

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

THE REAL ETERNAL GOVERNMENT AND OUR ROLE IN IT

With all going on around us in the secular world, it is good right now to take a moment to look specifically at the real, actual happening of the soon return of Jesus and what it brings about.

Yes it is true the secular world is filled with confusion and deception and ongoing fear. Lots of people are just plain afraid – of the disgusting disease coronavirus and the exasperating actions of many government officials, of the riots in many cities and the threat of more, and of the possibility of drastic changes to the country in ways many traditional Americans do not want.

But spiritually, there is only one meaningful thing going on right now on earth: **God is still adding to the number of people who will be in his kingdom.** Remember, the Bible tells us that before the world was created, God chose certain people to be in his kingdom, to be his elect (Ephesians 1:4-5). Those of us who already have come to know Jesus and are in that Kingdom are working steadily to help God draw others of his chosen group to Jesus who do not yet know him. We of course don't know who they are. But the fact that some are still out there is sure, for otherwise this age would have come to an end.

No doubt we are close to the end of the age. So many things make that clear: All these Biblical prophecies now fulfilled. All the confusion and turmoil we see all around as the evil one runs amuck, knowing his days are numbered. All the mayhem of so many unbelievers acting so bizarrely and even frighteningly.

So now let's look at what God plans for our new real long-term government:

REALLY, JUST WHO IS IT THAT IS COMING SOON?

...the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.*

- Isaiah 9:6-7

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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That is a description of Jesus, a ruler, an absolute ruler. The government will be on his shoulders! Thank God. Not on human shoulders!

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.

– Revelation 19 – just before Armageddon

It is a governor, a ruler, a King, an absolute King that is coming to the earth at the end of the tribulation period at the battle at Armageddon. It is Jesus Christ, son of God under whose feet the Father has put all things.

No debate on issues, no discussion of what is right or wrong, no legislature or Congress or Parliament considering and posturing and debating and working out compromises. There is just truth – Jesus Christ is the embodiment of truth. And he is the King, forever.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ—
John 1

Before this very fateful day when Jesus comes with his heavenly host to win the battle at Armageddon, before the Tribulation, Jesus comes one earlier time to collect his believers, also known as his CHURCH. We know that event comes before the Tribulation, because in several different locations Scripture assures believers that we are not appointed to suffer wrath. And wrath is what God pours out on the world during the Tribulation Period.

Jesus assures us of his coming to get us in John 14:

² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

That's it – Jesus' coming to get his believers. The rapture.

Paul describes this "rapture" in detail in 1 Thessalonians 4:

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Paul adds more in 1 Corinthians 15:

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must

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clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

All this "putting on" here is the moment we receive our new glorious eternal bodies.

So at some point soon Jesus comes to collect his believers and take us with him. A few years later, the Lord comes at Armageddon, vanquishes his enemies, and establishes Kingdom rule from Jerusalem. We know he brings with him into that battle all the Holy Ones – all the angels and all the believers like us who have gone with him in the rapture or have died earlier. In the government for the next thousand years we are no doubt involved. Also involved we are told in Revelation 20 are those who came to be believers in the Tribulation and were killed for refusing to worship the antichrist or receive his mark.

And then there is the eternity in the new Jerusalem, the new earth after the thousand years. In both this and in the thousand years we will be reigning. Jesus has told us in more than one place that we believers will reign with him. (In Revelation 2:26 he gives the believer authority over all the nations and in Revelation 3:21 he gives the believer the right to sit with him on his throne.). So somehow and somewhere we will be involved in his governance. Perhaps from Jerusalem. Perhaps somewhere else on earth. Perhaps somewhere else in the universe that we just do not know.

Just look at these additional verses:

Revelation 5:10 makes the point that Jesus made believers to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and that we will reign on the earth.

1 Corinthians 6:1-3 notes that we believers will judge the world and in fact will judge angels.

2 Timothy 2:12 says specifically that *"if we endure, we will also reign with him (with Christ)."*

We are on the threshold of all this occurring. Imagine. People who have studied the Scriptures for centuries have longed for the time in which we live and most especially for what is soon to happen. We are in the season of the return of Jesus to earth. We are living at the end of the current age of human history. Jesus said we could know the season and we do. The precise moment is not known yet – but that is sometime between right now and the next few years. Many living now will be living when that happens.

May God bless all of you. May you be encouraged to search out the Scriptures for yourselves to learn all that God has for you there. And may you take all the steps he would have you take to get out the truths of the gospel, the message of the life and death and rising and accomplishments of Jesus Christ, and the imminent return to those who just do not know.

(all scriptures are from the NIV)

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May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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