

Part 1

One day soon, possibly even today, the Lord Jesus Christ will come down as far as the clouds and call us, the True Church, His Bride, up to Himself. Those who've died, in the past, will go up first and then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them, in the clouds and so shall we ever be with the Lord. He will then take us back to Heaven, to the place He has been preparing for us since He went back to the Father after His Resurrection. During the next 7 years on Earth, God will finish His work in Israel: to 1) finish the transgression, and to 2) make an end of sins, and to 3) make reconciliation for iniquity, and to 4) bring in everlasting righteousness, and 5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to 6) anoint the most Holy.

God will also, during those 7 years pour out His Wrath and Judgment upon the World that has spurned and rejected His Love, Forgiveness and Salvation. Those 7 years, on Earth, are known as the Tribulation.

During those same 7 years, we will be in Heaven; our previous lives, on Earth, will be judged as to choices, reasons, motivations, etc. All our deeds will pass through the fire of God's judgment; what we've done to the Glory of God will result in unimaginable eternal rewards; what we've done with selfish motives will be burned up like so much wood, hay and stubble and we will, for those things, suffer the loss of eternal rewards.

'For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.' 1Cor 3:11

The Millennium is the time when all God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled completely. For us, the True Church, the time when all of His promises to us are fulfilled begins 7 years earlier, at the Rapture. At that moment, we will, first, receive the final installment of our complete, eternal Salvation. We received our first installment of Eternal Life when we were recreated and the Holy Spirit took up residence within us: *'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new... 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.'* 2Cor 5:17

'For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us... Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.' 2Cor 1:20

We now possess Eternal Life but our souls and spirits groan within us as we continue to live imprisoned within bodies sold into sin.

For us, the Millennium really begins at the Rapture. The Millennium represents the fulfillment of all God has promised to Israel while the Rapture represents the beginning of the complete fulfillment of all God has Promised to us, the Bride; it will be the moment when the Lord Jesus Christ finally receives His Bride!

At that moment, we will finally receive our glorified, eternal supernatural bodies. Our spirits and souls were recreated and made new in the moment that we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection unto Eternal Life. Finally, then, we will have a vessel fit and able to contain all the glory that God has planned for us and to do all He has planned for us to do in His Eternal Kingdom.

We tend to forget or overlook the fact that God has planned to glorify us throughout Eternity. The greater that we are glorified, the greater the Lord Jesus Christ is glorified and the greater He is glorified, the greater God, the Father is glorified.

'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.' Rom 8:29

*'For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. ⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but **a body hast thou prepared me:** ⁶ In burnt*

offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.' Heb 10:4

God planned and created the human Body to be inhabited by the Lord Jesus Christ and He also planned and created the Eternal, Glorified Body which Jesus will inhabit forever.

We read of His plans for us regarding rewards or loss of rewards in relation to our faithful service unto Him. Our eternal bodies will be perfect like Jesus Christ's own; they will be perfect and complete in every way because their composition is not according to our faithful or unfaithful service. Our glorified, eternal bodies are the final completion of our eternal Salvation which was accomplished according to Jesus Christ's faithful service unto God... not our own. No member of the Bride and Body of the Lord Jesus Christ will live within a body which is incomplete in any way.

However!!! That which will be different, is in the storehouse of rewards and treasures each of us will have stored up while we were living in these incomplete and incompetent bodies of sin. I.e. imagine you have the ability to speed read full books in a matter of minutes or hours; you also have a photographic memory enabling you to see, memorize and recall every word of every book you've ever read. But... suppose you only have a library consisting of 10 or 20 books... imagine the sense of loss as you realize that you could have built up, through faithful service to the King, a library of 1000's of books.

That will be the difference, I think, regarding our eternal bodies and our rewards. Our bodies will be capable of unimaginable abilities to accomplish and experience new and wonderful things. However, our faithful or unfaithful service will determine the quantity and quality of the '*experienceable*' things we will enjoy.

'... and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Matt 6:18

At the Rapture, we will begin to inhabit an unbelievably fantastic body, like Jesus Christ's own Body, a body that will fully incorporate our soul, our spirit and our flesh... just like His Body which does also incorporate fully His Flesh, His Spirit, and His Soul: '*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*' Col 2:9 All the fullness of God, Father, Son and Spirit are in Him but that is not to say that the Father and the Holy Spirit are not also unique, and individual. God is One; God is the Father, the Son and the Spirit but God is One.

'Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**' 1Jn 3:2 **We will be like Him!**

*'Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus **with eternal glory.** ¹¹ It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: ¹² If we suffer, **we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:**' 2Tim 2:10*

During our 7 years in Heaven, we will receive some manner of tangible rewards for our service here and now. Even more, we will meet and begin to know our King, Friend, Savior but also to become intimately acquainted with our soon-to-be '*Groom.*' That's right! Something we so seldom think of, if ever, is our relationship of love and intimacy with the One Who loves us so much that He was willing to die to purchase us out of the slave pit of sin and death. No marriage, no love affair, no intimacy has ever been as sweet or as overwhelmingly breathtakingly all-encompassingly fulfilling as will be our marriage to the Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty, the Ancient of Days. No queen or princess has ever been so glorified, exalted, magnified, loved and cherished as we, His Bride will be throughout Eternity.

Something else about our 7 years in Heaven: we are the Bride, chosen by the King as His most precious love-gift to His Faithful Son. We will be brought into the palace of the King to live, for 7 years, as we prepare for our wedding to the Son and as we are prepared to enter into the office of authority He has planned for us when we rule and reign with His Son for 1000 years on Earth and then forever over His newly recreated Heavens and Earth throughout the entire Universe.

See the photo on the back page: Every one of those tiny, fuzzy discs is a galaxy, each of which contains multiplied billions of stars in a swirling mass, each of which, in turn contains many more billions of planets orbiting them. This photo is of a tiny dot as we look up into the Heavens. This photo is of a dot the size of a grain of sand held out at arm's length!! This photo is, then, but the tiniest fraction of God's Creation over which we will rule and reign, as His Bride, forever! Unimaginable does not even begin to describe all the wonderful things God has in store for those who love Him... *eye has not seen, ear has not heard...* 1 Cor 2:9 That is some of what we will be doing and experiencing during our 7 years in Heaven while those on Earth will be experiencing God's Wrath and Judgment poured out. After those 7 years, the Millennium will begin. The Millennium is **not**: The Millennium is not Heaven. It is the 1000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. He will rule over all the Earth and He will rule personally from the Earth; His Throne will be in Jerusalem. Earthly Israel will finally receive the fulfillment of all God's promises; she will be the 'Head of the Nations.' All other nations will be required to send representatives, yearly, to pay homage to the King of kings and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles; if they do not, their nation will receive no rain that year.

'And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one... and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. ¹² And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.' Zech 14:9

The Millennium is what we call the time when the Lord Jesus Christ rules the World for 1000 years; His Kingdom will include all the Earth and then, ultimately, reach the farthest star... all of Creation.

'Who (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness (of Deity) dwell;' Col 1:15

All things were made by the Lord Jesus Christ and were made for Him. All things visible and invisible... all things! And He will rule over all things: *'And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.'* Rev 2:26

'Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. (The kings of the Earth do now set themselves against the Lord and His Anointed; even now they seek to bring in their chosen ruler, the Antichrist.) ⁴ He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision. ⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. ⁶ Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ¹⁰ Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they

that put their trust in him.' Psalm 2

The Lord Jesus Christ's rule during the Millennium will be hard and ruthless; He will rule with a rod of iron; He will demand absolute obedience; disobedience will be punished. All of the blessings and curses of the Law in Deuteronomy will be the absolute rule of the World. But if you remember, the Law was all about what you DO or don't DO. The Law never changed a heart. The same will be true during the Millennium: absolute obedience to the Law will be required but that will not stop an unbelieving heart to hide pride and rebellion which will only be brought forth as those who refused to submit to Jesus Christ's rule will stand before Him in the Final Judgment.

There will be no rebellion or disobedience in us; we will have no sin nature. Those living under His rule around the World will still be under their own sin natures. We are His Bride; we will rule and reign with Him.

All those over whom He will rule, during the Millennium, are the people who remained alive through to the end of the Tribulation and then began to repopulate the World with their descendants... all of whom, throughout the Millennium, will continue to be under the bondage of their own sin nature which they will be responsible to conquer and keep under control. If they sin, they must confess and repent and they will need to be taught the seriousness of sin before our Holy and Righteous God.

Earlier, we read: *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."*

Blood sacrifices were never for the removal or forgiveness of sin. They were always for the teaching of how serious and deadly sin is before our Holy and Righteous God. They will, once again, be reinstated for the same purpose: blood sacrifices will be renewed in the Millennial Temple. We'll look at that further next time.



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