

INTRODUCTION

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL AND
WHY IS IT REFERRED TO AS
*'THE GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM'*?**

The Gospel is the good news that salvation or deliverance from sin and its consequences has come to man [Matt.1:21, Acts 4:12, Acts 5:31, Acts 13:38-39] and that man can now be a citizen of [Col.1:13, Jn.3:3, 5] and have an inheritance [1Pet.1:4, Col.1:12] in the coming kingdom of God through faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary [Jn.1:29, Titus 2:14, Heb.10:4-18].

The Gospel is primarily called the gospel of the kingdom [Matt.4:23, Matt.9:35, Matt.24:14, Mk.1:14-15] because it is the good news announcing the coming of the Kingdom and the way of mans re-admission into it after the First Man

forfeited it for the race due to his rebellion and sin [Rom.5:12].

Of such importance is this gospel (of the kingdom) that there are overwhelming scriptural evidences as to its nature [Matt.13:44], tenure [Dan.2:44, Dan.4:3], power [Rev.19:6, Joel 2:1-11], glory [Matt.24:30], heirs [Gal.4:7, Rev.21:7], subjects [Rev.21:23-26, Isa.2:2-4, Dan.7:14, 27], origin [Ps.93:2, Dan.4:3], perpetuity [Dan.7:18, 27, its value [Matt.13:44-46] and so on all over the Old and the New Testaments.

The fact that the prophets testified of it [Isa.66:17-25], the Messiah, the Lord Jesus preached it [Matt.4:23, Mk.1:14-15, Lk.4:43, Acts 1:3], His apostles confirmed it [Lk.9:1-2, 1Cor.4:20, Acts 28:23, 30-31; 1Pet.1:4-5] and it is primarily given to us to announce before all men [Matt.6:33]; should help us understand how important the reality of the Kingdom is and why the Lord God Almighty, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would want us to understand this living hope the Early Church saw and grasped that neither death nor life, persecution

nor affliction, plenty nor want could quench their hunger nor douse the desire to see it established as quickly as possible [Heb.11:8-10, 13-16].

At the end of these lessons, may the Holy Spirit open our eyes and may we cry out like the rest of the Early Believers: Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus! [Rev.22:20]

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The kingdom of God or Heaven is the future, permanent, eternal and earthly reign of our Lord Jesus Christ over a theocratic government whose capital is New Jerusalem, a reign which extends to all the earth, in fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.

a. The kingdom is the future

Everything in this present life has an end everything will end in God [Rom.11:36]. The kingdom of God is the future of all things [Rev.11:15, Zech.14:9, 16-17, Isa. 2:2-4, Ps.145:13]. Thus, regardless of the malice of hell and the willful ignorance of unbelieving men, the Lord is coming to reign and all

who will not bow willingly will be forced to bow, all the beings in the heavens, on earth and under the earth [Isa.24:21-22 NLT, Phil.2:9-11]. When He brings the age of man and the devil to an end, then will the Lord rule for ever and ever [Jude 1:14-15, Zech.14:9, 12-16].

b. The kingdom of God is permanent

"And in the days of these [final ten] kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break and crush and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever.

Just as you saw that the Stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter. The dream is certain and the interpretation of it is sure." Dan 2:44-45 [AMP]

This is the plain fact. When the Lord Jesus returns

with His saints to set up His kingdom, it will be a permanent kingdom [Dan.4:3, Dan.7:27]. On earth, we are used to democracy, where a ruler emerges and no matter how good or benevolent his reign is, all he can spend is two four-year terms totaling eight years.

The reign of the Lord Jesus Christ and His saints is not like this. It will be permanent. No other political party or power will take over from Him when He comes to rule because His perfect reign will have no end [Isa. 9:7, Lk.1:32-33, Heb.1:8, 1Tim.1:17].

c. The kingdom is eternal

[Dan. 7:14; Luke 1:31-33; Rev. 11:15.] This is another way of describing this kingdom that will rule for ever. The king is the Lord Jesus and He cannot die as He has died and He is risen [Mk.16:1-7]. Behold, He lives for evermore! All of us His brothers and sisters who will rule the empire with Him [comprising of all the saints of all ages, from Abel till the end of the Tribulation period] will live forever,

since we would have been glorified in the body to become like Him [Phil.3:21, 1Jn.3:1-2, 1Cor.15:22-23]. There will be nobody to fight against us as all rebellion would have been put down [1Cor.15:24-28] and all human and angelic rebels would have been consigned to the Lake of Fire forever [Rev.20:10, Matt.25:41,46].

d. It is the earthly reign of the Lord Jesus after His second coming

The disciples asked Jesus after they saw him risen from the dead, Lord, is this the time when You will reestablish the kingdom and restore it to Israel? [Acts 1:5 AMP]

That was not the time because majority of the world has not yet heard the gospel of the Kingdom. It was after this time that He commissioned them to go out to the entire world and invite people into the kingdom [Matt.28:18-20, Acts 1:8].

When the Lord Jesus returns with His saints [Jude 1:14, Zech.14:5], He will reign physically on this planet earth [Matt.25:31-33, Matt.16:27, Rev.1:7].

As amazing as this sound, it is the simple truth confirmed by prophecies written thousands of years ago [Isa.9:6-7, Ps.72:8-11, Dan.7:14, Rev.11:15, 1Cor.15:24-28, Ps.146:10]. One particular prophecy says that He will sit on the throne of David and reign over Israel forever [Lk.1:32-33, Ps.89:3-4]. Of course we know that David reigned in this present world and the nation of Israel is an earthly nation resident in this world.

As He ascended to heaven in the sight of over 100 disciples, two angels prophesied that He will return back to the earth just as He left [Acts 1:10-12]. Prophecies confirmed that He will return to the earth at the same location He ascended from [Zech.14:3-4].

e. It is a theocratic government

When the Lord comes, He will set up a theocracy. Democratic governments, dictatorships, monarchies and all forms of human rule will be over [Dan.2:44, Dan. 7:14, 1Cor.15:24] and the Lord

alone will rule and assisted by us, members of His fathers family [Rev.1:6, Rev. 5:10, Dan.7:18, 22, 27, Rom.8:17, Rev.3:21].

In fact, after He returns to the earth, He will judge all the human beings left in all nations [Matt.25:31-46] after the horrors of the tribulation period in which more than two-third of the population of man on earth will perish [Isa.13:6-13, verse 12 CEV, BBE; Matt.24:6-7, Rev.6:3-8,12-17; Rev.9:14-19, Rev.19:17-21].

By theocracy, we mean a government that is ruled by God [Jer.10:10, Rev.19:16]. Israel was a theocracy before they demanded for a king and God told Samuel that it was not Samuel the people rejected but God Himself [1Sam.8:6-7].

There are countless prophecies in the Bible that points to this theocratic reign that will continue forever. If all the prophecies concerning the birth, passion [i.e. suffering], death and resurrection of Christ came to pass, we had better put our trust in the Word of God that the Lord is coming back to rule

over this earth [Matt.24:35]!

f. Its Capital City will be New Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem will be the capital of the Millennial reign of Christ [Isa.2:2-4, Zech.14:16-21, Jer.3:17], but New Jerusalem will be the capital city of the universal kingdom after the restitution of all things [Rev.21:2-3, 24-27; Rev.22:3].

New Jerusalem is the capital city in Heaven and it is the city the Lord Jesus promised that He is going to prepare for us [Jn.14:2-3]. It is this same city that our Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob looked for the city that has foundation whose builder and maker is God [Heb.11:8-10, 13-16].

The Bible revealed that after the renovation of the heavens and the earth, this city, the home of God and we His children, the seat of our government, will descend into planet earth from heaven [Rev.21:2, 10; Rev.3:12]. Built on a series of mountains, the highest peak towering 1,500 miles high, with breath-

taking architectural Master pieces built with transparent gold like glass [Rev.21:11, 18].

A mighty river, clear as crystal, issuing from the throne of God at the top of the mountain city [Ps.48:1-3, 8; Rev.22:1-2, Ezek.47:1-6], divides into twelve and passes through the twelve broad express ways that leads out of the city gates on all sides [Rev.21:12-13, Ezek.47:7-12].

These roads are tarred with transparent gold [Rev.21:21], and from the city centre, they lead to the twelve pearly gates, set inside walls of Jasper precious stone, over two hundred feet high [Rev.21:17, this wall itself is built on a solid foundation of twelve precious stones [Rev.21:19-20] and trees of life, each bearing a different type of fruit each month, in a row, line up on either side of the rivers of life [Ezek.47:7, 12; Rev.22:2].

The leaves of these trees will be for the health of the nations that will live perpetually in the New Earth [Rev.22:2, Dan.7:14, 22]. The human nations who

have been judged and have entered into life [Matt.25:31-34, 46], will be allowed to come in on visits as they come to worship the king year in year out [Rev.21:24-26, Rev.22:14].

g. Its reign extends to the whole earth and includes the entire universe

From inception, Gods desire has always been to give to men, his children, control and power of rule over everything He created [Gen.1:26, Ps.8:3-8, Heb.2:6-8]. Thus, the extent of this kingdom will be universal, encompassing not only the whole earth, but all planets, galaxies and everything in the universe God created [Rev.21:7, Heb.2:5, Heb.6:5, Eph.1:21-22, Eph.2:6, Rom.8:14-17].

Finally, Lucifer, that old serpent, called Satan the Devil will experience everlasting shame and torment [Rev.20:10]! He planned to unseat God so that he himself will become as God, ruling over the universe [Isa.14:12-15]. As he, his angels and every rebellious human being who choose to follow him

will spend eternity in the lake of fire, the Kingdom of God, under the Lord Jesus Christ and we, His brothers and sisters [Heb.2:11, Rom.8:29] will rule forever over a restored, sin-free universe! [Rom.8:19-22]

h. It is a fulfillment of God's promise to both Father Abraham and King David

When God promised our Father Abraham that in him will all the families of the earth be blessed [Gen.12:3], He meant in Abrahams seed, which seed is Christ [Gal.3:16]; beyond the land of Israel, Father Abraham was promised the whole earth as an everlasting possession [Rom.4:13, Gal.3:8].

He was promised that He will be a father of kings [Gen.17:6]! This is literally fulfilled both in his natural descendants [the Jews- David being the best example-Acts 13:22] and we, his supernatural descendants [Gal.3:29, Rom.2:28-29] who will reign with Christ as kings and priests [Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10, Gal.3:29].

King David, the son of Abraham from the tribe of Judah was promised an everlasting throne upon Israel [2Sam.7:16, Isa.9:6-7].

In fact, God promised him that he will always have a descendant on his throne forever [1Chron.17:11-12, 23-24; Ps.89:28-29]. David's son, the Lord Jesus will reign from New Jerusalem forever [Rev.22:16, Lk.1:32-33, Rev. 22:1, 3] while King David himself will rule over the nation of Israel from Jerusalem forever [Jer.30:9, Ezek.34:23-24, Ezek. 37:21-24, Hos.3:5].

CHAPTER TWO

A COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE COMING KINGDOM

II

1. ITS EXPANSE

After the Lord Jesus arose from the dead, He said in Matt.28:1 **“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me”**, signifying His universal dominion over all things. By His perfect obedience, God the Father exalted Him and gave Him a name above every other name so that at the mention of His name, every being or creature in heaven, on earth and under the earth will bow the knee and confess Him as supreme over all. [Phil.2:9-11, Heb.1:6, Rev.5:13, 1Pet.3:22].

He is now seated in heavenly places, far above all principalities and powers and might and dominion and every other name, not only in this world and age

but also in the world to come [Eph.1:20-22]. From the foregoing, it is clear that the kingdom of God will extend to the very bounds of the entire universe. The Father, His First born and we the other children will reign over all the works of His hands forever [Heb.2:5-17]. So whether galaxies or other planets or other realms of existence, all will serve the Lord and His royal family [Dan.7:18]

2. ITS NEW CONDITIONS

a. Supernatural restorations. Rom.8:19-22

The entire universe is groaning under the bondage of sin, corruption and the curse. However, by the time everything will be renewed, this world will be such a beautiful paradise that all we can say now is that it will be like Eden restored. We will look at significant changes in several aspects of life on the earth in the Kingdom

i. Water system

Three-quarter of this present world is water. In the

New Earth, there will no more be gigantic oceans and large seas [Rev.21:1]. Instead, there will be an abundance of rivers, lakes, springs, fountains and small seas, watering the fertile, curse-free earth forever [Ps.46:4, Ps.36:9, Ezek.47:8].

The river of life, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb will give life to all the water of the earth and everywhere it flows, fish and all creatures of the sea will multiply abundantly. This river of life is so amazing that it even waters the Trees of Life whose fruit will be for food and its leaves, health-giving [Ezek.47:1-2,12; Rev.22:1-2, Ps.46:4, Zech.14:8, Joel 3:18]! Finally, the Dead Sea will be healed [Ezek.47:8-11]!

ii. Trees

Every herb and fruit bearing tree will continue forever [Gen.8:22], except that they will no longer struggle to produce fruit from a cursed ground. With the curse removed, they will now produce the best quality of their fruits, superior in fragrance and taste

and abundant in number [Ezek.34:27, 29; Ezek.36:29-30, Zech.8:12, Amos 9:13].

Of special interest are the trees of life, of which only one was in the past Garden of Eden [Gen.2:9]; In New Jerusalem, on both sides of all the 12 great rivers flowing for 1,500 miles through the 12 great broadways that leads to the 12 gates, there will be rows of trees of life, each row being 1,500 miles long [Ezek.47:1-3, 7, 12; Rev.22:1-3].

The twelve varieties of fruits will be for food and the leaves of the trees will be therapeutic [or health-giving]. Dakes Study Notes says: By means of the tree of life, the human nations who enter into life will live forever There will be healing and preservation of life qualities about the very leaves which will cause human bodies to live on and on, without sickness and disease.

The properties in the leaves will no doubt renew the cells of the body and cause longevity. The bodies of men will be perfectly healthy because of perfect nutrition -- partaking of all the necessary minerals

and vitamins. Rev.2:7

iii. Peace and tranquility in the animal kingdom.

The animal kingdom will be delivered from animalistic savagery [compare Jer.5:6 with Isa.11:6-9]. There will no longer be a single carnivorous animal [animals like lion, tiger, jaguar, crocodile, wolf etc. who feed on other animals, killing them before eating them.] All animals will become grass eaters [herbivores], including the Lion [Isa.65:25]!

iv. The indescribable beauty of nature in the kingdom

In the original creation, when the Lord God looked at all the works of His hands, He declared it to be very good [Gen.1:31]. We call very beautiful places paradise but there is no paradise in this fallen, evil world.

When sin and the curse are removed, when all things are restored and delivered from the bondage of corruption [Rom.8:19-22], we will then return to a

new paradise The whole earth will be a huge, fabulously beautiful paradise forever [Isa.65:21-22, Isa.35:1-10]. Flowers will give off a finer, more refined and purer fragrance. There will be no more odours and rotting stench since nothing will ever die again [Rev.21:4]. The new earth will be beautified with breath-taking valleys and majestic mountains, crystal clear fountains of water and lusciously plump fruits. There will be no more thorns, weeds or poisonous plants [Isa.55:13, Isa.11:9].

Lakes, rivers and streams abounding in fishes will flow through flower gardens beautified with waterfalls and exotic birds of all kinds, formerly called wild animals like lions, crocodiles, eagles, wolves, snakes and so on will also be there.

Men and women, boys and girls from all nations of the earth will hold family and friendly picnics forever, with plenty to eat, in these gardens and in the sight of these formerly called wild animals all of whom would have lost their power to hurt as all things are now made new [Isa.65:17, Rev.21:1-5]!

vii. Universal and everlasting peace forever

Isa.2:4, Isa.9:6-7

The most expensive budget in every nation is defence budget. Trillions of naira is constantly spent all over the world to purchase or produce newer weapons of destroying human lives.

Ever since Adam fell and Cain killed Abel his brother probably with a rock or a log of wood, men have been looking for more refined weapons of death that can destroy more number of human lives at a very short time.

From wooden spears to flint-headed spears to sharp, hooked metal arrows, spears and swords, horses, camels and chariots to battleships, armoured tanks, helicopter gunships, bomber planes and fighter jets to rockets, missiles and ICBMs [Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles] with nuclear warheads and unmanned drones that can kill human beings and so on.

When the Lord sets up His eternal kingdom, all of

these will become a thing of the past! Men will no longer learn war anymore and all the Military schools will have to close [Isa.2:4, Isa.9:7, Micah 4:3, Ps.72:7-8] as every army would have been disbanded, following their utter defeat at Armageddon [Zech.12:2-4, 9; Zech.14:2-5, Rev.19:11-21].

Peace...peace like a river will be everywhere [Isa.32:17-18, Isa.9:7]! No more fighting and suspicion between wives and mother-in-laws, no more marital conflicts, no more sibling rivalries, no more war between mans immune systems and viruses, no more animalistic savagery, for all things would have been made new [Dan.2:25,44]!

3. ITS TOPOGRAPHY

i. Mountains will be lowered and valleys will be exalted. Zech.14:4-5, 10; Isa.2:2-4, Isa.40:4, Isa.49:11.

ii. The Israelite city of Jerusalem itself will be exalted

Jerusalem, already built on mountains round about it [Ps.125:1-2] will even further be exalted on a high mountain and all the mountains and hills around her will be leveled [Zech.14:10, Isa.40:3-5] so that the city can be seen from miles away, [Isa.2:2-3, Mic.4:1-2] Just like New Jerusalem which will descend from heaven to the earth forever [Rev.21:2-3], the city of Jerusalem will equally have 12 gates, each bearing the names of the 12 sons of Israel [Compare Rev.21:12-13 with Ezek.48:30-35].

iii. Deserts will flourish and become fruitful.

Isa.35:1-2, 6-7

Deserts exist as a result of the fall and they are a direct result of the judgment of God upon mans sin [Deut.28:23-24]. Since the curse of sin has been removed from the earth, the land mass of the world will return to its original nature [Rom.8:19-22].

There will no longer be deserts [Isa.32:15, Isa.35:7, Isa.41:19, Isa.51:3, Isa.55:13]; instead, streams, springs of water and fresh flourishing vegetation will cover the former desert lands [Isa.43:19-20, Isa.41:18]

4. LUMINARY AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Matt.24:29-30, Amos 8:9, Joel 2:1-11, 3:9-16

i. Lighting in the New Earth

When the Lord Jesus returns to this earth with us, His saints; His very coming into the hemisphere of this planet will cause violent cataclysmic, seismic, cosmic, climatic, topographical and luminary changes [Matt.24:29-30, Zech.14:1-5, Zeph.1:14-18, Joel 2:30-31, Isa.13:6-15, Isa.2:10-11, 18-21; Jude 1:14-15, Isa.24:17-23].

Beginning from the end of the day the Lord Jesus returns to this earth with us, His saints, there will be no more darkness [that depicts the end of the day]; instead, night will be like 12pm noon and day will be

like the light of 7 days condensed into one. In other words, the moon will be like the sun and the sun itself will become seven times brighter [Isa.30:26 NIV,Zech.14:7]!

ii. Lighting in the New Jerusalem

As wonderful as the luminary changes of the New Earth will be, the lighting of our capital city, the seat of our government and residence of we the blessed shall be fabulous! New Jerusalem will neither need the light of the sun nor that of the moon since Gods glory will perpetually light the city forever [Rev.21:23, Isa.24:23].

More interestingly, in New Jerusalem, there shall be no more night [Rev.22:5]; thus the twelve beautiful pearly gates will never close, day or night forever and ever [Rev.21:24-26]! Just like New Jerusalem, the city of Jerusalem, the capital city of the nation of Israel, the throne of His majesty, King David, will neither need the light of the sun or that of the moon, for the glory of the Lord will illuminate it forever

[Isa.60:1-3, 19-22].

In the same way, its 12 city gates shall equally never be shut for ever and ever [Isa.60:11]

iii. The climate of the New Earth

With the restitution of all things, rain, wind velocity and temperature will be at their best, perfected forever [Rev.21:5] such that the effect of the climate over the foliage and every inanimate creation will be evident forever. Rain will fall in its season, autumn, winter, summer and every other season will continue in perfection forever, adding their hue to the splendor, majesty and affluence of the New Earth forever [Gen.8:22].

d. Architectural masterpieces [*New Jerusalem as a case study*]

Heb.11:9-10, 2Pet.3:13-14

Whatever the Lord doeth shall abide forever; nothing can be taken from it and nothing can be added to it this is the case of the capital city of the

restored universe. New Jerusalem will be sculpted [if you permit the use of the word], not just from the best materials in the universe [Rev.21:10-11], but from the best architectural designs that eyes have never seen, nor ears heard nor that which has ever entered into the mind of best human designers[1Cor.2:9]

Just imagine what this city will look like when the gates, all twelve of them, will each be a giant pearl precious stone of over 200 feet high [Rev.21:12-13]. Imagine walls of jasper stone, set on the foundation of 12 other precious stones [Rev.21:14, 18-20].

Whoever tars the road with pure gold? In all the vaunted, pompous cities of men, none has a single street tarred with gold, not to talk about the entire city of 1, 500 miles in length, breadth or height! Nothey dare not, they are too poor to do that.

They build with iron, yesbut the buildings in our city are built with transparent gold like glass [Jn.14:2-3, Rev.21:18, 21]. Could proud man ever build a mansion with pure gold? How will it stand? Naythey

will rather hoard it away in bars in the vaults of banks as being too precious!

Thus, their best doesn't even meet up with the basic in my father's kingdom [1Pet.1:4] so why will I run after this hopeless world and seek its delusions [2Pet.3:13]?

Imagine all the parks with fountains, sparkling with fresh water, clear as crystal, where little children can watch fishes happily playing within, imagine walkways crafted with the best architectural designs that neither decays nor go out of fashion it can only be found in the Omniscient Mind imagine what the creations and designs of the Inspirer of men will be should He stir Himself up to build [Heb.11:10]

Imagine angels going about government duties, greeting the saints with deference and being happy about it [Heb.1:14, Acts 12:15, Ps.91:11]! Imagine the eternal blessedness, joy and peace that will abide in our bosoms forever as we dwell in the New Jerusalem from age to age, where no rust, dust or dirt can abide forever [Titus 1:2]!

e. Life, physical, emotional and psychological health in the Eternal Kingdom

There will be no more aging [Gen.5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31; Rom.6:23] because aging is the opposite of growth, where growth stops, that is where aging begins from, as body organs begins to work lower than capacity as deterioration sets in [because of the curse of death placed on man- see Gen.2: 17; 3:18-19 , until it finally ends up in death [Eccl. 12:1-7 GNB,AMP,MSG].

Natural men who will be alive at the second coming of the Lord and who will be judged righteous to enter the kingdom [Matt.25:34, 46] will live through the Millennium [Isa.65:22]. If they did not join some of their descendants at the end of the millennium to rebel with the Devil when he is released [Rev.20:7-10], they will enter into the Age of Ages in good health, joy and peace forever [Rev.21:24, 26; Rev.22:2, Isa.60:3, 10; Ps.72:10-11].

Glorified saints who returned with the Lord Jesus at the beginning of the millennium will reign with the Lord forever and ever in the New Earth after the renovation of the heavens and the earth and the restitution of all things [Dan.7:14, 18, 22, 27; Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10, Rev.22:5, Dan.2:44, Ps.145:13, Rev.11:15, Rev.2:26, 2Tim.2:12, Rev.3:21], we will be assisted by arch angels, angels and every principality, power, might, dominion that remained loyal after the primal rebellion of Lucifer and his fallen angels [1Cor.6:1-3, Heb.1:14, Heb.2:5]. We will reign over natural men forever, whose primary responsibility will be to multiply and replenish the earth forever; thereby, the original intention of God for the earth will continue forever [Gen.1:26-28].

3. ITS PERPETUITY

a. This kingdom will last forever

How long will this Kingdom last? You may ask. It will last forever and ever. This is the verdict of scripture [Dan.2:44, Dan.4:3, 34; Dan.7:14, Isa.9:6-7,

Lk.1:33]. Why it will last forever is briefly explained below.

b. Both its rulers and the subjects will live forever

With the removal of sin, the curse, pain, sickness and death [Rev.21:3-5; 22:3], natural men will live forever [Isa.65:22] under the rulership of the Lord Jesus and we His resurrected saints [Rev.22:5, Dan.12:13]. This is why we call the gospel the good news of the kingdom.

The rulers will no longer die as they have been perfected; thus they will live and rule forever [1Cor.15:51-54, Phil.3:21, 1Thes.4:16-17, Rev.5:10, Dan.7:27]. The subjects will no longer die or be tempted as all former things have passed away [Rev.21:4, Isa.25:8, Isa.65:17]. We will live in the bliss and joy of the Age of ages forever [Isa.35:10]!

c. There will no longer be any rebellion of any kind

This is because all rebellion has been finally put down [1Cor.15:24-28] and all rebels, angelic, demonic or human would have been confined to the lake of fire forever [Rev.20:10-15, Matt.25:41, Rev.14:9-11].

Satan's final attempt to wrest control from God will come after the 1000 years are completed when he is released from the bottomless pit. Although countless numbers of human beings will follow him, this attempt will end in utter failure and then, the time will be up for Satan and his horde. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever, where they will be in everlasting torture, day and night, forever and ever [Rev.20:7-10, Rev.14:11].

5. ITS SUBJECTS

a. Why natural man will continue on earth forever. Ps.145:13

i. It is consistent with Gods original purpose.

Gen.1:26-28

The original purpose for the creation of man is to have a race of beings who, by their very nature, are capable of relating with God as members of His family [Gen.1:26, Ps.82:6]; thus, since the original and consistent intention of the Devil is the total corruption of the entire human race [Gen.6:1-7, Rev.12:9, Rev.20:10], such that God (in Satans twisted imagination) will be almost unable to salvage anything from the remnant left of the human race; God will gain for Himself glory in showing that He is the Almighty, whose purposes cannot be thwarted when the human race continues forever in the age of ages [Isa.35:10, Eph.1:11, Isa.66:19, Matt.25:31-34,46].

To infer or think that the earth will be destroyed and the race of man will cease is not only erroneous, it is to label Satan as the winner in the ancient conflict between the forces of good and evil and to charge the Almighty God with a limitation to His power

[Lk.1:37], wisdom [Rom.11:33], goodness [Nahum 1:7] and His overall ability [Eph.3:20]. All of these, a true child of God who believes the revelation of the Bible dare not infer nor suggest.

ii. God decreed the perpetuity of the earth.

Eccl.1:4

Several scriptures show clearly that contrary to the opinion of numerous so-called Bible scholars, this planet earth will not be destroyed or wiped out [Ps.104:5, Ps.119:90].

That this earth and its atmospheric heavens will be changed is not in doubt [Ps.102:25-26; 2Pet.3:10-13]. That this present world system, under Satan the Devil, will come to an end is not in doubt [1Jn.2:17, 1Cor.7:31]; what needs to be clear is that the end of the world is actually the end of the age and not the extinction of this planet or its solar system.

iii. Gods promise to Abraham and David requires perpetual human generations for fulfillment.

Father Abraham was promised the whole world as his inheritance [Rom.4:13]. Several times in scripture, he and his sons were promised the possession of the Promised Land forever [Gen.13:14-15, Gen.17:8].

King David was promised a throne that will last forever [1Chron.17:11-12, 23-24; Ps.89:28-29]. For Davids House to reign forever, there must be a perpetual nation of Israel [Joel 3:20, Ezek.37:21-28, Isa.60:21], there must be a planet earth where that nation is resident [Ps.37:29, Isa.45:18, Eccl.1:4] and there must be normal human beings in Israel and the rest of the world who will be subjects that the Davidic King will rule over forever [Isa.9:6-7, Isa.2:1-4, Dan.7:13-14,27; Ezek.37:25, Isa.60:1-3].

iv. The overall result of the sacrifice of Jesus requires the existence of perpetual generations.

Jn.12:24, Matt.20:28, Isa. 53:3-11.

If the bulk of humanity is lost and a mere remnant is saved, then Satan still wins. But by perpetual

generations, the doomed and lost [which will constitute a number that will never increase after the White throne judgment-Rev.20:11-15] will eventually be fewer compared to the ever increasing generations of natural men who will eventually carry out God's original and eternal program in holiness and complete obedience to God [Gen.1:28, Dan.7:14, Rev.11:15, Gen.9:12. notice the covenant is for all perpetual or eternal generations].

b. How natural man will live on earth forever

If we remember, after the fall of Adam and Eve, God drove them out of the garden for the sole purpose of hindering man from eating of the tree of life in his fallen state, [thus rendering salvation from sin impossible] as, everyone who partakes in the tree will live forever [in whatever state he is in-see Gen.3:22-24]

However, after the restitution of all things, all men, whether glorified saints or natural men, will have access to the tree of life forever [Rev.2:7, Rev.22:2, Ezek.47:12] since every possibility of a fall has been

abolished [Heb.9:28, 1Pet.1:5].

As natural men partake of the tree of life, eating its variety of twelve fruits, they will live forever [Gen.3:22, Rev.22:2, 14; Rev.21:4-5] and its very leaves will be for the healing of the nations [Ezek.47:12]. We need to say a Word or two on the healing mentioned here.


It is not healing as if anyone will ever be sick or die again, since old things have passed away [Isa.25:8]; instead, it means that the leaves of the trees will have therapeutic qualities, thereby elongating lives and giving strength and vitality to the body, thereby making eternal life possible without death, sickness or aging [since aging, not growing, is a process leading to death and decay] [Remember that Adam never began to age until he sinned-Gen.2:17, Gen.3:19, Gen.5:5].

CHAPTER THREE

A CONCISE CHRONOLOGY OF THE END OF THE AGE

III

1. The Rapture of the Church & Resurrection of the Righteous

he Rapture of the church is the sudden snatching away of every one who believes in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus as the ransom for his or her sin from this present world [1Thes.4:16-18, Isa.26:20].

Several so-called scholars who fight a literal interpretation of the Word of God on passages that relate to the human future in the eternal kingdom of God either deny the rapture altogether or muddle up the timing so badly that the unwary but sincere seeker who seeks the truth as it is in Jesus end up

being confused and frustrated.

Some even say that the rapture is a modern doctrine. We beg to differ. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the promise of the rapture [Jn.14:2-3]. His apostles affirmed it [1Thes.4:15-17, 1Cor.15:50-52, 1Jn.3:2, Phil.3:20-21] and separated the rapture of the church from the second coming of Christ [2Thes.2:1, Tit.2:12-13]. The best way to understand it is that, at the rapture, Jesus is coming FOR His saints [Isa.26:20, Jn.14:2-3, 1Thes.4:15-17, 2Thes.2:1] but at the second coming, He comes WITH His saints and the angels [Joel 3:11, Jude 1:14-15, Rev.19:14, Zech.14:5].

At the same time the rapture occurs, the resurrection of the righteous (which is also known as the First Resurrection) will occur [1Thes.4:16, 1Cor.15:21-23, Dan.12:13]. The Lord will descend with a mighty shout of command and with blaring trumpets and the dead in Christ shall rise first; after this, those who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them so that we can be with the Lord forever [1Cor.15:51-53].

The rapture will be a silent, unobserved, unnoticed and unheralded event to most people in the world [Lk.17:26-30]. It will be like the coming of a thief in the night [1Thes.5:2, Matt.24:43-44, Lk.12:37-40, Rev.3:3]. Only believers will be taken away [1Thes.4:16-17, Jn.14:3].

There will be two resurrections. The First Resurrection is the resurrection of the righteous at the time of the rapture [1Thes.4:14-16, Rev.20:4]. Several scholars include the resurrection of the Tribulation Saints [i.e. people who will believe in the Lord Jesus after the rapture and will be killed for their belief] in the First Resurrection [Rev.6:9-11, Rev.20:4-5]. Thus, the First Resurrection encompasses all the righteous souls who died from Abel till the end of the Tribulation [Rev.20:4-6, Heb.11:39-40].

The Second Resurrection is the resurrection of the wicked at the white throne judgment at the end of the millennium. It will include all wicked dead from Cain till the end of the millennium [Rev.20:5, 11-

15]. The purpose of the First Resurrection is so that saints can be perfected by receiving glorified bodies, like the body of the Lord Jesus [Phil.3:21, 1Cor.15:43-44]; saints who are alive at that time will not die; scriptures promised that we too will be changed into immortal beings [like the dead but now resurrected saints] as our bodies will be suddenly changed at the rapture when we are caught up to be with the Lord [1Cor.15:51-53, 1Thes.4:17].

**Some of the purposes of the rapture are
listed below:**

- i. To remove the believers from the earth before the judgment of God falls on a Christ-rejecting world [Isa.26:20-21, 1Thes.5:9-10, Rev.3:10, Lk.21:34-35].
- ii. To present the church for judgment on the things done in the body, whether good or bad [Lk.21:36, 1Cor.3:11-15, 2Cor.5:10 AMP].
- iii. To commence the beginning of the end of this present age, of which Satan is the god and leader

[Isa.24:21-22, Rev.20:1-3].

iv. To make the saints like Him, since we will be changed to become like Him. [1Cor.15:49, Rom.8:29, 1Cor.15:51-52]

v. To judge the church in order to determine in what capacity each believer is to serve in the Theocratic Kingdom eternally [1Cor.3:11-15, 2Cor.5:10, Rev.22:12]

vi. To keep His promise of coming back to take the church to Himself and settling us in His fathers House where there are many mansions; so that where He is, there we shall be also [Jn.14:1-3, 1Thes.4:18].

vii. To make saints whole in body, soul and spirit. 1Thes.5:23, Phil.3:21

viii. To present saints before God. 1Thes. 4:17; 1Thes.3:13; John 14:1-3; Jude 1:24; Rev. 19:1-10.

ix. To remove the hinderer of lawlessness [the church, inhabited by the Holy Spirit]. 1Thes.2:7

x. To permit the revelation of the Antichrist. 1Thes.2:7

2. The Rise of the Antichrist & 7 years of Tribulation

As the disappearance of hundreds of thousands [or probably millions] of Christians all over the world, in the ensuing confusion, a leader shall arise from the sea of humanity and to him will they give heed. Through cunning diplomacy, he will capture their hearts and the seats of governments, unifying them all into a single seat of power or in other words, a one-world government [Rev.6:1-2].

He will achieve the impossible: Peace in Middle East [Dan.9:27, 2Thes.2:9-12], giving Israel a right and military backing to rebuild their Temple, on whose ancient site stands the third holiest mosque in Islam, the Dome of the Rock. In return, he will give the Arabs something else in return, perhaps, Israels agricultural technology that makes deserts to blossom.

After this, the world will enter quietly into the Seven years of tribulation, the first half [i.e. the first three

and a half years] of which the world will face lesser tribulations of war, famine, death and persecution and martyrdom of untold number of people who would have turned to Christ after the rapture [Rev.6:9-11]. All this while, sinful men will be building the world into an utopia through the One-world government and the All-inclusive One-world religion [1Thes.5:3]. By the middle of the three and a half years, the Antichrist will turn against the whole world, beginning with Israel [Dan.9:27, Dan.12:6-7].

He will seat in the Holies of Holies of the rebuilt Temple, demanding worship [Matt.24:15, 2Thes.2:4]. When Israel refuses, war will break out [Dan.9:27]; also, tribulations, war, famine, natural and un-natural disasters will hit this world in such intensity and with such ferocity that it will be clear that Gods judgment on an evil world had begun [Rev.6:1-Rev.8:5; Rev.8:7-Rev.11:19; Rev.15:1-Rev.16:21].

The Tribulation is actually referred to in scriptures as the time of Jacobs troubles [Jer.30:7, Dan.12:1]; it is

actually the period of Gods judgment upon Israels unbelief and sin against God in rejecting and crucifying the Messiah [Ezek.20:33-43]. The peak of this tribulation period is when the Antichrist and the Devil will gather all the armies of the earth to launch a final offensive against Israel in order to wipe it off the surface of the earth [Zech.14:1-2, Zech.12:2-3, Rev.16:13-14].

When Israels technology fails them, when Jerusalem is captured by the overwhelming force of the attacking enemies [Joel 1:15, Zech.14:1-2, Isa.29:1-8], then they will cry out to the God of their fathers to help them [Isa.45:17, Matt.24:21-22, 29-30; Isa.13:6-16]. It is at this point that the Lord Jesus will return with His saints with power and great glory to vanquish all the opposing armies of the world [Zech.14:1-15, Zech.12:1-9, Rev.19:11-21].

It is at this same point that Israel will repent as a nation [Rom.11:25-27, Isa.59:20, Isa.4:3-6, Isa.10:20-21] when they finally see that He who comes in the name of the Lord [i.e. their Messiah] is Yeshua Meshiach i.e. Jesus the Christ, whom they

pierced and crucified and they shall mourn bitterly in repentance [Zech.12:9-14 AMP, Rev.1:7].

3. The Judgment seat of Christ & Marriage feast of the Lamb

Meanwhile in heaven, at about this same time the tribulation is ravaging the earth, the saints will be brought before the Lord, one by one to be judged for how we lived while in this world [2Cor.5:10, 1Cor.3:11-15]. It is noteworthy to mention that this particular judgment is the judgment for rewards [i.e. to determine which eternal appointment each believer will have in the eternal kingdom, based on how he served the Lord while in the body].

We strongly believe that every believer who has genuine faith in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ as the substitution for his deliverance from the power of sin will be raptured and be brought before this judgment seat [Rom.10:9-10, Jn.3:36, Col.1:12-14, Jn.5:24] and not just the spiritual amongst us. If this is not so, there will be no works of wood, hay or

stubble that will burn off [1Cor.3:12-15], there will be no being brought before the Lord to be judged for what was done in the body, whether good or bad [2Cor.5:10] and there will be no loss of reward [1Cor.3:15].

It is also imperative that we declare that we are not hereby sanctioning in any way, a lethargic, lazy, compromising and sinful lifestyle popularly peddled as Christianity today; for those who live such lives will perish with this present world [Gal.6:7-8, Rom.6:21-23]; instead, all we are saying is that everyone who truly believes that Jesus died for his or her sins will be raptured [Jn.20:31, 1Jn.5:13, Heb.9:28]. Whether such a person focuses on the work of the Master or on self-love will be a thing that will be determined at the judgment [2Cor.5:9-10 AMPC, AMP, CEV].

We should be aware that while salvation is free [Eph.2:8-9], rewards are not. They are earned [Gal.6:7, 1Cor.3:8]. Closely following the Judgment Seat of Christ is the Marriage Supper of

The Lamb [Rev.19:7-9]. We might want to view it as a celebration dinner party commemorating the union of the Lord Jesus to His bride [The New Jerusalem. See Rev.21:9-10], which the church as the body of Christ will be a part of.

3. The Second Coming of Christ & Battle of Armageddon

The term the Second Coming of Christ is actually the peak of the battle of Armageddon [Zech.12:2-9, Zech.14:1-5, Rev.19:11-21]. At the beginning, the Devil, the antichrist and the false prophet will deceive the armies of the world to come together to wipe out Israel as a nation [Rev.16:13-16, Joel 3:9-16]. This will be because Israel would have rejected the one world government of the Antichrist when he sits in the holy of holies of the new Temple, demanding worship.

All the armies of the world will be there; but they will not know that in reality, it is God who will gather them there in order to punish them all together and

bring about their end [Rev.17:17].

The description of the battle itself is found in the books of Rev.19:11-21, Zech.14:1-15, Zech.12:2-14, Isa.66:15-16, Isa.13:5-15, Jude 1:14-15, Zeph.1:14-15, Amos 5:18-20. A detailed description of our army that returns with the Lord Jesus is given in Joel 2:1-11.

The Lord Jesus will return to this world with His saints in splendor and great glory and every eye shall see Him [Rev.1:7]; unlike the rapture which will be a private and concealed event, the second coming will be public and conspicuous [Matt.24:30, Rev.19:11-21, Matt.25:31].

The Bible specifically said every eye shall see the Lord [Rev.1:7], including the Jews who pierced [and crucified] Him and they shall mourn for him as one mourns the death of an only son [Zech.12:9-14]. As we noted earlier, It is at this point that the nation of Israel will be converted as a whole [Rom.11:25-27].

At the defeat of the Antichrist and his armies, Satan,

his fallen angels and demons will all be imprisoned in the Abyss (or Bottomless Pit), for a period of 1,000 years (see Rev.20:1-3, Isa.24:21-22 NLT); where they will remain until they are released for a little while Before they go away into perdition (REV.20:7-10).

4. The Judgment of the Nations & The Millennial Reign of Christ

Please read Matt.25:31-46. The millennial reign of Christ begins after the battle of Armageddon when the Antichrist is defeated and remanded in the Lake of Fire with his false prophet forever [Rev.19:19-21] and Satan is imprisoned in the bottomless pit with all his demons and fallen angels [Rev.20:1-3, Lk.8:31, Isa.24:21-22].

Before the judgment of the nations, survivors from the battles [like Jewish survivors or war correspondents or non-combat personnel of the different defeated armies, will be sent to their nations, no matter how remote, to announce the return of the King [Isa.66:19]; it is after this that the

Lord, by the means of angels, will gather the nations together for judgment [Matt.25:31-32].

After the victory at the battle of Armageddon, the remnants of the nations from every tribe, tongue, nation, continent and race [Dan.7:14] will be gathered together [Matt.25:32-33]. They will individually be separated to two broad categories that the Lord Jesus called sheep and goats. The sheep are like Rahab, whose action of hiding the spies Joshua sent to Jericho is considered by God as faith [Heb.11:31, Josh.2:8-14, 18-19; Josh.6:25]; [remember we are saved by grace through faith-see: Eph.2:8-9]. The Lord told them that all the good they did to His brothers and sisters [the tribulation saints and the Jews- see Rom.8:29]; they did to Him [Matt.10:40-42, Lk.14:12-14, Mk.9:41, Matt.12:49-50, Matt.18:5, 1Cor.12:26-27, Job 29:13-16, Job 31:16-21].

The goats are like the rest of Jericho, like Og, King of Bashan and Sihon, king of Heshbon, who made themselves the enemies of Gods people and

perished in the process [Num.21:23-24, 33-35]. In the same way, everyone who refuses to show kindness to the Jews and the persecuted saints during the tribulation will be judged unrighteous because of unbelief. They will not enter into the millennial kingdom but will perish [Matt.25:46, Matt.13:40-42].

Only the sheep among the nations will enter into the millennial kingdom as the subjects of the King, and we His kings and priests, who will rule different dominions under Him. For the first time, the millennial kingdom will be a period when this planet will experience peace for the first time [Isa.9:6-7, Dan.7:14, 18]

The subjects will live throughout the 1, 000 years [Matt.13:43, Matt.25:34, Isa.65:21-23]; marrying and repopulating the earth. Righteousness will be the rule of law [Isa.11:4-5] and all men will enjoy peace and prosperity in an earth that would have changed dramatically, yet this is only the beginning of the renewal of all things.

At the end of the millennium, hundreds of billions of human beings from every race would have repopulated the earth. Sadly, many of these people will not be saved but will be merely enduring and tolerating the righteous rule of the Lord Jesus and we, His saints. It is from these teeming millions that the Devil will recruit fresh rebellious followers when he is released from the Bottomless Pit.

5. The Release and Final Rebellion of Satan

After Satan is released, he will quickly go about the only business he knows: deceiving the nations [Rev.20:7-10] to rally round his own banner. Many will believe him and will prepare themselves to wage war with the saints and the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, this particular battle will end as abruptly as it began; for fire will come down from heaven and consume the satanic hosts. Satan himself will be captured; with his time up, he will be sent to his eternal doom—the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented, day and night forever and ever

[Rev.20:10].

6. Resurrection Of The Wicked & The White Throne Judgment

The Second Resurrection is the resurrection of the wicked at the white throne judgment at the end of the millennium. It will include all wicked dead from Cain till the end of the Millennium [Rev.20:11-15]. After this, all the unrighteous dead who are presently in hell fire will be brought out and their bodies will be raised from wherever it is buried [Jn.5:28-29, Dan.12:2, Acts 24:15]; they will be raised from the dead and brought before the White Throne Judgment, the judgment of the doomed. Not a single person who appears before this judgment will be acquitted [Rev.20:15].

The books of their deeds will be opened and the book of life, God's register of the redeemed will also be opened. They will be judged from the books and be condemned to an eternity in the Lake of Fire. This will be the second death [or the final, eternal

separation from God- Rev.14:10-11a].

7. Renovation of the heavens and the earth

(A short study on 2Peter 3:3-13)

Reading 2Pet.3:10-13 casually, it appeared as if the earth is burnt off and destroyed. But when we study it contextually, paying close attention to the meaning of the words and in comparison with other portions of the Holy Bible, we will find out that it will actually undergo a rebirth, renewal or renovation.

2Pet.3:3-4 begins with a prophecy on the state of the world in the end time. Mockers will arise who will say Jesus will no longer return because for a very long time, everything has remained the same. 2Pet.3:5-6 state that they deliberately overlooked one important fact: the heavens and the earth existed long ago by the Word of God and the earth, though made out of water, the world that then was, perished.

Now, a careful reader will notice that the Bible shifted from earth in verse 5 to the world that then was in verse 6 when it was talking about destruction

with water. Furthermore, instead of saying the earth perished, the Bible says the world perished, because it was the world, not the earth that perished [Gen.6:7, 17; Gen.7:4, 17-23].

Earth and world are not the same meaning in the original Greek language. Earth in verse 5 is translated from *Ge*, from where we get the English Word, geography and it principally means the ground or land mass; but world in verse 6 is *kosmos* in Greek, which means the whole state of things as existing per time. It is from this *kosmos* that we get what we refer to as the world system [i.e. the desires, ways and purposes of the peoples, governments, economies and religions of this present world, opposed to God and of which Satan is its god and ultimate ruler, albeit secretly. See 1Jn.5:19, 1Jn.2:15-17, James 4:4].

Another word for world, which can be a synonym is *aion*, which simply means age, i.e. a long duration of time with a beginning and an end. It was in the age of the giants that lived on the earth in the days of Noah

that God wiped out with the flood [Gen.6:1-2, 4-5 TLB; Gen.7:1, 4, 21-24]. Remember, when Noah stepped out of the ark, he stepped out into a new world [Gen.8:13-16]. 2Pet.3:7 says “**...by the same Word of God the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, reserved for the day of judgment of wicked men.**”

Notice that the Bible is no longer talking about the world, but the earth, because it is this earth, which will abide forever [Eccl.1:4, Ps.104:5] and its planetary heavens that will be renovated, cleansed and purified from sin, satanic hordes and the curse [Rom.8:19-22], not the this present world which the Bible promises will pass away [1Jn.2:17, 1Cor.7:31].

Also, The Day of the Lord [or the second coming of Christ] will begin and end in judgment [beginning: judgment on the antichrist and the armies of the world under him [Rev.19:11-21] and Ending: final judgment on Satan and his human, demonic and angelic rebels, after he is released. See Rev.20:7-10,

Matt.25:41]. 2Pet.3:10 tells us the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, meaning it will come upon sinners suddenly, catching them completely by surprise [1Thes.5:2-3], both at the beginning and the end.

In the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise the passing away here is not destruction or annihilation; for in other portions of scripture, it is plain that the earth will exist forever [Eccl.1:4, 1Chron.16:30]; instead, it means it will pass from one condition to another [Heb.1:10-12]. It will interest us to know that the same original word used for pass away here (*parechomai*) is the same word used in 2Cor.5:17: **“Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”** [NKJV]

Of course none of us were annihilated when we became born again. Instead, the old nature was destroyed and replaced by a new nature, yet we still had the same bodies, name, voice, physical looks etc.

And the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat these elements are the material elements that make up the universe: earth, fire, water and air. The Word dissolve here is *luo* and it means to loosen a person or thing previously tied. Here it means the loosing of the earth and its planetary heavens from the bondage to sin and the curse [Gen.3:17-19, Gen.5: 29, Isa.24:4-6, Rom.8:19-22] so that it can be released to its original perfect state of holiness and blessing [Heb.12:26-28].

And the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. All the work, toils and labour of sinful man will be burnt up. All the proud cities of men and everything they labored for are included; also, war and the horrifying bouts of judgment during the tribulation will necessitate rebuilding of homes [Matt.24:7, Rev.6:12, Rev.16:21]. In the millennium, men will be able to build their own houses and live in them [Isa.65:21, Ezek.28:26].

2Pet.3:11-12 used the word dissolve twice, implying clearly that the all creation [i.e. the universe] will

finally be loosed and freed from its bondage to corruption [Rom.8:19-22 TLB].

When old things pass away, then the earth and the entire universe will be:

- i. Purified by fire [2Pet. 3:7,10-12]
- ii. Delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God [Rom. 8:21]
- iii. Changed to a new state [Heb. 1:10-12]
- iv. Re-created or renewed to their original perfection [Heb. 12:25-28; Isa. 65:17; 66:22-24; 2Pet.3:13 WUEST; Rev.21:1]
- v. Cleansed of all the curse and its effects [Rev. 22:3]

Finally 2Pet.3:13 talks about believers looking for a new heaven and a new earth. New here is translated from kainos and it means qualitatively new, as opposed to old; superior, different. Thus, the new earth will dazzle all saved men who will enter the kingdom beyond our wildest hopes, dreams, desires or thoughts [Eph.3:20-21 AMP].

8. Age of ages or the New Heavens and New Earth

This is the blending of the Day of the Lord [the Millennial Reign of Christ] with the Day of God [2Pet.3:12], [the Age of ages] where the Lord Jesus, having put down all rebellion will submit the kingdom to God [1Cor.15:24-28]. After the rebirth of the world, mankind will continue forever under the blissful reign of the Lord Jesus and His saints who will rule forever and ever in the restored kingdom [Dan.12:3, Dan.7:13-14; 18, 23, 27]. In the end, we win [2Cor.2:14]!

As we said earlier, men will no longer age. They will grow, yes. But they will never age. They will live forever and ever, living on and on for trillions of years in joy, peace, prosperity and pleasantness in all things [Rev.21:4-5].

The New Earth will be paradise restored. Saints will be royal priests, though political rulers over the Kingdom, they will equally be spiritual leaders who will continue for ever and ever in this office

[1Pet.2:9, Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10], showing natural men [Rev.21:24-27, Matt.25:34, Isa.65:21-23] and angels [1Pet.1:12, Eph.3:9-10, 1Cor.6:2-3, Heb.2:5-8] the excellency and wealth of the grace of Him who paid the costliest sacrifice in order to purchase the deliverance of man from sin, Satan, corruption and doom...

CHAPTER FOUR

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

IV



Two sets of materials to build with:
1Cor.3:11-15, 2Cor.5:10 AMP

1. MATERIALS PROCURED IN THE DEEP **[Gold, Silver, Precious stones]**

a. GOLD: Love for God

Matt.22:37-38, Deut.6:5, Jn.14:15, 21, 23; 1Jn.5:3.

When the Christian life is lived such that obeying God first in all things becomes the rule of our lives, on the day we are judged before the Judgment Seat of Christ, our works will come out as pure gold.

Every work or ministry done with love for God and

obedience to Him as its foundation will always be holy and acceptable before Him. Such will always win His approval either here or hereafter [Jn.8:29, 1Jn.3:22, Matt.3:17]

b. SILVER: Love for fellow man

Matt.22:39, Rom.13:8-10. Matt.7:12

All lives lived for the benefit of others so that they can see the glory of God and come close to Him is done with love for fellow man. I don't think I would like my neighbor to see my house burning and say it is none of his business while I and my family are sleeping inside. I would expect him to raise the alarm and alert me. So why would I see people blindly rushing towards a Christ-less eternity and not warn them?

c. PRECIOUS STONES: Value placed on the kingdom in all things

Matt.13:44-46, Phil.3:7-8, 12-14;

Matt.6:19-21.

What will it cost me to enter into the eternal

Kingdom?

Everything [Matt.19:16-22].

Willingness to pay the costly price to enter, by placing value on the kingdom in everything is what God counts as precious stones. When a life is lived or a ministry is operated on the principle that the Kingdom of Christ is the ultimate attainment any human being can achieve and lives are disciplined to focus on and conform to this ideal by stripping off carnality, loose living and taking the Bible seriously, in thought, speech and action; on that day when we stand before the Lord in judgment, such attitudes will be accounted as precious stones.

2. MATERIALS PROCURED ON THE SURFACE [Wood, hay and Stubble]

a. WOOD: Love for self.

Mk.8:34 AMP, Lk.14:25-26 TLB,

Phil.2:21

When all one cares about is himself and what Jesus can do for him, when even though he believes in the

sacrifice of Jesus for his soul but still focuses on his own interests and desires if such carnal Christian ever gets to heaven, he will find out that all his personal dreams, hope, desires and pursuits are mere wood. When tested in the fire, he will have no reward for them [1Cor.3:15]

**b. HAY: Love of the world, Worldly Cares
& the deceitfulness of riches**

1Jn.2:15-17, Mk.4:18-19 AMP, 1Tim.6:6-10

When a Christian remains a baby all his life even after conversion, such that he is still worldly in his outlook, desires, actions and opinions [1Cor.3:1-3]; when the need to find what to eat, drink and wear replaces personal devotion and time that should be spent to know God better [Matt.6:31-32]

When every prayer point is tainted by the deceitfulness of riches and the need for money such that getting money at all costs become more important than godliness and contentment; by the time this Christian gets to heaven [if he manages to

enter in], he will be judged and he will find out that all he has built his life with is hay. It will be burnt up and he will have no reward, even though he won't lose his soul. Such a person, since he is unfaithful in little will not be appointed into positions of authority in the eternal Kingdom—for the principle of God is He that is faithful in little is faithful in much [Lk.16:10].

c. STUBBLE: Weights and besetting sins

Weights

1Cor.6:12 AMP, 1Cor.10:23 AMP.

Weights are not sins but they lead to sin. They are things like overeating, laziness, oversleeping, financial carelessness and wastage, time mismanagement, too much TV and movies etc. They weaken spiritual strength and dull spiritual sensitivity such that when temptation and sin comes, the person will fall flat on his face [Judg.16:16-21].

Besetting sins

Heb.12:1, Eph.4:22

Besetting sins are those sins which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles [Amplified Bible]; they are desires and lusts that spring from delusion; they are the delights of a persons sinful nature and the types of sins that are most difficult to leave; yet we must abandon them for Christ has already given us the power to live above sin [Rom.6:12-14].

If one refuses to discipline himself to strip off besetting sins by the power of the Spirit of Christ, even if he enters heaven, he will be judged for living in them and lose his reward [1Cor.3:10-15].

CHAPTER FIVE

ETERNAL REWARDS OF THE RIGHTEOUS



he Saved will consist of saints from Abel till the end of the Tribulation [see Heb.11:40].

REWARDS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

a. ETERNAL LIFE

This is knowing God personally [Jn.17:3, Ex.33:11], intimately [Gen.5:24, Ps.27:8] and experientially [Ex.33:14-17 NLT]. It also means access to and entrance into the eternal kingdom because a person has been saved from sin by believing in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the Cross [Matt.19:17, Jn.3:36]. In the context of

rewards, it also means living forever and ever in the presence of God in joy, peace, prosperity and in abundance of all things [Rev.22:3-4]; it is contrasted to eternal death which will be the portion of everyone who rejects the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins [Mk.16:16, Jn.3:34]; they will live in eternal banishment from God, doomed to the worst form of excruciating torture forever and ever [Rev.14:10-11a].

b. ETERNAL THRONES

Since we are going to literally reign eternally with the Lord [Rom.8:17, Rev.3:21], we will have physical thrones on which we will seat and from where we will reign [Rev.3:21, Rev.20:4-6, Rev.22:5] over nations, continents, states dominions, realms etc.

We were promised thrones [Rev.3:21, Matt.19:28, 1Cor.6:2-3].

c. ETERNAL CROWNS

We should remember that the Lord promised that

we will be kings and priests, co-ruling all creation with Him [Rev.21:7, Rom.8:16-17]; thus it is fitting that if we have the title and authority of a king [Rev.5:10], if we have thrones from where we reign [Rev.3:21], then it is fitting that we should have royal crowns which is clearly a distinctive feature of kings and queens [2Sam.12:30, Est.1:11]. More than a single type of crown is promised to believers.

i. Crown of glory [1Pet.5:4]

This is the pastors crown. It is the crown specifically reserved for those who have served as true shepherds and faithful spiritual leaders to Gods people [Heb.6:10].

ii. Crown of righteousness [2Tim.4:8]

This is the crown specially kept for every saint who look forward to and love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is particularly for those who are diligent in carrying out His purpose for their lives [2Tim.4:6-7, Acts 20:24].

iii. Crown of Life [James 1:12]

This is also called the martyrs crown. This is the crown the Lord Jesus will give to the saints who faithfully endured trials and persecutions until their death [Rev.2:10]. Christians who have been inconsistent and untrustworthy, focusing only on their own needs and desires [Phil.2:20-21] should not expect this crown. It is for those who are wholly faithful and trustworthymen and women who God could rely and depend on [Acts 13:22].

iv. Incorruptible crown [1Cor.9:25]

This is the victors crown .This is the basic crown every believer will receive. By every believer, we mean every Christian who runs this Christian race successfully, disciplining his bodily appetites, keeping his body under, shedding off excess weights of everything that will not make him run in such a way that he will win [1Cor.9:24-27] and please God [2Cor.5:9]. I firmly believe that there will be several multitudes of crownless Christians [Rev.3:11, 1Cor.3:15]. While salvation is free, rewards are not; they are earned [1Cor.3:6-8, Ps.62:12].

v. Crown of rejoicing [1Thes.2:19]

This is the soul-winners crown . For everyone who faithfully and consistently point men to God and bring them into His kingdom either by praying, preaching, follow-up, discipling, counseling and so on. The process of salvation of a soul includes sowing the Word, watering the Word sown and harvesting the soul and shepherding the harvested soul until he enters the Kingdom upon his death or at the rapture [1Cor.3:5-10]. All the people who work in one capacity or the other to bring in a soul will be repaid [Dan.12:3, Prov.11:30].

d. ETERNAL KINGDOM

Rev.2:26-27

Because we have eternal life, we will live forever. Since we are going to rule literally and forever, this is why we have thrones and crowns. Kings dont just wear crowns and sit on thrones in their sitting roomsall these will mean nothing if we have no kingdom to rule over. We are specially promised a

universal kingdom [Lk.12:32, Dan.7:18, 22, 27; Heb.2:5, Lk.22:29, Rev.5:10, Rev.20:4-6, Rev.22:5].

As inheritors of all that the Father has [Rev.21:7] and joint heirs with our Elder Brother, our Redeemer kinsman, the Lord Jesus Christ, we will reign eternally with Him [Rom.8:17, Rev.3:21] over all creation [Heb.2:5-9].

This kingdom is not a figurative kingdom, explained away theoretically. It is a real kingdom with real kings [Rev.1:6], real subjects [Natural men and all elect angels. See Dan.7:14, 18, 22, 27; 1Cor.6:3] and a sphere of dominion [Rev.5:10].

e. ETERNAL CITY

Apart from inheriting the Kingdom, we were also promised an eternal capital city that God has prepared [Heb.11:10, 13-16]; thus, the promises we hold serves as a foretaste of the glory of the ages to come, this is why we are encouraged to seek and look for the city that has foundation [Heb.11:10, Heb.13:14], the very home and city of God

[Jn.14:2; compare Heb.12:22, Rev.21:2-3], the home and joy of the saints [Heb.12:23, Jn.14:2-3 Jn.14:2 [compare Heb.12:22, Rev.21:2-3] and the capital city of our Universal Empire in the Age of Ages [Rev.21:23-26]!

f. ETERNAL MANSIONS

From the mouth of our savior, we were directly promised mansions [Jn.14:2-3] where we will live with Him forever. In other portions of the scriptures, we were told that these mansions promised by the Lord are in New Jerusalem [Heb.12:22-28, Heb.13:14], the home of the redeemed and glorified saints [Heb.11:10-16].

What will our mansions look like? It may be quite difficult to say now but we know that since reward is in accordance with the works of a person [], all the mansions will not look like a low cost housing estate (where all the houses look the same!). Instead, there will be myriads of architectural master pieces of different sizes, beauty and dignity [1Cor.3:8, 12-15]

Yet, it is noteworthy to mention that the least abode in New Jerusalem will be far better in beauty, splendor, worth and majesty than all the best houses and mansions in this present age put together [1Cor.2:9, Eph.3:20].

g. ETERNAL BODIES

We will be resurrected and glorified! We will even look like our Lord Jesus Christ bodily [1Jn.3:1-2]. This particular reward is treated extensively in the next section below.

h. ETERNAL INHERITANCE

Rev.21:7

Apart from all the rewards listed above, we were also promised the inheritance of all things while this may sound far-fetched, it is nevertheless the truth, confirmed by different scriptures [1Cor.3:21-22, Rom.8:17, Rom.4:13, Gal.3:16, 26, 29].

The love God has for us is so amazing [Eph.2:4

AMP]! It is love that is stronger than life or death [Rom.8:32]; since we are His children, the Father has promised to give all that He owns and has given to our Elder Brother [Rom.8:29 , Heb.1:2, Matt.28:18], our Kinsman Redeemer [Ps.72:14, Job 19:25], the Captain of our Souls, the Lord Jesus Christ, and together, they planned that we will share everything that belongs to Jesus as joint-heirs with Him [Rom.8:17, Rev.2:26-27, Rev.3:21]!

CHAPTER SIX

THE HEIRS CHANGED INTO GLORIFIED BEINGS

VI

A description of Glorified bodies...

1Cor.15:35-49 is the vivid description of what will happen after saints are resurrected from the dead. Resurrection from the dead is such an important doctrine of the Christian faith such that if one does not believe in the virgin birth, suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus such a person cannot be saved [1Cor.15:3-4, 12-20, 23; 1Jn.2:22].

Also, our faith in the literal resurrection of our Lord Jesus is the foundation of our hope that we also will one day be raised from the dead [1Thes.4:13-15; 1Cor.15:12-20, 23]. It is equally important for us to

remember that all saints, whether living or dead will be glorified together [Heb.11:40]. Furthermore, it is necessary at this point to quickly show us how every saint [both dead and alive] will be glorified.

The dead saints will return with the Lord Jesus at the time of the rapture and they shall attain glorification by resurrection [1Thes.4:15-16, 1Cor.15:52]. The living saints at the time of the rapture shall attain glorification by translation [1Thes.4:17-18, 1Cor.15:51-54].

Definition of glorification

However, a simple definition is this:

Glorification is the perfection of our salvation [1Pet.1:4-5, Rom.13:11], where we will be transformed from mortality to immortality [1Cor.15:52-54], sharing forever the same nature [Jn.3:6-7, 31; Jn.8:23, Jn.17:14, 16], image [Rom.8:29, 1Cor.15:49], splendor [2Cor.4:17, Rom.8:18] and majesty [Rev.2:26-27; 3:21] of our risen Lord.

It is the state of eternal perfection of the human race [1Cor.13:12 AMP, Phil.3:21], where humanity blends into divinity [2Cor.5:4, 1Cor.15:43-44, 51], all of which is fully expressed in the God-Man, the Lord Jesus Christ [Lk.24:31-43, Rev.1:12-17], of which His transfiguration is a shadow [Matt.17:1-3].

You may wonder, when we are glorified, what are we going to look like? A most poignant answer that summarizes everything is this: **WE SHALL BE AND LOOK LIKE HIM** [i.e. our Lord Jesus Christ. See 1Jn.3:1-2] When the Lord arose from the dead, the disciples saw Him and they were amazed.

They were hiding in a locked room, yet He appeared in their midst but he was not ethereal like a ghost, He has a body that can be touched. Moreso, He even ate in their presence [Lk.24:36-43, Acts 1:3-4]!

He kept appearing to them for the next forty days, discussing with them things that pertains to the kingdom of God [Acts 1:3] and He ascended in their presence [Acts 1:9]; yet, this is not the fullness of His revelation of the grandeur, splendor, dignity and

majesty He possesses; of which we will share when we are glorified!

By the time He revealed Himself to John the divine in Revelation chapter 1, His description was very close to what the disciples witnessed on the mount of Transfiguration [Compare Matt.17:2 with Rev.1:12-17].

A closer look at the Transfiguration

Matt.17:1-9, Lk.9:29-36

We said earlier that the Transfiguration is a shadow of the glory, majesty, power and splendor the Lord Jesus will exhibit when He comes to set up His Kingdom.

Remember that His face and clothing was transformed powerfully; this corresponds with what the Lord said about when He returns in power, majesty and great glory to establish His Kingdom. [Matt.16:27, Matt.24:30, Matt.25:31, 2Thes.2:8].

Moses and Elijah also appeared in glory to discuss with Him [Lk.9:30-31]. Moses is a representative of

all the dead saints who will attain glorification by resurrection [Matthew 13:43; Luke 9:30-31] and Elijah is a representative of all the living saints who will attain glorification by translation [1 Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17].

The three disciples who witnessed this great event (Peter, James and John were later sent as the Apostles to Israel, see Gal.2:8-9) are representative of Israel [in the flesh] in the coming Kingdom [Ezekiel 37:21-27].

(Especially since they were natural men at this time and more importantly because the Lord Jesus promised that His twelve apostles will rule the twelve tribes of Israel forever in the coming kingdom. See Matt.19:28, Lk.22:29-30)

The multitude of at the foot of the mountain [Matt.17:14] represents the gentile nations that will be brought into the kingdom after it is established, with Israel as the head of the nations forever [Isa.2:2-4].

After we are glorified, then shall the weight of scriptures like Dan.12:3 and Matt.13:43 become clear to us forever for we shall see Him and we shall be exactly like our Elder Brother, the Lord Jesus! [1Jn.3:1-2, Rom.8:29] Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE HEIRS ENTHRONED AS KINGS

VII

Why does God feel it is not enough for us to just be ordinary citizens of the kingdom? Why does He go as far as to plan to enthrone us as kings?

a. Our Father is the Everlasting King

[Jer.10:10]

The Father, into whose family we were born is an everlasting king [Ps.93:1-2, Ps.145:11-13, 1Tim.1:17]. The child born to a millionaire is a millionaire by INHERITANCE. In the same way, those born into royal families are royalty BY BIRTH [Jn.1:12, 1Jn.3:1-2]. Thus, being born into the most important family in the universe, we are royalty

ourselves since our family is the peak of all royal families indeed, our family is the definition of royalty [1 Chron.29:11-12, Matt.6:13, 2Chron.20:6, Rev.4:10-11].

**b. Our Elder Brother is the King of kings
and the Lord of lords**
[Rev.19:16]

In more than one occasion, the Lord Jesus and the apostles made it very clear in scripture that He is our Elder Brother [Matt.12:47-50, Matt.28:10, Rom.8:29, Heb.2:11-17]; the essence of saving us is to bring back the erring younger son into the family he has forfeited by rebellion [remember that the Bible clearly referred to Adam as Gods son; see Lk.3:38.

Also, the Lord Jesus is the Elder between Him and Adam even though Adam is referred to as the first Adam. He is the elder among the two because He has always been eternal, having no beginning [Jn.1:1-2, 1Jn.1:1-3] and He made Adam. See Col.1:16-17].

Therefore, if your brother rules over all kings and all lords, if He is the ruler over all the kings of the earth [Rev.1:5]; and He Himself said you will share in His rulership [Rev.2:26-27, Rev.3:21] then you are obviously a king [Rev.5:10, Dan.7:14, 27]! Joseph ruled Egypt during the great famine, no wonder his brothers didnt suffer from lack of food when they came to join him!

**c. Adoption as sons confers royal
dignity on us [Gal.4:5]**

The term adoption in the original language never meant going to an orphanage and adopting an orphan. In the original context of the Word, it is actually a legal event with full public acknowledgment, where a wealthy adult purchases another person, normally younger, from his former family and gives him the position and privilege of a son born in his household [such that he now bears the name of the new father] with the sole aim of making him his heir under law. The new son will publicly declare his new name, status and allegiance

to his new father [Jn.1:12, Gal.3:29].

When Jesus died for us, God our father used that event to be the means by which he legally purchased us to become His own peculiar property [Eph.1:5, Rom.8:15]; He did this to give us the position of sons [Gal.4:5-7], so that we can be His heirs [1Pet.1:4, Col.1:12, Eph.1:11], and sharing all the inheritance of His son, the Lord Jesus [Heb.1:2, Matt.28:18, Col.1:16]. Thus, by being adopted [or as it is in the original language, by being placed as sons], we have royal dignity conferred on us [2Cor.4:17].

**d. Our Inheritance includes kingly dignity,
majesty and authority**
[Rom.5:17]

The person who adopted us as sons is the Everlasting King of eternity. He told us clearly that He has reserved His possessions as inheritance for us. He sits on a throne and His kingdom rules over all [Ps.103:19, Ps.83:18]; Our inheritance, which is confirmed by a will [Heb.9:15-17] includes kingly

dignity, majesty and authority [Rom.8:17, Gal.4:5-7, Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10, Dan.7:18, 22, 27]. Thus, if truly we have received this inheritance which becomes ours by the right of redemption [Jn.1:12], then enjoying the benefits and blessings included in the will of the inheritance should not come as a surprise to us!

e. We are joint-heirs with He who owns and rules all things [Matt.28:18]

The Lord Jesus, the Firstborn son of the Living God is the actual heir of all things [Heb.1:2]. Now, God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity planned in love for us to be joint-heirs [or joint-owners. See Eph.1:5, 11, 13-14] of all that the Lord Jesus, God the Word now owns, having died for us and risen from the dead to be the rightful possessor of all things!

We may need to explain more on this a son of God [Adam] forfeited his place in the kingdom through

rebellion against God, his own father, thus he lost his place in the kingdom and ruined the future prospects of his own descendants the rest of the human race [Rom.3:23, 1Cor.15:22].

Another son of God [Jesus Christ, as far as His humanity is concerned] paid a dreadful cost to bring back the descendants of the rebellious son back into the family, that all may not be lost and so that the initial plan and purpose of God to have a family of His own may yet be realized [Eph.1:5, 11].

Thus, if we are joint-heirs with our Elder brother and He has by inheritance received all things [Heb.1:2, Matt.28:18, Phil.2:9-11], then it is not far-fetched to admit that kingly dignity will be conferred on us as co-rulers of the age to come [Rom.8:17]!

**f. Day to day administration of the Universal
Kingdom requires it [Dan.4:3]**

Holy angels, as mighty and as loyal as they are, were principally created as serving spirits, sent forth to serve us, who will inherit salvation [Heb.1:13-14,

Ps.34:7, Ps.91:11-12, Dan.10:11, Matt.2:13, Acts 5:19, Acts 27:23-24]. The Bible says: For God never said to any of his angels, **"You are my Son; today I have become your Father."** Nor did God say about any angel, **"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son."** Heb.1:5 [GNB] Yet, God who said these things about the Lord Jesus also says the same thing to every human being who believes in Jesus as his Lord and personal savior [2Cor.6:18, Hos.1:10, Jer.3:19].

Thus, since angels have their own preplanned position as ministers [or officials] of the coming kingdom, the rulers in this kingdom will be the brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus who will rule as kings, queens and priests, ably supported by angels [1Cor.6:2-3, Heb.2:5-8]. Moreso, the Lord didn't take the nature of angels and neither did He redeem the angels that fell [Heb.2:16] He took the nature of the sons of Adam [Heb.2:14], that in all things He might be like us His brethren [Heb.2:17].

He became the First resurrected and glorified Man,

blending His humanity [as to the flesh-1Tim.2:5] with His Divinity [i.e. His original place as God the Word, the Second Person of the Trinity-Jn.1:1-4]. It is this very nature He has now that we will share [Phil.3:21, 1Jn.3:2], which makes us infinitely superior to all classes of angels [Heb.2:7-8].

g. It is the eternal purpose of God that He purposed for us in love before the foundation of the world [Eph.1:11]

That we are going to be children of God, sharing all things with His Son and being the very members of His family is not an afterthought. Instead, it is the very purpose of God, planned by Him before the ages of time or even before the earth was created [Eph.1:5].

Our Father is not fickle. He is not one who plans and will not carry out His plans [Num.23:19]. The whole business of redemption was preplanned as an effective means of returning man back to God in case Adam, who was given free will, falls [Eph.1:4]. Thus,

that we will rule with Him is consistent with the eternal plan of God to be a Father over His own family eternally [Eph.1:5, 11, 13-14].

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE HEIRS APPOINTED AS A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

VIII

A priest is a divinely ordained person whose primary responsibility is to represent God before people and represent people before God [Mal.2:7, Deut.17:8-11, Deut.21:5].

There are certain facts connected to the priesthood of the saints in the coming Kingdom that we need to closely study.

a. In the Theocratic kingdom, Priesthood and Kingship offices are combined in the same persons.

Since the Head of this Church and government is God Himself, it follows that the administration of the kingdom will have to be both civil and religious.

Government officials must of necessity be people who are capable of relating directly with God as His representatives to the people and as the peoples representatives to God [Deut.17:8-12, Mal.2:7, Deut.21:5, Neh.8:2-8] and they must equally be capable of ruling in absolute righteousness.

We were promised kingship in direct conjunction with priesthood [Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10, Rev.20:6, 1Pet.2:9]. In the wisdom of God, this will produce a perfect combination of spiritual authority with efficient enforcement of law and order in the eternal kingdom.

We must also remember that the Lord Jesus is returning to rule both as the King and the Priest [Rev.19:16, Heb.7:15-17, 21; Heb.8:1-2], and Melchizedek, King of Salem and Priest of the Most High God is a shadow of the Lord Jesus in this regard [Gen.14:18, Heb.6:20]; therefore, we His saints and co-heirs who will share in His kingship [Rev.2:26, Rev.5:10] will equally share in His priesthood [1Pet.2:9].

b. Just as every first-born in Israel is supposed to be consecrated into the priesthood, the church of the Firstborn will serve as priests in the coming kingdom.

When Israel left Egypt after the final plague that claimed the firstborn of the Egyptians, the Lord said that every firstborn in Israel is His, each is supposed to be consecrated to the priesthood, serving as priests of God who wiped out the Egyptian firstborn children and preserved their Israelite firstborn counterparts.

Thus, the Lord took the tribe of Levi to be priests, yet He didn't relinquish His claim on every Firstborn in Israel [Num. 3:12-13; Num. 3:40; Num. 3:51; Num. 18:15; Ex. 13:12-13; Ex. 34:19-20; Num. 8:17-19]. Also, before the appointment of the Levites, the firstborn of every family, the fathers, the judges and the kings were priests. Thus, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Job, Jacob, Samuel, David etc all offered sacrifices [see Gen. 8:20, Gen. 12:7-8, Gen. 26:25, Gen. 33:20, Job 1:5, 1 Sam. 7:17,

2Sam.6:13].

The following are the privileges of the firstborn Son in Israel:

- I. They were peculiarly given and consecrated to God [Ex.22:29, Ex.13:2]
- ii. They stood next in honour to their parents [Gen.49:3, Deut.21:17]
- iii. They had a double portion of paternal inheritance [Gen.25:5-6, 1Chron.5:1-2]
- iv. They succeeded their parents in the government of the family or kingdom [2Chron.21:3, Gen.25:5-6, Gen.28:25-29]
- v. They were honoured with the office of priesthood and the administration of the public worship of God [Num.3:2, Ex.6:23, Ex.28:1-2].

We should also be aware that the phrase firstborn was used to denote one who is particularly near and dear to his father [Ex.4:22], and higher than his brethren [Gen.49:26, 1Chron.5:2] and it typically pointed to Christ [Rom.8:29] and all true of all Christians who, as joint-heirs with Him, constitute

the Church of the Firstborn, registered in heaven [Heb.12:23].

It is in view of this that Esau was called a profane person when he despised his birthright, as what he despised was the spiritual or priestly benefit attached to the right of the firstborn [Gen.25:32, 34; Heb.12:16-17; compare with Gen.26:34-35, Gen.27:46 & Gen.28:6-9]. In the Age of ages, the Church of the Firstborn, as joint inheritors with the Lord Jesus, sharing in all His privileges and possessions [Rev.3:21, Rev.2:26-27], will serve as priests along with our Firstborn, our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ [Rev.1:6, Rev.6:10, 1Pet.2:9].

c. Priests in Bible-times were charged to teach Gods laws and to act as civil judges, their verdicts, final. It will be the same in the coming kingdom.

The purity of a theocratic kingdom will necessitate the need for priests of God, who even under this present world system, already act as judges, to

occupy the position of subordinates to the King and executors or enactors of His will [Mal.2:7, Deut.17:8-13, Deut.33:10].

When the law shall go forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem [Isa.2:3], then this incoming dispensation shall bring new revelations of Gods will and a renewed ordering [Isa.65:17]; we, these priests, the Church of the Firstborn, shall be the grand medium by which it is communicated [1Pet.2:5, 9; Isa.61:6, Rev.20:6]. For, the Lord gave the Word: great was the company of them that proclaim it [Ps.68:11].

More so, since the priests acted as judges in civil matters in the previous economy under the Law of Moses [Deut.17:8-13], which is a shadow of things to come; thus it is fitting to note that, though they have principal priestly duties, they equally have civil responsibilities. Thus, they were Ministers of both Church and State. It will be the same in the Kingdom to come [Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10, Rev.20:4, 6].

Also noteworthy is the fact that the ancient priests

were distributed through the territories of Israel [Josh.21:13-19, Neh.8:7-8] so as to promote law and order. The High Priest dwelt perpetually at Jerusalem and from here the priesthood radiated to the very boundary of the nation to exalt law, order and peace. They were inseparably bound to the state, seeing that all their honour, interests and station were bound up with it. Thus, they were not only priests but equally civil magistrates.

Conclusively, the wisdom of God is shown forth in this: this priesthood is not given to sinful, weak, fallible and mortal men, as the Aaronic priesthood was [see Heb.5:1-3, Heb.9:1-10, Lev.16:1-34]; instead it is given to holy, infallible and glorified men [1Pet.2:9, Rev.1:6, Rev.5:10] who will serve in absolute faithfulness forever as ministers of God and of His political Kingdom forever [Rev.21:7, Rev.2:26-27].

d. There will be gradations of ranks, dignity and order in this priesthood just as high priests, priests and Levites are different orders in the Levitical priesthood.

Under the old order, there were different strata in the priesthood like the High Priests [Ex.28:1, Heb.5:1, 4, Num.3:10], the officiating priests at the altar [Num.3:3-4, Lk.1:8-9, 23] and the different types of Levitical assistants [Num.3:5-9, Num.4:1-49]; following the judgment of the saints at the Judgment seat of Christ and the non-uniformity of rewards [1Cor.3:11-15, 2Cor.5:9-10]; we are certain that just as there are different gradations in the station, rank and reward of kingship, it will be the same in the priesthood [Rev.7:13-14; Rev.14:1-4].

e. All these priests were prepared by previous training. They have been tested, tried and sanctified through suffering in the flesh.

Just as our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus suffered temptations and trials and they were needful and essential for His full and perfect development in order to qualify as our High Priest (Heb.5:6-10, Heb.2:9-11, Heb.4:15), the glorified saints also would have, in this present passing world suffered so many things before passing on into glory.

The afflictions, sufferings, tribulations of this present time of our days in the flesh are but ample opportunities for training for future use in the eternal kingdom. Thus, these glorified saints, as Priests of God, through redemptive grace and power actually experienced in suffering while here on earth in this present age would bind them to the King with a love so devoted and intense, so supreme and overwhelming that the interests and glory of the Church and State united in the Theocracy will be perfectly safe in their hands.

Also, because in most of our current sufferings, the Holy Bible constantly exhorts us to view and regard our present trials as preparative for future use (Heb.12:1-13, James 1:2-4, James 1:12, 1Pet.1:6-13, Matt.5:12); the glorified saints as Priests will therefore be, like our Lord Jesus, sympathetic Priests...this is particularly due to their past experiences, indebtedness to God, elevation by grace and completeness in Christ; all of these working together will make the priests specially accessible to the nations and will cause them to have

a deep interest in the welfare and happiness of all.

f. This priesthood will be free from all physical blemishes like the ancient priests; being in the image of the Lord, they will be clad in a royal, magnificent manner.

None of the House or family of Aaron and the Levites could serve as priest or even levitical assistants as long as there is a physical bodily defect in them [Lev.21:17-20]. It is only males free of all bodily defect that could be acceptable for service [Heb.9:14].

In the same way, the saints could perfectly be fitted for priesthood, having been glorified (Eph.5:25-27), either through resurrection [1Thes.4:13-16] or through translation [1Cor.15:51-54, 1Thes.4:17-18]; they will look every inch like their Elder Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ (1Jn.3:1-2); thus, their personal appearance, beautiful and splendid, will genuinely bestow on them the sanctity of Priests and the dignity of kings since these Priests have their

"..vile bodies fashioned like unto the body of His glory." (Phil.3:21)

Just like the clothing of the ancient Priests was for glory and for beauty (Ex.28:2-3, 41), we know that these Priests will be clad in a royal, magnificent manner, as an evidence of their high station and an evidence of their authority in the sight of the nations (Rev.3:4, Rev.4:4, Rev.7:9, Rev.19:14). As the Lord Jesus is represented in His glorified condition, so His associated Priests will likewise appear, even to their clothing. (Matt.7:1-2, Rev.1:12-17; 1Jn.3:1-3, Rom.8:29-30)

g. This priesthood consists of saints who would have been glorified like the Lord Jesus, are therefore far superior to angels.

As it is recorded in scriptures, all the angelic orders (principalities, powers, might, dominions, archangels, cherubim, seraphim and other creatures that dwells in heaven simply known as Living Beings) will learn the complicated many-sided

wisdom of God from the church, not only in this age, but more particularly in the Age to Come. (See Eph.3:10 AMP, 1Pet.1:12 MSG, TVB)

Being glorified and fashioned after the image and likeness of the Firstborn, the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lord Jesus Christ, these priests will be far superior to all angelic orders (Heb.2:10-12, 14-17 AMP, PHILLIPS, NJB, TVB, GOGIC, ERV; Phil.3:21, Col.1:15-16, 2Pet.1:4) in splendour (Phil.3:21, Isa.60:1-3, 1Cor.15:40-53), position (Eph.2:4-7, Eph.1:20-21), power (1Cor.6:2-3, Lk.22:28-30, Rom.8:17-18, Rev.21:7), rank and dignity (Rev.1:6, Rev.4:2-4, Rev.5:10, Rev.20:4).

Beyond our initial study on the saints as glorified beings, we need to pay a more detailed attention to the eternal blessed state of the redeemed. Since these Priests are glorified beings, neither space or physical obstructions could ever prevent their ministrations.

Having spiritual bodies, fashioned in the exact

likeness of that of the Lord Jesus (Phil.3:21, 1Jn.3:2, 1Cor.15:49), now in His glory, they will be able to assume visibility or invisibility at will (Lk.24:28-31, Lk.24:33-39, Mk.16:9-14), they will be capable of visiting great distances with ease and speed (Jn.20:17-19).

Having become perfected through glorification, they will be able to discern the very heart and be capable of reading minds, yet none will be able to read their own minds (Jn.2:23-25, 1Cor.2:15-16), they will be able to know deeply the requirements and necessities of their subjects, thus pressing wants or needs cannot be concealed from them and neither can deception be practice's upon them.

This future endowment with glorification will give these Priests the power of transporting themselves at will like Christ and the angels (Lk.24:50, Acts 1:9-11, Dan.10:2-7, Rev.19:11-14), capability of assuming different appearances at pleasure (Mk.16:12, Lk.24:15-16, Jn.20:13-16, Jn.21:1-14), ability to appear in glory or veiling their glory

(Matt.17:1-9, Lk.24:36-40), power to have all elements under their control (Jn.21:3-6), ability to open doors or entering without opening as Christ and the angels do (Lk.24:36-37, Acts 12:4-10), ability of eating and drinking with men (Lk.24:41-43, Jn.21:9-13), ability never again to age (1Cor.15:51-53, Phil.3:21), be sick, grow old, be weak, tired or diseased (Rev.21:3-5) etc.

**h. This priesthood, consisting glorified saints
from every age, race, tongue, language
and nation will form one body
with Jesus Christ**

Currently on earth, the visible church is not one body, as the Master prayed and envisioned it to be because of our crass pride, carnality, foolishness, inferiority complex and empty arrogance...

Ancient and contemporary church history is filled with too many sad stories of division, heresy, party spirit, denominationalism and excommunications. But in the Age to Come and in the Age of Ages, the prayer of our Master regarding oneness will be fully

and amply realized (Jn.17:11, 21-23). This is because these Priests will be filled and controlled with the same Spirit, interest and principle.

This oneness will be so remarkable because it is not only consisting of people who are "gathered out of all nations and kindred and people and tongues" (Rev.7:9) but it also consists of all saints who have lived down through the ages from the time of Adam till the end of the tribulation...(Heb.11:13-16, 40) Imagine Queen Esther taking a walk with King David and John the Baptist...imagine Noah and Nehemiah, the Apostle Paul, Watchman Nee and yourself chatting nearby as King David and company walks past! (1Thes.4:13-18)

****Ah! Woe is me if I 'dwell in Kedar's tent! No place like that on high, Lord thither guide my way!***

Think dear reader, of how refreshing it will be, of that Eternal period when we shall associate with the saints of old and enjoy their acquaintance...union with Christ, kingship and priesthood, will be a sufficient introduction to an eternal fellowship and

**culled from the hymn: Jerusalem on High, last verses of the 3rd stanza.*

intimacy! (Heb.12:1)

i. They will lead the nations in the worship of the King with music and singing.

This priesthood will certainly exhibit the praises of God and of His Christ by singing and music. The Holy Writ is filled with testimonies of this reality. They enter into the Theocratic Kingdom singing (Isa.35:10, Isa.51:11, Ps.105:43), and once they are in, they continue to sing (Rev.5:8-10), their singing will equally inspire others to sing and worship the Lord! (Ps.66:1-4).

From the mention of harps in the last book of the Bible, it is evident that music will accompany these Priests; music has comforted, charmed, cheered and elevated the souls of men all through time...in mere mortal hands, music has inspired devotion, thrilled the heart and aroused deepest feelings in men...can we imagine therefore what will it be when glorified hands play the golden harps and glorified lips sing melodies of praises on the matchless work of

redemption?

Scriptures tells us that these Priests have the harps of God (Rev.15:2, Rev.5:8, Rev.14:2) and they were singing the new song (Rev.14:3, Rev.5:9, Ps.33:3), the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (Rev.15:3) and so on...

The highest efforts of the past will be nothing compared to the exquisite skill, enchanting voices and the tender, enabling and sublime utterances of these harpers and singers...they will not only lead praise and worship of New Jerusalem but they will equally prophesy will stringed instruments like the priests of old (1Chron.25:1-3, 1Sam.10:5) when they visit families and individuals, ravishing them with the delightful and Heavenly melodies of experienced redemption!

**j. Their immensity in number will signify the
majesty of the King and the extent of His
dominion.**

There will be at least hundreds of millions of glorified saints, (if we are not up to billions, all of

whom have lived down the long ages of man. See Rev.7:9-17, Dan.7:10, Rev.5:11) The majesty of this Theocracy, it's powerful and extensive world-wide dominion, will be exhibited most impressively to the nations by the number of glorified king-priests that serves the Lord and are rulers under his dominion.

Now, since all the glorified beings are saints, imagine how Holy, powerful, pure, just and righteous the Lord God and His theocratic Kingdom will appear to the natural men who will live in the Kingdom forever...(Deut.33:2, Ps.68:17, Zech.14:5, Jude 1:14, Heb.12:22-23).

CHAPTER NINE

THE KINGDOM & ITS PRISONS

*Eternal punishment in relation
to the Kingdom of God*

IX

Everyone will enter into the Kingdom of God, but it is entirely a matter of personal choice (Deut.30:19, Josh.24:15, Mk.16:16), where each of us will be, eternally: Will you choose the Palace (Rev.3:21, Matt.25:34, Rev.21:7) or would you choose the prison (Matt.25:41, Rev.14:9-11, Rev.20:10-15)?

There is no country on earth where there are no prisons (eg. Egypt- Gen.39:20, Israel- Jer.37:15-16, Babylon- Jer.52:11), it is the same with the Eternal Kingdom (Matt.13:41-42 AMP, Rev.14:11). Prisons have been maintained, even before the creation of Adam (i.e. immediately after the rebellion of Lucifer and his angels, see Matt.25:41)

and also a few hundred years after the fall of man, when the fallen angels came in to the daughters of men in the days of Noah. Gen. 6:1-4; compare with Jude 1:6 and 2Pet.2:4.

Theologically, we do not consider the eternal prison an actual part of the Eternal Kingdom basically because of the stark difference between the bliss to come (for saints) and the wrath to come for unbelievers (those who refuse the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. see 2Thes.1:8-9, Rom.2:4-6, 8-9). In fact, the palaces of New Jerusalem and the restored earth are a direct and absolute opposite to the doom, gloom, terror, horror and utter torture and torments of the Lake of Fire...(please compare Rev.21:1-end, Rev.22:1-7 with Rev.20:10, Rev.14:9-11, Lk.16:23-28, Mk.9:43-49, Matt.25:41, 46)

1. THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRISONS IN THE KINGDOM

In order for us not to make mistakes and enter into error, it is important that we understand the

different types of prisons under the authority of the Almighty. Even the very word hell, does not refer to one single place, and this is evident in the agreement of all the original languages. First of all, hell is not the grave, since it is only dead human bodies that are buried in graves but the souls and spirits of dead people go to Hell (or the world of the departed spirits).

The word hell in English is translated as Sheol in Hebrew and hades in Greek. The word primarily mean: The world of the departed spirits. Thus, in this hell or sheol or hades, there are compartments (if we could call them as such) and they are explained in detail below:

A. PRISONS IN THIS PRESENT TIME

We categorize the prisons here as present prisons because they relate primarily with this present age (or time).

I. Tartarus

This is a special prison where fallen angels who went

after strange flesh are imprisoned (i.e. angels who lusted after human women in Genesis 6:4, married them and gave birth to a hybrid of giants). During and after the flood of Noah, these fallen angels (who were also part of the original group that fell with Lucifer) were very active in a bid to completely pollute the human race so that the promised redemption will become impossible.

When they were rounded up, they were chained in tartarus, in deep darkness (2Pet.2:4, Jude 1:6-7), which is located in the nether-parts of the earth (2Pet.2:4). It is a place of darkness and fire. These fallen angels will remain there, under punishment (2Pet.2:9), until the final judgement. No human being is imprisoned in Tartarus, it is exclusively a prison for these perverted fallen angels, under Satan the devil.

Tartarus is one of the places the Lord Jesus visited in hades, between His death on the Cross and His resurrection, in order to proclaim and announce His matchless victory over the devil, as the Lord

Potentate of the heavens, earth and hades, to these fallen angels in prison (1Pet.3:19, Acts 2:27).

ii. The Abyss (The Bottomless Pit)

This is the prison of demons and certain fallen angelic beings (Rev.9:2, 11), it will be satan's prison during the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth (Rev.20:1-7). It is a depthless, immeasurable chasm that is also known as the bottomless pit (Rev.9:1-3, 11; Rev.17:8) or the Deep (Lk.8:30-31, Rom.10:7).

It is equally located in the lower parts of the earth, just like Tartarus (Rev.11:7), and it evokes a deep and hysterical fear in demons (Lk.8:30-31; Matt.8:28, 31). Please note that demons are primarily different from fallen angels, in the sense that demons are disembodied spirits and they are lower than angels (see Acts 23:8-9).

This Bottomless Pit equally has a key and a form of gate or massive door (Rev.9:2; Rev.20:1-3, 7). Whoever is locked in cannot come out, except the

door or gate is opened from outside (Rev.9:1-3, Rev.20:1-3, 7). This key is in the possession of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev.1:18, Rev.3:7, Matt.28:18).

iii. Paradise (Abraham's Bosom)

This is the place of confinement of every righteous soul from Abel till the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Before the Lord Jesus came to rescue humanity, it is paradise in hell (i.e. the world of the departed spirits) that the souls and spirits of righteous people go once they are separated from their bodies in death (Lk.23:43).

This is also known as Abraham's Bosom, since the wicked rich man saw Lazarus afar off in that place of comfort, bliss and rest and he equally saw Father Abraham standing by Lazarus, who was well dressed and comforted while the rich man himself was in torments in hell fire (Lk.16:19-31).

We call this paradise also a place of confinement because all the righteous souls held here were held captive by the devil against their will (Heb.2:14-15,

Eph.4:7-10). Remember that the devil had the power of hell and death before the Lord Jesus conquered him and seized that power from his hands (Col.2:14-17, Rev.1:18). It is also located in the depth of the earth (Eph.4:8-9, Matt.12:40).

However, it is currently empty as the Lord Jesus released and led all the righteous souls there to heaven when He rose from the dead (Eph.4:8,). It is also important to mention that it is this paradise that the Lord Jesus and the thief crucified on His right hand went to on the day the Lord died on the Cross (Lk.23:43).

Since His resurrection, all righteous souls that die now go to paradise in heaven (2Cor.5:8, Phil.1:21-23, Heb.12:23) to await their eternal rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ, when they will be judged alongside the rest of us believers after the First Resurrection (2Cor.5:9-10 AMP, 1Cor.3:11-15).

iv. Hell Fire

Dante was right in his book, *Inferno*, to have the sign over hell's gate read: "Abandon all hope, ye who

enter here." Sarte was also right to call his play about Hell: No Exit. This is because no soul that enters this place will ever again be saved as he awaits eternal judgement at the at Judgement Day...

This is the current prison where wicked and unbelieving people are kept after physical death (Lk.16:19-31). It is a place of terrible suffering, with fire that keeps burning the souls and spirits of the lost souls, without even a minute of respite or rest (Lk.16:23-25, 28; Ps.9:17).

Yet, they are only held here under punishment in that awful, fiery fire temporarily (2Pet.2:9, 2Pet.3:7), until the judgement day at the Second Resurrection, when all the wicked dead from Cain till the last rebel who will join Satan to rebel again against God after his release from the Abyss; will be brought out of hell, raised from the dead, made to stand trial for their sins and then sentenced to eternal damnation and doom (Rev.20:11-15, Dan.12:2,).

This current prison of damned souls is under the

management of a fallen angel simply known as Hell or Hades (i.e. the angel in charge of the world of the departed spirits, see Rev.20:13-14, Rev.6:8); he and the angel of death, would be stripped of their power at the Great White Throne Judgment and also be condemned to the Lake of Fire forever (Rev.20:14, 1Cor.15:26, 1Cor.15:54-55). In attempting to differentiate Hell Fire from the Lake of Fire, we will liken Hell Fire to a police cell, where a suspect is kept in police custody until he is arraigned in court.

Thus, despite the horrors and tortures of hell, where God keeps the lost sinner under punishment until the judgement of that Great Day (2Pet.2:9, Lk.16:19-31), its suffering is nothing, compared to the torture, torments, terrors, horrors, gloom, doom and ruin of the Lake of Fire, the eternal place of confinement for all angelic, demonic and human rebels, where they will be tortured day and night forever and ever...(Rev.14:9-11, Rev.20:10, Matt.25:41,46).

B. ETERNAL PRISON FOR ALL CLASSES OF REBELS IN THE AGE OF AGES

The Lake of Fire

(The Second or Eternal Death)

This is the final doom, destination and prison of all lost souls, all demons and all fallen angels, where they will be tortured and tormented perpetually for all eternity (Rev.20:10, Matt.25:41, 46; Rev.20:12-15)... It is equally the final prison for the Antichrist and his false prophet (Rev.19:20, Rev.20:10). It is primarily a place of Eternal torment and Eternal separation from God where the unrepentant will suffer forever (Rev.20:15, Mk.16:16 AMP, Jn.3:18 AMP).

It is presently uninhabited, although it's fires rages even now (Deut.32:22, Matt.25:41, Matt.8:28-29). It will come into full use from the casting of the Antichrist and his False Prophet into it (Rev.19:20), then followed by Satan the devil, his angels and demons 1000 years later (Rev.20:10, Isa.24:21-22

TLB,), and then sinful men (1Cor.6:9-10), who are currently held in Hell (Lk.16:19-31), whose bodies would be raised from the dead to face the White Throne judgement (Rev.20:11-13), from whence they will be sentenced to the Eternal fire (Rev.20:15), the Lake of Fire, which is also known as the Second Death (or the second or Eternal separation from God, after Adam became separated from Him, after he led the whole human race astray by his sin. See 1Cor.15:22, Rom.3:23, Ps.51:5, Jn.3:6, Job 14:4).

There, they will all be tortured and tormented, living in undescrivable agony day and night, forever and ever...and the smoke of their torment ascends for ever, they will have no rest from their punishment, either day or night, forever and ever...(Rev. 14:9-11, Matt.25:41)

Why the Lake of Fire is worse than Hell Fire...

i. Hell Fire is a temporary place of punishment (2Pet.2:9, Job 21:30, Rev.20:12-13), but the Lake of

Fire is a permanent place of punishment (Rev.20:15, Rev.14:10-11, Matt.25:46).

ii. Only the souls and spirits of unsaved men and women go to Hell Fire (Lk.16:22-23, Isa.14:9); it is the total man- body, soul and spirit of the unsaved (after being resurrected from the dead, see Dan.12:2, Rev.20:12-13) that enters the Lake of Fire (Isa.66:24, Mk.9:43-49, Rev.14:9-11).

iii. Hell Fire is a place of punishment where all unsaved souls are reserved before their final judgement (2Pet.2:9, Rev.20:13); the Lake of Fire is the place of punishment where doomed and damned are sentenced to after they have been judged (Rev.20:15, Dan.12:2).

iv. In Hell Fire, the level of torture and torment, though terrible beyond human comprehension, is still a general punishment (i.e. the punishment is uniform for all the inmates. See Lk.16:22-23, 28; Job 21:30, 2Pet.2:9); in the Lake of Fire however, the torture, torments, terrors and horrors are specific

and personal, as Divine Retribution is exactly in accordance to what a man has done and how he has lived...(this means Eternal punishment is not uniform, every lost soul will be punished and tormented exactly in proportion to what he had done. See Rev.20:12-13, Ps.28:4, Jer.32:19, Gal.6:7-8)

v. The least fiery place a person can be confined to in the Lake of Fire is worse than the highest level of tortures in Hell Fire... Compare Rev.14:9-11, Matt.25:41,46; Rev.20:10,15 with Lk.16:19-31.

vi. There are no worms in Hell Fire, however, there will be fat, loathsome parasitic worms in the Lake of Fire, which will prey on the doomed inhabitants forever (Mk.9:44,46,48). These worms are such that cannot die and as the fires are torturing the lost souls, these worms will equally be gnawing at them respectively (Isa.66:24).

It is equally important to mention that these physical worms will not be alone in the torment of

the damned...as there are external, loathsome, parasitic worms, so also will there be that internal, unquenchable and undying gnawing worm known as the conscience (Prov.20:27 TLB, GNB) will always, faithfully point to all the choices, decisions and steps that the damned person has made and taken that finally led him to the place of Eternal punishment, by constantly calling upon the memory to bring up evidences of opportunities lost in order to witness against the same person that he is solely responsible for his own damnation (Job 14:22, Matt.13:42).

Here on earth, the conscience speaks only at intervals... there, it will speak without interruption and at every time (1Tim.4:2, Rom.2:15). Here on earth, the sinner could successfully stifle his conscience by other businesses, amusement, sophisticated arguments, opiates and hard drugs but there, in the Lake of Fire, there will be no means of silencing the conscience as it keeps pointing to the reasons why the soul in question has come to such a sad, unalterable and doomed end... (Isa.59:10-15)

The conscience will see everything in the light of eternity and it will speak out, continually protesting, eternally heaping all the blame on the soul himself: "I have gravely offended the Holy and Loving God, I have neglected my only Saviour, I have lost entry into New Jerusalem, I am perpetually stuck in this awful place of torments..." The conscience will keep saying over and over again, even as the physical, loathsome worms are gnawing away at his ever burning body in that unquenchable fire, forever...

2. CLASSES OF BEINGS TO BE JUDGED AND PUNISHED ETERNALLY

a. Fallen Angels: Satan and his angels (Matt.25:41, Isa.24:21-22 TLB, NIRV, Rev.20:10).

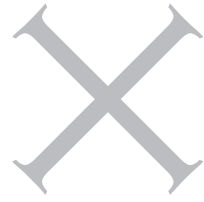
b. Demons: (Matt.8:29, Lk.8:31, Mk.5:6-8, Lk.4:34).

c. Sinful humans: The Antichrist, the false prophet and every sinner from the time of Adam till the end

of Satans final rebellion. (Rev.19:20, Rev.20:8-10,
Rev.20:11-15)

CHAPTER NINE

THE DOOM, GLOOM & TORMENTS OF THE LOST



**JUST LIKE ETERNAL REWARDS, ETERNAL
RETRIBUTION IS ACCORDING TO WHAT
A PERSON HAS DONE.**

No one would be punished more than or less than what his sins deserve (Gal.6:7)...yet, a single minute in the Lake of Fire is indescribably unbearable (Rev.21:8, Rev.14:10-11)...and it is such that you cannot wish, even upon whoever is your worst enemy.

Yet, condemned and lost men will burn in the same fire that will torture Satan and his fallen angels...and that, forever...(Matt.25:41, 46; Rev.20:10, 14-15)

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ETERNAL RETRIBUTIONS FOR THE WICKED...

a. Everlasting torture [torment]

Lk.16:23, 24, 28; Rev.14:10-11, Rev.20:10,11-15, Mal.4:1 .Without being helped by the Holy Spirit, all human languages that we attempt to use to describe the terrors, horrors and doom of the eternally lost souls will be insufficient...

The very concept of everlasting torture, being the very first retribution every lost soul will receive, (of which those who are currently dead, since the time of Adam and up till now, are already partaking of, at least in measure, while they are kept under fierce punishment and fiery fires of hell (see 2Pet.2:9), as they await their trial on that Great Day at the White Throne, when all lost souls will be resurrected and then sentenced to eternal death (or eternal separation from God forever and ever)...

This very concept is very difficult to describe seeing

that the depth of pain, pangs, agony and misery the lost will taste moment by moment, minute by minute, hour by hour and day by day, for all eternity is simply indescribable. However, as we fully trust in the Holy Spirit to give us insight into what the Lord Jesus said in His warnings to us on the dangers of this Eternal Fire, we will attempt to describe the indescribable... Sources of torment to the lost:

***NOTE:** Most of the topical heads in this particular section (i.e. this section 'a' below on Eternal torture) is taken from Dake Study Notes. Their annotations however are the private study notes of the author.*

I. Highest degree of physical torture and pain inflicted upon body, soul and spirit of the damned by undying worms (Isa.66:22-24, Mk.9:43-49), everlasting fire (Rev.14:9-11, Matt.25:46, Rev.20:10) and red-hot brimstones (Ps.11:6, Rev.21:8, Rev.19:20)

ii. Remorse and despair in seeing the righteous and godly whom they have despised now

**clothed in glory, immortality, eternal life, and
all the bliss of God (Lk.16:23, Matt.27:3-5)**

Judas readily comes to mind as we look at the remorse and despair the damned will experience for all eternity. He was formerly a disciple, he was even sent out as an apostle (Matt.10:1-4, Mk.6:7), yet his eternal destination is markedly different from that of his former companions, who alongside with Matthias who replaced him (Acts 1:15-20, Jn.17:12), will each rule as a prince over a tribe of Israel, from the millennial age forever (Lk.22:29-30).

I look on in fear and trembling over my own soul, as I know that Judas, if he doesn't know yet, will one day find out that on the twelve foundation stones of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, are the names of the apostles of the Lamb (Rev.21:14) and that his name will forever be conspicuously missing, having been replaced long ago with the name of Matthias (Acts 1:23-26)...what type of sorrow, remorse and regret will be in that tormented breast of his forever?

Yet, Judas is not alone in this doom...there are billions of souls already (Matt.7:13, Gen.6:5), and the Lord alone knows how many billions more (Matt.7:21-23, Lk.6:46), will wilfully rush headlong into perdition and doom before the end of time, who like Judas will be cast into outer darkness, where forever there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Ma.13:41-42, 47-50), not only because of the indescribable tortures and torments of the Lake of Fire, but also because of a tortured memory that will forever remember lost opportunities it had to be saved...(Lk.16:25, 1Jn.2:15-17)

**iii. Abhorrence of the very evil that they know
has damned their souls and put them in
torment (Lk.16:25)**

Again, let us take for example, Judas Iscariot, a man currently awaiting judgement in Hell (remember the Lord Jesus called him the son of perdition, see Jn.17:12 compare with Jn.6:70-71); when he discovered that Jesus had been condemned to die,

his very role in the matter (Matt.26:14-16, Mk.14:10-11, Lk.22:3-6; Jn.13:2) became abhorrent to him (Matt.27:3-5). His acts and its consequences are so appalling to him that he couldn't even spend a single silver coin that was a part of the reward he got for betraying Jesus (Matt.27:6-10).

As he awaits his judgement, while still under torments even now, he, like the untold hundreds of hundreds of millions of souls awaiting judgement, he is waiting in dejection and hopelessness, forever blaming and hating himself for the paths he took while he was in this present world (Eccl.11:9) ...yet in all eternity to come, he and all other damned souls like him will yet abhor their own sins for their sad, irredeemable end (Lk.16:27-28, Matt.25:41, 46)...

iv. Eternal desire for the good that would have freed from torment (Lk.16:25)

Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom of

Israel after the Kingdom tore apart into two, led the entire nation into idolatry and apostasy just because of political expediency (please see 1Kgs.12:25-33)...however, he didn't just lose his soul (2Chron.13:20), his family (1Kgs.14:1-17, 1Kgs.15:29, 1Kgs.13:34) and all Israel...(2Kgs.17:21-23); he lost eternity as well (1Cor.6:9-10, Rev.21:8,27; Rev.22:14-15).

Like many other lost souls awaiting judgement in Hell Fire today, Jeroboam, in the midst of his tortures and torments (2Pet.2:9 BWE, CEV, MSG, NIRV, NLT; Lk.16:23-28) would wish he could take back that day the first seeds of the evil thoughts that became the rival idolatrous worship system in Bethel, came into his mind...

But the die is cast. Untold millions of souls from Israel are in Hell, awaiting judgement on account of Jeroboam alone (1kgs.12:28-30, 1Kgs.14:16, 2Kgs.17:21)...yet the Lord Jesus had warned earlier that it is better a man is not born than for him to cause even a single soul to slip away into a Christ-less

eternity...He mentioned clearly that the type of punishments awaiting those who commit this offence is so terrible that it is better they are not even born (Jude 1:13, Lk.17:1-2 AMP, NIRV)!

v. Memory of lost opportunities in life that could have caused them to be with the redeemed (Lk.16:25)

The rich young ruler could have been saved...he had met the Saviour, in fact, there was only one thing left for him to do and he would have entered in...Jesus looked at him, and having loved him, He told him: **"...one thing thou lackest, go and sell all that you possess and give the proceeds to the poor and ye shall have treasure in heaven and come and follow me..."** (Lk.18:22)

But this man went away sad, for he had much possessions that eventually possessed him...this sad soul had long realized the transient, temporary value of all earthly possession for when he died, like the rich man in Luke 16:19, he took nothing with him,

out of all his great wealth and possessions...not even a shoe lace! (1Tim.1:6-7, Job 1:21 AMP, Eccl.5:15, Ps.49:17) Only the Lord knows how many times, even in the midst of the terrible sufferings of Hell, he would have played back that scene with the Lord Jesus Christ over and over again...wondering what he could have done better and particularly why he didn't give up all (that he eventually gave up in death!) as the Lord was telling him what he needed to do in order to be saved...

Even as you are reading this now, this man is still burning in Hell, awaiting his judgement...having lost all opportunity to find salvation again...for when there was time, he was not ready and now that he is ready, there is no more time! (Heb.9:27)

vi. Regret over deeds committed and which can never be recalled (Lk.16:25)

Herod the Great, a vile and despicable man of low estate who rose into power and became the king of Judea...this man had such a thirst for violence and

blood that so many were executed, apart from those murdered in cold blood (so that Herod can maintain his hold on the government) during his long reign over Judea. Such blood thirsty man he was that he had three of his own sons, his wife, his mother-in-law, his closest friends and the entire Sanhedrin of Jerusalem murdered, all at different times, and for different reasons, particularly on conspiracy charges against him.

At a ripe old age, when he was about to die and quite near madness, knowing fully well that he ruled as a tyrant, his chief problem became the realisation that nobody from the nation of Judea would mourn him after he dies...oh, such a wretched, pathetic soul! He was not bothered about where he was going (Mk.8:36-37, Eph.2:12), he was concerned about what he was leaving behind (Ps.146:3-4)! Wherever he is kept in Hell now, he would keep looking back, to see the foolishness of his choices and the emptiness of his life pursuits...

How, in order to perpetually keep his kingdom, he

murdered so many people, including his own family and closest friends and literally sold his soul to the devil, only for him to die and leave the same kingdom behind! (Lk.12:15, 1Tim.6:7)

Since lost souls retain their memory in Hell (Lk.16:23-29, Isa.14:9-10), Herod, alongside many other monsters who lived among men and perished in like manner (people like Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, Attila the Hun, Chairman Mao, Osama Bin Laden, and so many others) would have seen life from another perspective now, after being confined in prison and currently kept under terrible punishments and torments until the judgement day...(2Pet.2:9, Rom.2:4-9)

vii. Absolute hopelessness of escape from eternal misery or alleviation from the least degree of suffering (Lk.16:26)

Those who enter into Hell have no hope of escape in any way...as we have said before, Hell Fire is a one way journey for the damned soul. Once detained in

hell, there is no coming out again, until the final judgement, where they will be raised from the dead to receive their sentence. There is a great gulf fixed...so wide, so depthless is it that even sinful souls, detained in Hell in their spirit form could not in any way cross over from this chamber of torture into freedom...and such will be their awful state eternally...neither will there be alleviation from the least degree of the terrible suffering, agony and terrors reserved for the ungodly...(Rev.14:10-11, Isa.66:24, Mk.9:44, Ps.11:6, Mal.4:1)

viii. Eternal separation from loved ones or from the redeemed which they can see beyond an impassable gulf (Lk.16:23-26, Isa.66:24)

One of the worst realities of Eternal judgement is the fact that, beyond the consciousness of pain, there is also the retention of memory (Lk.16:25); it is a known scriptural fact that people know themselves and remember their former lives in Hell (Lk.16:23-25, 27-29; Isa.14:9-10), just as it is in heaven (1Thes.4:13-18, 1Co.15:51-52, Heb.11:39-40,

Heb.12:1) and just as it will be, both in the Eternal Kingdom and the Eternal Prison known as the Lake of fire.

One of the bitterest tortures and agonies of the lost is the eventual realisation that they can never again be reconnected to all formerly loved ones (whom, if are saved and have entered into the Eternal Kingdom, they would be able to see but would forever be able to touch, hold or embrace again, forever, as they have now been permanently and irrevocably separated eternally (Lk.16:26, 2Thes.1:7-9; Matt.25:41, 46)...

ix. Regret over their bad example in life that has caused friends and loved ones to be damned
(Lk.16:27-31)

Nine out of ten times, children, family members, friends and followers of the wicked follow their life's example, until they are lost themselves. The Bible is full of so many examples of such lives (see 1Kgs.15:25-30, 33-34; 1Kgs.16:1-4, 6-7, 8-13 etc).

Since eternal retribution is based on how a man has

lived while he was here on earth (Gal.6:7, Jer.17:10, Prov.24:12), just as eternal reward is also based on the way a man lived his life (2Cor.5:10 AMP, 1Pet.1:17 MSG, GNB), another serious source of torment and sorrow for the wicked is the number of souls he or she made to stumble and led away, by his or her personal life example (Lk.17:1-2 AMP, TVB, Matt.18:7 NLT, T4T); the same is true for people who are sources of influence for other people.

People like kings, politicians, preachers, leaders in all sphere of life, law enforcement officers, those the worldly call celebrities (e.g. musicians, actors, actresses, pornstars, homosexual, lesbian, bisexual and transexual activists and other perverts who are not even named here) are particularly susceptible to this error (1Cor.6:9-10; Rev.21:8).

The danger in this is not just the terrible punishments and tortures awaiting such pollutants, but even the realisation that they are the cause of eternal damnation for others (who will, many times, include their families and loved ones, will be an

almost unbearable burden they must bear all through an eternity of pain, gloom, torture and doom...

x. Ever deepening regret for not listening to the Word of God and for not spending their time, talents, and money to propagate it, so that many others could escape torment (Lk.16:29-31)

In Acts 24:22, 24-25, the Bible points us to another man who became unfortunate eternally, due only to his own fault and his own fault alone. This man was Marcus Antonius Felix (known in the Bible simply as Felix). He was the Roman governor of Judea from A.D. 52-60. He was married (his third marriage for that matter) to Drusilla, daughter of Herod Agrippa I, a divorcee whom he had seduced away from her lawful husband, Azizus, the King of Emesa in Syria.

Given this background, one would think that a man, about whom the Bible testified that: "**But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the**

proceedings..." Acts 24:22. The key thing we need to take out of this passage is that Felix had a "...more accurate knowledge of the Way (of the Lord)..." ; thus, it was sad, when Paul was ministering to him and Drusilla his wife, about the Lord Jesus Christ and they heard him talking about righteousness, self control and the judgement to come, Felix made his infamous statement out of his terror about the judgement to come. He became alarmed and terrified and said: **"... go away for the present; when I have a convenient opportunity, I will send for you."** Acts 24:25.

He never had a convenient time...

As for Drusilla, the wife and their son, they perished in the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D.79. There is no biblical or extra biblical record that Felix ever got saved... As he is currently awaiting his judgement, he would wish he had allowed Paul to finish that sermon that would undoubtedly have led to his salvation... But alas! This is not so...

xi. Fire and brimstone

(Lk.16:23-31; Mt.25:41,46; Rev.14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8; Isa.66:22-24)

There is no need to comment extensively on this point as it is clear enough. It is the wrath of the Almighty that kindles the fires of hell (Deut.32:22) and since God's anger against sin is everlasting anger, particularly for those who will die in their sins, having rejected the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only means by which they could have been freed from their sins... It is clear that Satan and his fallen angels will be tormented by fire that burns with brimstone forever and ever...(Rev.20:10, Matt.25:41) thus, how would condemned men fare inside the fire that torments fallen angels? Oh! What terrible fate awaits the ungodly!

Brimstone (also known as sulphur) is a highly inflammable chemical compound, found in great quantities, and sometimee pure, in the neighbourhood of volcanoes. It is known very early in Palestine and most ancient nations of the world as

a combustible substance. In the vicinity of the Dead Sea, even at this present time, deposits of sulphur are being formed. Lumps of sulphur are usually encrusted with crystals of gypsum, a related chemical compound.

When these crysalized sulphur deposits took fire, it would melt and run in burning streams down the ravines, spreading everywhere suffocating fumes. No more realistic figure could be chosen to depict terrible suffering and destruction...and what is described above is just normal, ordinary brimstone known to the common man, of which we can tell you will be lesser than that sulphur which burns perpetually in the Lake of Fire...Rev.14:11

b. Everlasting Wrath

Deut.32:22, Matt.25:41, Rev.14:9-11,
Ps.7:11, Jn.3:36

The fierce anger of God against sin will never reduce diminish because, sin, by its very nature is antithetical to the principles, creative work and

overall government of God. Thus, for the lost souls who enter into a Christ-less eternity, there is no forgiveness (Heb.9:27) nor respite (Rev.14:11, Matt.25:46) from their woeful torments, as God is perpetually angry with sin, his fierce anger will rest eternally on those who have rejected the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, the only hope and the only way out of eternal damnation...

c. Everlasting Sorrow

Deut.1:45, Lk.6:45, Matt.22:1-14, Matt.25:46,
Lk.16:19-31.

This sorrow has to do with the remorse of the conscience that each man will have over his failure to do what was necessary to escape hell. Memories of lost opportunities, very wide and in different respects will be a constantly nagging, mournful companion for ever even as the fires burn and the undying worms gnaw and prey on them without, the worms of a perpetually self-condemning conscience and the unquenchable wailings of a tortured memory that keeps seeing every carelessly lost

opportunity to be saved that cannot be recalled will gnaw at them forever...

d. Everlasting Contempt

Isa.66:24, Mk.9:48, Dan.12:2

It is the living, conscious, never-dying human beings that will feel eternal torments of fire in eternal hell. All doomed men will enter into eternal hell [or lake of fire] physically as their bodies would have been raised from the graves [see Rev.20:12-13, Jn.5:28-29]. Condemned man will enter into his final abode of doom spirit, soul and body...all the while being eaten up by undying, bloated, disgusting and unnatural worms...(see Mk.9:44, 46, 48)

In all eternities of eternity, the Bible witnessed that they will be an abhorrence to all mankind as they are 'dead' who are convicted to suffer the Second Death (I.e. the final and eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. See Rev.20:15)

Since death never meant cessation of existence but

separation from a realm of existence to another realm of existence; in the same way, when Adam sinned he died immediately (spiritually) and yet he didn't die immediately (I.e. physically, until at least another 930 years, see Gen.5:5).

Thus, those who are doomed because they died in their sins died separated from God and His life...thus, they will always have clinging to them perpetually, all the abhorrence and filthiness that sin and consequences could muster...

e. Everlasting thirst and hunger

Lk.16:19, 24; Rev.20:11-15

Despite the horrible cries of the tormented doomed souls in Hell, their prayers for relief, mercy, help or even the minutest form of assistance go unanswered...forever (Lk.13:28-29, Rom.2:4-9)!

One would think Father Abraham would have mercy on the rich man who was being tormented and who is still being tormented even now

(2Pet.2:9); but what mercy can Abraham have on a doomed soul that had rejected the grace of God that brings salvation (Titus 2:11) ?

He pleaded for a paltry single drop of water... (as if even a hundred drops of water could quench thirst of men on a hot day or even in a desert, so how could a single drop quench the fiery thirst of a terrible place like hell?! Pray, tell...what is a drop compared to fountain of living waters? See Jer.2:13)

Yet, his request was denied, not because of lack of mercy in Abraham, to whom this prayer was directed, but because of the abject hopelessness and grim finality of his condition, so terrible it is that no help, relief, rest nor comfort could reach him forever. Being cut off from God from the light of His presence, like all the countless billions of lost souls that had ever lived on earth, the sinner will face an eternity of terrible thirst and unquenchable hunger...forever! Rev.14:9-11, Ps.9:17.

**f. Everlasting death [everlasting
separation from God]**

Matt.25:46, Rev.20:15, Rev.21:8, Isa.66:23-24

When eventually they are released from their police cell (Hell Fire), it is only because their time has come when they must face the Judge of All, whom they have refused and rejected as a Saviour (Jn.12:47-48)...scarcely would the fires, horror and torment of Hell cool down that they would be resurrected bodily and dragged physically before the White Throne judgement (Rev.20:11-15), where Christ, whom they have resisted and rejected until death caught up with them will now sit enthroned to judge them (Jn.5:22, Acts 17:31, Rom. 2:16)

None who appear before this judgement will ever be saved. Just like the righteous will be raised to receive their eternal rewards, the doomed, lost souls will be raised to receive their everlasting retribution...(Dan.12:2, Rev.20:11-15).

The judgement shall be brief (since it is based on the

Books of Deeds (Rev.20:11-13, Eccl.12:14, Dan.7:9-10, Mal.3:16) and the Book of Life (Rev.20:12, 15; Rev.3:5, Rev.13:8, Rev.21:27, Phil.4:3, Ex.32:32-33, Dan.12:1)...the retribution shall be swift and terrible.

There will be no army of lawyers standing between the Doomed sinner and his well deserved judgement, there is no appeal to the judgement that will be meted out, neither will anyone who stands before that awful White Throne be acquitted...(Rev.20:14-15, Matt.25:46)

The everlasting verdict over this great multitude of people can easily be summed up by the words of the Lord Jesus Himself : **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."** Mat 25:41, 46.

SOME REALITIES THAT DAWN ON THE LOST IN HELL AND IN THE LAKE OF FIRE

a. A permanent and eternal change of location and position [status]. Rev.3:17, Lk.16:23-24, Rev.20:12, Jude 1:14-15

b. The sickening feeling that the door of mercy is shut against them forever. Lk.16:24-26, Rev.20:15, 2Pet.2:9, Heb.9:27.

c. The full realization that there is no escape from hell. Lk.16:23-24, 26, 28; Matt.23:33, Rev.14:11, 2Cor.6:2, Matt.25:46.

d. Personal experience of the ever intensifying depths of the worst forms of torture, horror, torments, regrets and sorrow. Rev.14:11, Rev.20:10, 14-15; Mk.9:44, 46, 48; Deut.32:22, Jude 1:13, Rom.2:4-9.

e. Reality of the fact that judgment is eternal and irrevocable. Heb.9:27, Isa.14:27, Matt.25:41, 46;

Rev.20:10-15.

f. Consciousness of the fact that weeping, begging or crying out in pain or in ones loudest voice will never bring God to their aid. They have rejected Gods only way of escape- Jesus. Isa.59:1-2, Jn.3:18, Jn.5:24, Mk.16:16, Jn.3:18 AMP, PHILLIPS.

g. The reality that the duration of their torture is eternal [even after 900 billion years, they will still be burning as if they just started!] Rev.14:9-11, Rev.20:10, Isa.66:24, Rev.21:8.

h. Finally understanding what it means to be doomed and lost they are like possessions owned by God but had become missing and lost forever. Matt.8:11-12, Matt.13:41-42, Matt.25:41, 46; Lk.16:23-28.

I. Realizing finally that man can never save himself either by religion or good works; only Jesus saves. Acts 4:12, Acts 10:42-43, Matt.1:21, Mk.16:15-16, Jn.3:36 AMP.

j. The dreadful sudden realization at the white throne judgment that their doom and everlasting torture is just about to begin as hell is a present place of torment [like a police cell a criminal is locked up before he is formally charged to court] while the Lake of Fire is the eternal place of torment [or an eternal prison where the damned and doomed resurrected sinner will serve his life imprisonment with the worst form of torture and agony currently unknown to men, angels or any other created being] 2Pet.2:4, 9 [TLB], Matt.25:41, 46; Jude 1:6, Rev.14:9-11, Rev.20:10-15.

A FINAL WORD...

“And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done”.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the

right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morningstar."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost." Revelation 22:10-17