

Where Will
We Go
When We
Die?

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Where Will We Go When We Die?

Where will I go when I die? This is not something that we think about when we are young. But as we get older, and the time gets closer, it is good to know where we are going. Not knowing where we are going can bring up feelings of fear. This can keep us on a certain course throughout our entire life. Jesus came to deliver us from this fear as we read in **Hebrews 2 (KJV):14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

In the Old Testament Jacob spoke of the grave, as we read in **Genesis 37 (KJV):35** All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to the grave to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.

Jacob spoke of going “down to the grave”. The word translated “grave” in Hebrew is actually Sheol, that is, שְׁאוֹל (pronounced shē'owl). Another translation reads this way in **Genesis 37 (ESV):35** All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.

Job prayed that God would hide him in Sheol, as we read in **Job 14 (ESV):13** Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Job also speaks of Sheol in **Job 17 (ESV):13** If I hope for Sheol as my house,
if I make my bed in darkness,
14 if I say to the pit, ‘You are my father,’
and to the worm, ‘My mother,’ or ‘My sister,’
15 where then is my hope?
Who will see my hope?
16 Will it go down to the bars of Sheol?
Shall we descend together into the dust?”

The wicked dead also went down to Sheol, as we read in **Psalms 31 (ESV):17** O Lord, let me not be put to shame, for I call upon you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go silently to Sheol.

We also read of Sheol in **Psalms 49 (ESV):15** But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah.

This word is also used in a Psalm of David, as we read in **Psalms 16 (ESV):10** For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

The Greek word for Sheol is Hades, as we read in **Acts 2 (KJV):27** For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

So Sheol, or Hades, is the underworld where all of the dead went to at death.

So Where Is Sheol?

Jesus told a story of a certain rich man in **Luke 16 (KJV):19** There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

The word translated "hell" in the Greek is **ᾗδης** (pronounced hä'-dās), from G1 (as negative particle) and G1492; properly, unseen, i.e. "Hades" or the place (state) of departed souls:—grave, hell. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, G86.**

So right away we see a division in Sheol, or Hades. Lazarus went to Abraham's bosom, while the rich man was in a place of torment, in hell, or Hades in the Greek. We continue to read in **Luke 16 (KJV):24** And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

So there was a great gulf between Abraham's bosom and the place of torment where the rich man was. We continue to read in **Luke 16 (KJV):27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

So Sheol was a place in the heart of the earth where the dead went to after dying. It was divided into two parts, the upper part being Abraham's bosom, and the lower part being a place of torment, which we could call hell. Those in hell could not cross over to Abraham, and those where Abraham was could not cross over to help those in hell. We shall see more evidence of Sheol being in the heart of the earth as we progress.

No Second Chances

Jesus was pointing out by this parable that there are no second chances when we die. We have one chance during our lifetime to make good with God. Jesus was on a mission to save us. He spoke of God's great love in **John 3 (KJV):16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus came to heal us, and set us free, as we read in **Luke 4 (KJV):18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And Jesus offers us freedom, as we read in **John 8 (KJV):31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Jesus even said He is the truth, as we read in **John 14 (KJV):6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus warns us that the fire of Hell is a fire that shall never be quenched, as we read in **Mark 9 (KJV):43** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The Promise of a Redeemer

Now in the Old Testament the righteous believed in the promise of a redeemer, the Messiah. We read of Job's testimony in **Job 19 (KJV):25** For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Job speaks of the resurrection of his body. Jesus also spoke of this in **Matthew 22 (KJV):31** But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

So the spirits of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive when Jesus was speaking, and they are still alive today, although their bodies have not yet been resurrected.

Before Jesus died on the cross, the spirits of the righteous dead went to Abraham's bosom, the upper part of Sheol. The unrighteous dead went to hell, the lower part of Sheol. Sheol was a prison house for the unrighteous, but a holding tank for the righteous. The need for such a separation was so that the righteous dead could be kept safe until the way into the holiest, that is heaven itself, was made manifest, as explained in **Hebrews 9 (KJV):7** But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: 8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

The Holiest of All Is Heaven Itself

In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was divided into two parts, the holy place, and the holy of holies. All the priests could go into the holy place, but only the high priest could go into the holy of holies once a year, on the day of atonement. This was the Lord's command to Moses in **Leviticus 16 (NASB):29** "This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; 30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord. 31 It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute. 32 So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments, 33 and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. 34 Now you shall have this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year." And just as the Lord had commanded Moses, so he did.

Now the tabernacle, and the altar, and all of the holy things were patterns of things in the heavens, as we continue to read in **Hebrews 9 (KJV):22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

So now Christ has entered "into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us", in verse 24 above.

So Where Is Abraham's Bosom?

Before Jesus rose from the dead, Sheol was where the spirits of the righteous dead went after dying. It was located in the heart of the earth, for Jacob said he "shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning" in Genesis 37:35. This place called Sheol was divided into two places. The righteous went to Abraham's bosom, which we could also call "paradise" because of Jesus' words on the cross to the repentant thief, as we read in **Luke 23 (KJV):39** And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou

comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Now Jesus would be in the tomb three days and three nights, as we read in **Matthew 12 (KJV):40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The first day Jesus was in the tomb, He went to Abraham's bosom, or paradise as he said to the thief on the cross. So when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, the door to heaven was opened, as we read in **Hebrews 9 (KJV):24** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

The path of His resurrection is revealed by Paul in **Ephesians 4 (KJV):8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

When Jesus ascended up on high, he led "captivity captive" in verse 8. And he ascended after he "descended first into the lower parts of the earth" in verse 9. This is where Sheol is, that is, in "the lower parts of the earth". The unrighteous dead are still there, in the hell part of Sheol.

This was also a fulfillment of prophecy in **Psalms 68 (KJV):18** Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Peter also mentions this in **1 Peter 3 (KJV):18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

So now that Christ has risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, all the righteous are in heaven with him, as we read in **Hebrews 12 (KJV):22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

And all the unrighteous dead are still in Hell, or Hades in the Greek, which is where the wicked dead go. But Abraham's bosom is empty. So when Jesus "descended first into the lower parts of the earth", as in Ephesians 4:9 above, he "led captivity captive", and "ascended up on high", as in Ephesians 4:8 above. He led them out of Abraham's Bosom and into heaven. The spirits of the righteous dead are now in heaven with Jesus, and waiting for the resurrection of the just, which Jesus revealed in **Luke 14 (KJV):13** But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

The unjust are also waiting for a resurrection as we read in **Acts 24 (KJV):15** And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the

dead, both of the just and unjust.

One is a resurrection of life as we read in **John 5 (NASB):28** Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Now, in our day, the righteous dead depart, and are with Christ, waiting for the resurrection, as Paul reveals in **Philippians 1:23 (KJV):23** For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

And Paul encourages us, as we read in **2 Corinthians 5 (KJV):1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

So Where Is Heaven?

After Christ had risen from the dead, He spent 40 days on earth. He then ascended into heaven as we read in **Acts 1 (KJV):9** And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

When Jesus was taken up, “a cloud received him out of their sight”. So where did He go? We read in **Psalms 48 (KJV):1** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. 3 God is known in her palaces for a refuge. 4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. 6 Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. 7 Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind. 8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah. 9 We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. 10 According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. 11 Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments. 12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. 13 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. 14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Now this Psalm speaks of the earthly mount Zion, but there is a heavenly mount as we read in **Hebrews 12 (KJV):18** For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not

be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

So if we look up to heaven, the heaven where God dwells is in the sides of the north, as we read again in **Psalms 48 (KJV)**: 1 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

We also read of heavens in **Psalms 8 (ESV)**: 1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

And we read in **Psalms 55 (ESV)**: 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

So how many heavens are there? Paul reveals that there are three, as we read in **2 Corinthians 12 (ESV)**: 1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— 6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The first heaven is the heaven of clouds, and the earth’s atmosphere. The second heaven is the heaven of stars. The third heaven is where God dwells, that is, the upper paradise. The lower paradise was Abraham’s bosom, which is now empty.

Where Are We Going?

Now, how can we make sure that we get to this heaven where God dwells? We surely do not want to go to hell where the fire is not quenched. Jesus shows us the way, as we read in **John 3 (KJV)**: 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again,

he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jesus continues, as he then explains in **John 3 (KJV):6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Jesus speaks of two births here, the natural birth of flesh, and the spiritual birth of our spirit by the Spirit of God. The reason we need to be born again in our spirit is because we were dead in our trespasses and sins, as we read in **Ephesians 2 (NASB):1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Nicodemus couldn't figure it out as we continue in **John 3 (KJV):9** Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

It is really that simple. We believe in Him, and we are born again, and we then have everlasting life, as Paul also taught in **Romans 10 (KJV):9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Jesus is the door that we must enter, as we read in **John 10 (KJV):7** Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

He has not come to take away life, but that we "might have it more abundantly". Now once we believe in Jesus, and confess Him as Lord, we have passed from death to life as Jesus taught in **John 5 (KJV):24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

And the apostle John assures those who have believed, as we read in **1 John 5 (KJV):13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Now He has promised all who believe that there will be a resurrection. The Pharisees had a question, and came to Jesus in **Matthew 22 (KJV):25** Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. 27 And last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? For they all had her. 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. 31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

What Will the Resurrection Body Be Like?

Paul explains in **1 Corinthians 15 (KJV):35** But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

The reason he says it is sown in corruption is because our bodies are mortal, and doomed to die. He continues in **1 Corinthians 15 (KJV):43** It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

The reason we must bear the “image of the heavenly” is because mere flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God as we continue in **1 Corinthians 15 (KJV):50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this

corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

In verse 51, Paul says that “we shall not all sleep”, that is die, but “we shall all be changed”. We must “put on incorruption”, and “put on immortality”. Paul also speaks of this change in **Philippians 3 (KJV):21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

So What Was His Glorious Body Like?

Mary Magdalene saw Jesus, as we read in **John 20 (KJV):15** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 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. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

He could travel between heaven and earth as we read in verse 17. He could also eat as we read in **Luke 24 (KJV):36** And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

He could also go through shut doors as we read in **John 20 (KJV):19** Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

He could be touched as we read in **John 20 (KJV):24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand,

and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Jesus showed Himself alive for forty days, as we read in **Acts 1 (KJV):3** 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:

Now Jesus finally ascended in **Acts 1 (KJV):6** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 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. 8 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. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

We Have Been Gifted

He gave instructions to His disciples to wait for the Holy Ghost to come upon them. The Holy Ghost was to come upon them to empower them to be His witnesses to the uttermost part of the earth. Now let us read again in **Ephesians 4 (KJV):8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

In verse 11 we read that “he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”, and this was for “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”, in verse 12. The word “gifts” in verse 8 in the Greek is **δώρα** (pronounced do'-mä), a gift.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1390&t=KJV>

Wuest says about Ephesians 4:8, “From the subject of the general enabling grace of God given to all saints for service, Paul turns to gifts which He gives to men. The word here is not *charisma*, referring to special gifts such as the gifts noted in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, but **doma**, a general term for that which is given. These gifts are the gifted men mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. Christ gave these gifts to the Church when He ascended to Heaven.” **Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Kenneth S. Wuest, Volume I, The Exegesis of Ephesians, Page 98.**

The “gifts” spoken of in Ephesians 4:8 are ministry gifts, and not the spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. The ministry gifts are those in **Ephesians 4 (KJV):11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

And they are given “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”, in verse 12, until “we all come in the unity of the faith, and of

the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”, in verse 13. The Lord is the one who gives these gifts, for He sets those who have believed in Him in the body as it pleases Him, as we read in **1 Corinthians 12 (KJV):18** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

And the body is the church, as we read in **1 Corinthians 12 (KJV):28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Not all are apostles, or prophets, or teachers. But we all have a gift. Let us find our gift, and serve the Lord with all our heart, strength, and mind, and with all our soul, and make our calling and election sure as Peter encourages in **2 Peter 1 (KJV):10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Rewards

Jesus spoke of rewards in **Matthew 19 (KJV):28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

And in **Luke 14 (KJV):12** Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

After we accept Christ, and we are born again, and God has set us in the body of Christ in a particular place to perform a particular function, we must grow in grace and knowledge in order to fulfill our part in serving in the body of Christ. Paul was an apostle who planted, or started, churches, as we read in **1 Corinthians 3 (KJV):6** I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Apollos watered, that is, he was a teacher, as we read in **Acts 18 (KJV):24** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28 For he

mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

But God gives the increase. Now we are all one, but each will receive a reward according to his own labor as we continue in **1 Corinthians 3 (KJV):8** Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Jesus said that He would build His Church as we read in **Matthew 16 (KJV):15** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The rock upon which the Church is built is Jesus Christ. And what we build on this rock will determine what rewards we receive when we are resurrected, as we continue in **1 Corinthians 3 (KJV):12** 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. 14 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.

Once we have come through the door of Jesus Christ, we are saved. If we then build upon the foundation gold, silver, or precious stones, we will receive a reward in addition to our salvation. If we only build wood, hay, or stubble, we will not receive any rewards, but we will still be saved and enter into heaven. The judgment that will determine what rewards we receive is the judgment seat of Christ as we read in **Romans 14 (KJV):10** But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

And in **2 Corinthians 5 (KJV):10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

This judgment will take place at the resurrection of our bodies. The first resurrection will occur at the rapture of the Church, just before the tribulation week. The resurrection is like a great harvest. The harvest proper will take place at the rapture of the Church in which all the Old Testament saints will be raised with those who have died in the Church, and all who are still alive when He comes will be raptured to be with the Lord. Then during the tribulation period, any who die are as gleanings in the first resurrection. Also, any who die in the Lord during the Kingdom Age will also be gleanings of the harvest of the first resurrection.

So when we die, if we have accepted Jesus Christ, we will go to be with the Lord in heaven. Then at the resurrection, we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive rewards if we have built on the foundation gold, silver, or precious stones. If we don't receive

any rewards, we will still be with Christ in heaven. If we have not accepted Christ when we die, we will go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.

So let us remember to believe in Jesus, and take the cup of salvation now, as we read in **Psalms 116 (KJV):13** I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. 14 I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

And let us bear fruit now, as Jesus taught in **Matthew 13 (KJV):23** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

The Everlasting Kingdom

Now when will this entrance into the everlasting kingdom happen? The prophet Daniel gives us an outline of God's plan in **Daniel 9 (KJV):24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

So seventy weeks are determined upon the people of Israel, and sixty-nine of these weeks have passed when Messiah the Prince was cut off. The "prince that shall come" and "destroy the city and the sanctuary" was Titus, the Roman general, in 70 A.D. when he destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. This left one week yet to be accomplished for Israel. In verse 26, he gives a general description of the time to follow the sixty-nine weeks when he says, "and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined".

Jesus also describes the "days of vengeance" which would follow His death, as we read in **Luke 21 (KJV):20** And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Jesus also described the general conditions in the world which will prevail before God again deals with Israel in the tribulation, as we read in **Matthew 24 (KJV):3** And as he sat

upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 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.

When the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, the final week of the seventy for Israel will begin. This week is described in verse 27 of Daniel, chapter 9, as we read again in **Daniel 9 (KJV):**27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The one who confirms the covenant with many for one week is the antichrist. Now the weeks are weeks of years. So we are looking at seventy weeks of years, or 490 years. The last seven years relate to the time of great tribulation which Daniel also mentions in **Daniel 12 (KJV):**1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

So these are the general conditions in the world before Jesus comes again. Now we read again in **Daniel 9 (KJV):**27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for one week, but in the middle of the week he will set himself up in the temple and declare himself to be God as Paul reveals in **2 Thessalonians 2 (KJV):**1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This is the “abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet”, as Jesus continues, and warns Israel in **Matthew 24 (KJV):**15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Now notice that the warning in Luke 21:20-24 relates to the time after the death of Jesus on the cross, and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D., but this warning relates to the time when there “shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”, as in verse 21 above. This relates to the final week of the seventy that was prophesied by Daniel.

The “abomination of desolation” will appear in the middle of the week, and faithful Israel will be protected during this time.

Faithful Israel

The middle of the tribulation week begins, as we read in **Revelation 12 (KJV):1** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

The symbols of the sun, moon, and stars that are mentioned here are explained by Joseph’s dream in **Genesis 37 (KJV):9** And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Joseph’s father was Jacob, who was renamed Israel. He corresponds to the sun, Joseph’s mother to the moon, and Joseph and his brethren to the stars in Joseph’s dream. So the woman in Revelation 12:1 above is symbolic of Israel. We continue to read in **Revelation 12 (KJV):2** And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a manchild, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

The manchild is Christ. The woman is Israel. The thousand two hundred and threescore days represent the last three and one half years of the tribulation week. So Israel will flee to “a place prepared of God” during this time. This time is also known as “the time of Jacob’s trouble”, as we read in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. 3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. 4 And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Israel will be saved out of the great tribulation. We continue in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):8** For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 10 Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. 11 For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

The Kingdom Age

So God will again save Israel when He comes again. And after the tribulation week, the Kingdom Age of a thousand years will begin, as we read in **Revelation 20 (KJV):1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The “first resurrection” is the resurrection of the just. The second resurrection will be for the wicked dead, after the thousand year reign of Christ. The wicked dead shall be judged at the White Throne judgment in **Revelation 20 (KJV):11** And I saw a great white throne, and him

that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The New Heaven and Earth

And after this judgment we have the new heaven and new earth as we read in **Revelation 21 (KJV)**: 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is 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. 4 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. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and 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.

And there will be a new city as we continue to read in **Revelation 21 (KJV)**: 9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And 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: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was

jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

When we believe in Jesus, we pass from death to life. What a future the Lord has promised those who believe!

Psalm 27 (KJV):4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

He who seeks will find.