

THE CATCHING UP (THE RAPTURE)

Please note that there will be two resurrections, the resurrection of life and the resurrection of damnation, which will take place about 1,007 years apart.

THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE

"¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words" 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (The New King James Version).

"⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ for that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality" 1st Corinthians 15:51-53 The New American Bible.

THE RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION

"¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² 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. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and

Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire" Revelation 20:11-15 (The New International Version).

TIME TO GET THE CHILDREN

One of these days God the Father will tell Jesus Christ it is time for Him to retrieve those who have been redeemed by the blood He shed on Calvary's cross.

"³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.³⁷ For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸ In (those) days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.³⁹ They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be (also) at the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴² Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.⁴³ Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.⁴⁵ "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time?"⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so.⁴⁷ Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property" Matthew 24:36-47 (The New American Bible).

"¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall come down from heaven with commandment, and with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead who are in Christ, shall rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet Christ, into the air, and so shall we be always with the Lord.¹⁸ Wherefore, comfort ye one another with these words" 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (Douay-Rheims Version).

JOINED WITH CHRIST FOR ETERNITY

When Christ stops in mid air, those who have been redeemed will be given heavenly, glorified bodies in which their spiritual bodies will live for eternity. Those bodies will be like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ. They will never get sick, never die and will never sin. Thus the Lord will end up with exactly what He wanted in the first place. In the beginning, when the Lord created the heavens and the earth, He desired to have a perfect people living in a perfect land who would choose to return love to Him by obeying Him. He created Adam and Eve. They were perfect and sinless. He put them in the Garden of Eden, a perfect place in the beginning. He had to let them prove they would give Him loving obedience so He gave them a test. If you have read the first three chapters of the book of Genesis you know Satan lead Adam and Eve to disobey the Lord and they failed the test. Satan thought he had ruined the Lord's plans. The Lord, however, promised them if they truly repented of their sins He would send His Son one day who would give Himself as a payment for their sin debt. All they had to do was ask forgiveness for their sins and while looking forward in faith, ask the payment He was going to give, pay their sin debt. God's plan of salvation has always been the same. The only difference was the people in the Old Testament looked forward in faith while those of us who are living since Calvary look backward in faith.

The apostle Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 15:52 that the catching up will happen in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. ⁵¹ *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--* ⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"* (The New King James Version).

Since the catching up will happen so quickly, anyone who is not properly prepared will not be allowed to leave this earth and attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. The marriage supper of the Lamb will take place in the throne room of God (Revelation 19:5-9) while the earth and its inhabitants continue to experience the seven years of tribulation.

⁷ *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.* ⁸ *Fine linen, bright and clean, was given*

her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people)" Revelation 19:7-8 (The New International Version).

WHEN WILL IT BE TIME TO SET UP THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

When Christ comes down for God's children, He will stop in mid air to receive us. Christ will not come down to the earth until about seven years later at the end of that event the Bible calls the Tribulation. In the paper "14-Future Things-The 1st Battle Of Armageddon", we will share (1) who we believe will attack Jerusalem (2) why they will attack Jerusalem and (3) who will be in Jerusalem when they attack it.

" ¹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. ² For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. ⁴ **And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east,** and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" Zechariah 14:1-4 (The King James Version).

" ¹¹ 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 wages war. ¹² 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. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is 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. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings,

generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.”¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh” Revelation 19:11-21 (The New International Version 2011).

³¹ But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory:³² and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats;³³ and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:³⁵ for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in;³⁶ naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink?³⁸ And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?³⁹ And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels:⁴² for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink;⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me.⁴⁶ And these shall go away into eternal

punishment: but the righteous into eternal life" Matthew 25:31-46 (American Standard Version).

"¹⁶ I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water" Revelation 22:16-17 (The New American Bible).