

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

OUR FUTURE

Here we are. I do not know the day or the hour. But I do know the time is at hand. The Lord is coming very soon to collect his believers. So that we all may have a firm foundation of what is to come, let's look ahead to what will be happening for all who will and will not be going with him.

- **THE COLLECTION OF THE BELIEVERS BY THE LORD** – Jesus comes in a cloud to collect his believers and take them with him, popularly known as the rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4 has a quick description:

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷After 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.

This all happens in an instant. Jesus compares his coming to that of a thief in the night. He also notes elsewhere that at his coming the people on earth will just be going about their usual activities. All in all, this will be an enormous surprise. We can only imagine what those left behind will say or think, or what the secular governments and media will report. I expect they will blame the disappearance on aliens or something like that.

These believers going with the Lord are those fulfilling his criteria to be in the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God. Yes, he was very specific about all this, regardless of what you have heard in your life and in your churches and elsewhere. Specifically, the Lord said this:

- ***Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit*** (John 3:5).

A person must be born anew, or born again. They must be washed clean of all sin and receive a new spirit; in essence, God himself becomes their father. This is the transformative moment in the life of a believer in Jesus. I know this can be difficult to understand. Perhaps a great scripture that helps is this scripture from Ezekiel in which God is talking about returning the exiled Israelites to their home, the ingathering of the Jews: *"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."* (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

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- ***Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven*** (Matthew 7:21).

A person must do the will of Jesus' father in Heaven; they must do God's will (not their own independent will.).

- ***Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it*** (Mark 10:15).

A person must be like little children in their faith; i.e., their faith must be innocent and absolute just like the way little children believe their parents.

- ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*** (John 3:16).

As I have said before, this word translated "believes" here is absolute belief – for example, you believe there is enough oxygen in the room where you are now to keep you alive or else you would be running out. That kind of absolute belief.

- **THE SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION** – After the collection of the believers by the Lord, there follows the seven year Tribulation, a period of hardship and mayhem and great difficulty for all left on the earth. The devil's lieutenant, the Antichrist, rises to prominence and works to take over a one-world government. He is assisted in that by someone called the false prophet. We have spoken often about the obvious move of the secular world system to that one-world government right now.

People left on earth during this period will have to contend with the terrible actions of this world government – including for example the requirement that each person have a mark on their hand or forehead in order to be allowed to buy or sell. Those not worshiping the beast, as the Antichrist is called, or an image of that beast, or refusing to get the mark, are subject to being beheaded.

But all the hardship during this time is not from the evil side. No. God during this period pours out his judgement on this terrible sinful world. And his judgement is strong and varied and horrible. Read Revelation beginning in chapter 6 and continuing through chapter 19 for all that happens. Many, many people are killed, along with animals of all types, and much of the earth is destroyed.

Also happening during this period is the coming to faith of some of those left behind. Likely these may be those who had thought they were Christians but really were not true believers, not meeting the standard set down by Jesus. Once they saw believers vanishing they may have begun to search for more information and read more and watched more videos on the Bible and Jesus and such and may have eventually come to be true believers.

- **ARMAGEDDON – END OF THE HUMAN REBELLION AGAINST GOD – PART 1**

At the very end of the seven years the military forces of the nations under this one-world government led by the Antichrist gather at Armageddon in Israel. Revelation 19 describes what

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happens. The Lord on a white horse leads an army of all his holy ones – his angels and those believers who went to Heaven with him in the rapture – to earth to confront these military forces led by the Antichrist (the beast) and the kings of the earth. Scripture describes this quickly:

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.

The lake of fire is the real hell we hear spoken of so much, the final place for all those who never accept the Lord.

Shortly thereafter in Revelation 20 we see that the devil himself is captured by an angel from Heaven and is thrown into a deep pit which is then locked.

- **THE MILLENIUM** – Immediately after this astounding battle of Armageddon, the physical rule of the Kingdom of God is established in Jerusalem and will continue for a thousand years. Those beheaded for their faith during the Tribulation come to life to rule. I do not know what happens to all of us believers and angels who came with the Lord for the battle of Armageddon. I expect many believers remain to rule from Jerusalem and perhaps may be sent by the Lord elsewhere in the world to rule, for authority to rule is one of the gifts of the Lord to those who overcome and are with him. But who knows all the plans he may have for all of us.
- **END OF HUMAN REBELLION AGAINST GOD – Part 2** - Amazingly, at the end of the millennium, the thousand years, the devil is released from the pit and he goes about building a following and putting together another army to oppose the Lord. That army marches to surround Jerusalem, but fire from Heaven quickly disposes of them all and the devil himself this time is thrown into the lake of fire.

It is difficult to conceive that people would rebel against God after the Kingdom of God has been ruling from Jerusalem for a thousand years, but that is evidently what happens.

This is followed by the great white throne judgement in which all those who have been dead up to this point (they did not go in the rapture) are judged. Anyone whose name does not appear in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire.

- **THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH – THE NEW JERUSALEM** – Revelation 21 and 22 then describe the new Jerusalem that is established. It is enormous in size, described as being 1400 miles wide and 1400 miles long and 1400 miles tall. An enormous cube area. God and the Lord Jesus live in this new Jerusalem. There is no need for any form of light, for they are the light. There is no temple there either because – of course – God the Father and the Lord Jesus are the temple there.

Interesting, scripture notes that its gates will never be shut and that the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Also, that nothing impure will ever enter it nor anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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The throne of God and of the Lamb – the Lord Jesus - will be in the city and his servants will see him face to face. His name will be written on their foreheads.

In the last chapter of Revelation in verse 15, the Lord specifically lists those who will be outside the city and not allowed in (in addition to of course unbelievers). I have written about this often, but for our sakes here I prefer to focus on the positive criteria in the first section, the Lord's requirements for those who would be in the Kingdom, in that city.

Obviously we would all like to know more about all this but more has not been given us so far.

In light of all that is written here and in light of the entire Bible itself, think on this fundamental truth, which really is another way of expressing the “Keep Your Eyes on Jesus” phrase:

THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY MATTERS IS JESUS AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

Thanks again to all who contribute to this ministry with your prayers, your financial donations, and other assistance! *(All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)*

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

Please email or print and send copies of this newsletter to whomever you would.

NEVER FORGET THE GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TIME: Everything is secondary right now to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and that to be in the Kingdom, to go with him, you must be a true believer in him. You must be born anew. Jesus must be your Lord. (For more guidance on what it takes to be in the Kingdom, read our October 2021 newsletter, see Chapter 11 in our book **WAKE UP AMERICA!**, or watch our two television programs titled “Getting into Heaven” on our website and YOUTUBE.

Note: You can get our book **WAKE UP AMERICA! JESUS IS COMING SOON** by going to Amazon or our website.

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