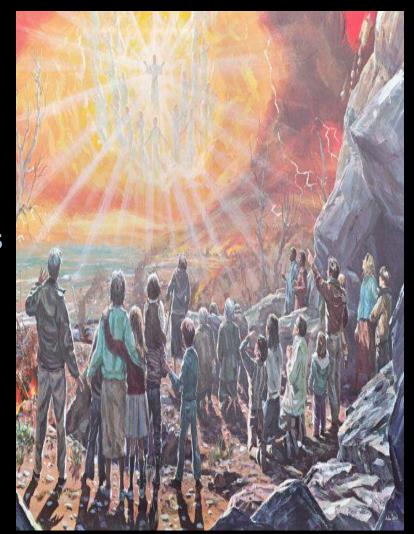
From Caves and Dens and Dungeons

In the fastnesses of the mountains, in the caves and dens of the earth, the Saviour reveals His presence and His glory. LDE 277.1

Yet a little while, and He that is to come will come and will not tarry. His eyes as a flame of fire penetrate into the fast-closed dungeons and hunt out the hidden ones, for their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The eyes of the Saviour are above us, around us, noting every difficulty, discerning every danger; and there is no place where His eyes cannot penetrate, no sorrows and sufferings of His people where the sympathy of Christ does not reach.... LDE 277.2

The child of God will be terror-stricken at the first sight of the majesty of Jesus Christ. He feels that he cannot live in His holy presence. But the word comes to him as to John, "Fear not." Jesus laid His right hand upon John; He raised him up from his prostrate position. So will He do unto His loyal, trusting ones.—LDE 277.3

The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea.—





From Ocean Depths and Mines and Mountains

When Christ comes to gather to Himself those who have been faithful, the last trump will sound, and the whole earth, from the summits of the loftiest mountains to the lowest recesses of the deepest mines, will hear. The righteous dead will hear the sound of the last trump, and will come forth from their graves, to be clothed with immortality and to meet their Lord.—LDE 277.5

I dwell with pleasure upon the resurrection of the just, who shall come forth from all parts of the earth, from rocky caverns, from dungeons, from caves of the earth, from the waters of the deep. Not one is overlooked. Every one shall hear His voice. They will come forth with triumph and victory.—LDE 278.1

What a scene will these mountains and hills [in Switzerland] present when Christ, the Lifegiver, shall call forth the dead! They will come from caverns, from dungeons, from deep wells, where their bodies have been buried.—LDE 278.2



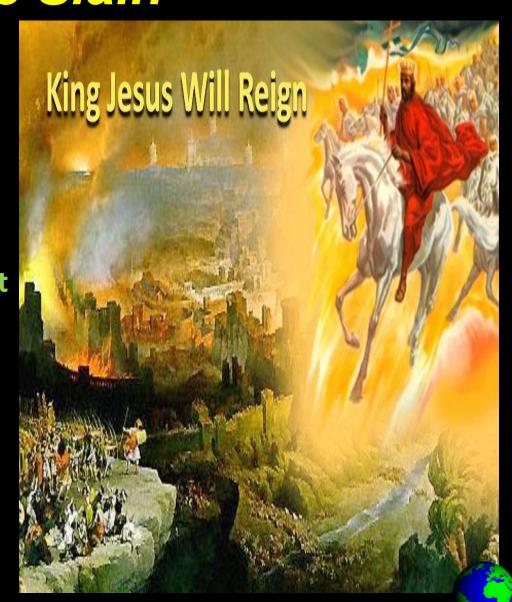
The Wicked Are Slain

In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God's unmingled wrath, fall the wicked inhabitants of the earth—priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. "And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried" (Jeremiah 25:33). LDE 278.3

At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the city of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants.—LDE 278.4

To sin, wherever found, "our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.—LDE 279.1

The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire.—LDE 279.2



Destruction of the Wicked an Act of Mercy

Could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no; years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.—The Great Controversy, 542, 543 (1911). LDE 279.3



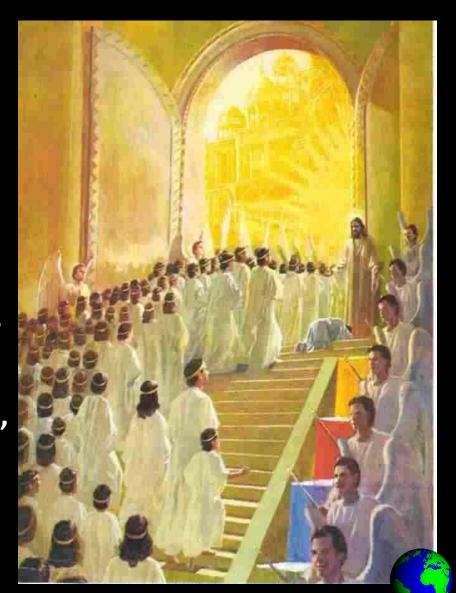
Homeward Bound!

The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal, and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the city of God.—LDE 280.1

We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass.—LDE 280.2

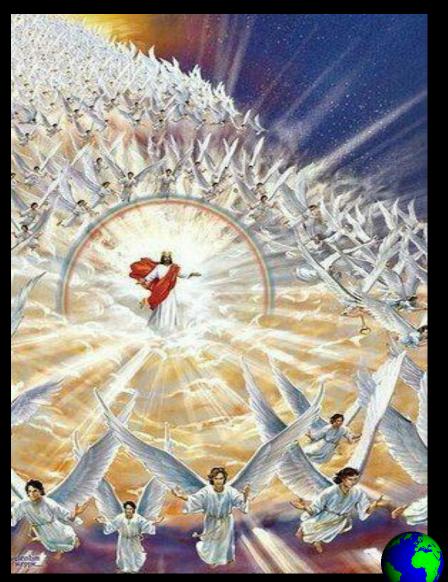
And as the chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, "Holy," and the wings, as they moved, cried, "Holy," and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!" And the saints in the cloud cried, "Glory! Alleluia!"—LDE 280.3

Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud, "Homeward bound!"—LDE 280.4



The Angels Sing, Christ Has Conquered!

In that day the redeemed will shine forth in the glory of the Father and the Son. The angels, touching their golden harps, will welcome the King and His trophies of victory—those who have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. A song of triumph will peal forth, filling all heaven. Christ has conquered. He enters the heavenly courts, accompanied by His redeemed ones, the witnesses that His mission of suffering and sacrifice has not been in vain.—LDE 281.1 With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes His faithful ones to the joy of their Lord. The Saviour's joy is in seeing in the kingdom of glory the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation.—LDE 281.2 In the results of His work Christ will behold its recompense. In that great multitude which no man could number, presented "faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy," He whose blood has redeemed and whose life has taught us "shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied."—LDE 281.3



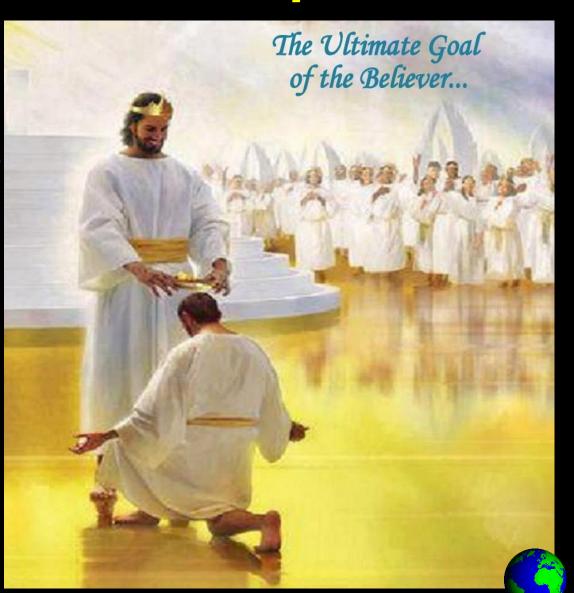
The Saints Given Crowns and Harps

I saw a very great number of angels bring from the city glorious crowns—a crown for every saint, with his name written thereon. As Jesus called for the crowns, angels presented them to Him, and with His own right hand, the lovely Jesus placed the crowns on the heads of the saints.—LDE 281.4

On the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns.—LDE 282.1

The crown of life will be bright or dim, will glitter with many stars, or be lighted by few gems, in accordance with our own course of action.—LDE 282.2

There will be no one saved in heaven with a starless crown. If you enter, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through your instrumentality.—LDE 282.3

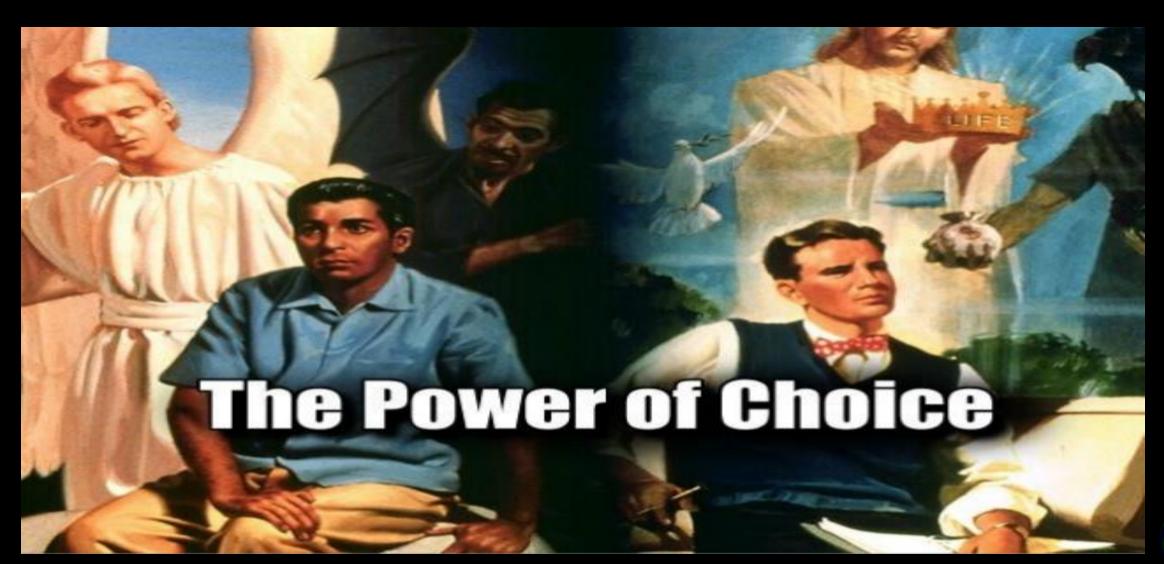


Jesus Crowns the Saved Victorious

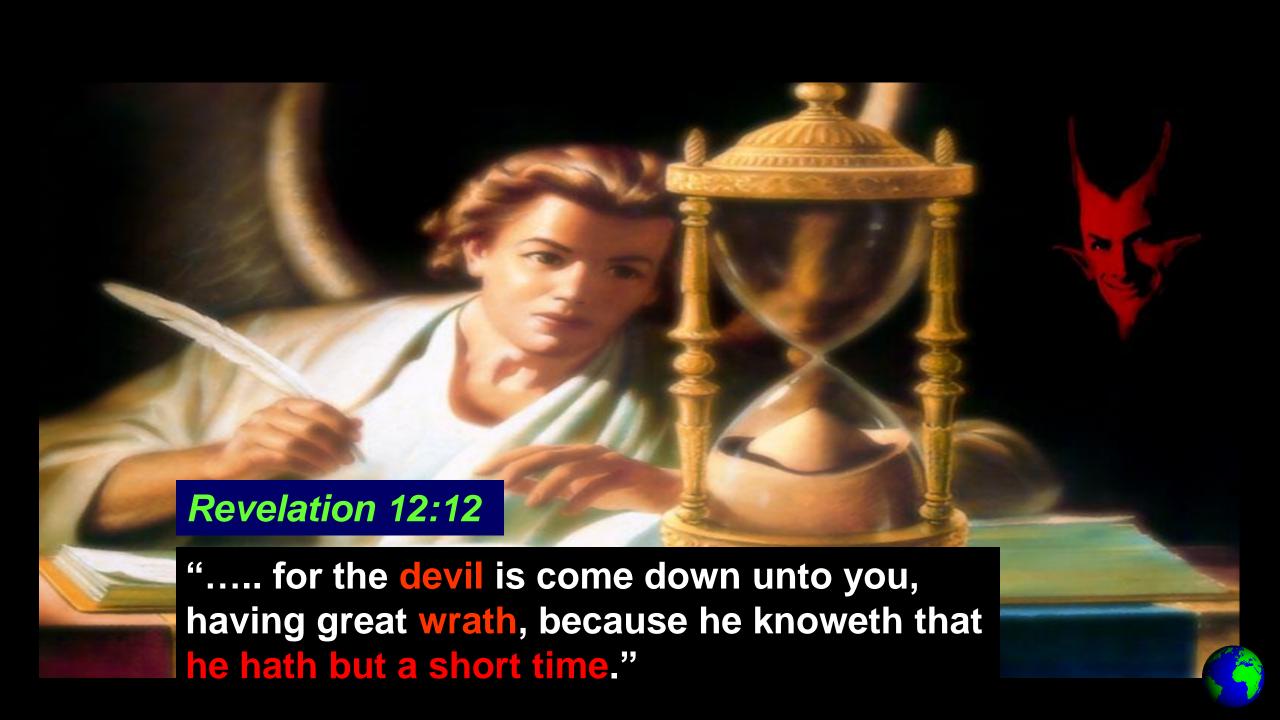
Before entering the city of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory, and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up in the form of a hollow square about their King.... Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory.... In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skilful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains.... Before the ransomed throng is the holy city. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in.—LDE 282.4



God has given all:







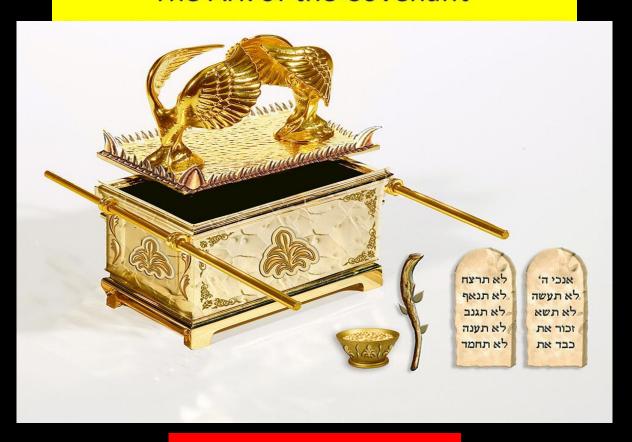
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





