

The Bride of Christ  
And  
Her Reward

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This was written for any person who desires to study the teaching of God's Word in an orderly manner. In this study, the authors do not pretend to have brought out all gems of the Bible truths. It has been written for the sole purpose of revealing the Pagan that have infiltrated the Christian Churches of today, and to encourage God's people to search the Scriptures to see if what they are being taught can be proven by God's Holy Words. Our desire is that the truth will set you free and you will be free indeed.

This C.D. is sent forth with prayer that the Heavenly Father will use His Eternal Glory and a Blessing to the people who is searching for the truth.

I am of the firm and deepening conviction that there has never been a time in the history of the Christian dispensation when there were more deceived people in the Churches of our land than there are at this present times. It's not as easy as many people suppose to find one who truly knows the Lord Surely, they are not to be found in every Church, and most probably they are few in any Church. John Wesley said, "Many people have been inoculated with a mild does of Christianity

Here, Lord, my soul convicted stands,  
of breaking all thy commands,  
and on me justly might's thou pour  
thy wrath in one eternal shower,  
but tank's to God in loud alarm  
have wanted me of approaching harm,  
and now, O Lord my wants I see,  
lost and undone, I come to see.  
I see my fig-leaf righteousness,  
can ne'er thy broken laws redress,  
yet in thy gospel plan I see  
there's hope of pardon for me.  
Here I behold thy wonder, Lord,  
how Christ hath to thy laws restored  
those honor, on the atoning day,  
which guilty sinners took away.  
Amazing wisdom, power, and live,  
displayed to rebels from above,  
do thou, O Lord, my faith increase,  
to love and trust thy plan of grace.

By Dr. William R Crews

Marriage is symbolic of the union between Christ (Bridegroom) and the Church (Bride), and there is a remarkable symbolism between the salvation story and the Jewish marriages.

What a wonderful privilege it is to be given the marriage and family so that we may be prepared for the spiritual marriage to Christ and the Divine family status, for eternity, in the kingdom of God.

The first marriage took place when God brought the woman Eve to Adam and joined them as man and wife. God bless them and He said unto them: “be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen.1:28). Therefore, God ordain the family relationship for human beings. Family relationship demands marriage!

For this reason--because of the coming marriage between Christ and the Church--because the Church is now the affianced bride, engaged to marry Christ--for this reason, God ordain the marriage institution in the Garden of Eden. The family relationship demands the husband--and--wife relationship. That demands marriage and faithfulness to that matrimonial bond! The Church is merely that body, composed of the begotten children of God. The Church as a body is the affianced bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-23).

As we are living near to the coming of the bridegroom, it is now time for the bride to become the wife of the Lamb and the faithful are bidden to come to the wedding supper (Matthew 22:2-14). It is time for the Church to make herself ready, instructed by God to clothe herself with fine linen (Rev.19;7-9), which has been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

In Paul’s writing in 2 Con.11:2, He said: “For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” How was he to do this? “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That He might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it would be holy and without blemish” (Eph.5:26-27). “This is a great mystery: but speak concerning Christ and the Church” (Eph. 5:32).

Christ began to speak in parables as an effective method of revealing truth to the spiritual and ready mind and at the same time concealing it from others. One must understand the parables in the relation to the bride, the Church, and Christ the Bridegroom. One must not overlook the Jewish Culture in which our Lord lived and worked.

Under this culture the father or his friends would see a young girl, than select her for the young man’s bride. Then he would go to the home of the young woman to meet her to initiate the wedding proposal. If she agreed, the to then would seal the covenant with a glass of wine. Then there was the agreement on a price to be given to the father of the girl. This payment was compensation for the loss of a worker. The sum was mutually agreed upon. After this agreement was made the couple was considered married. Between betrothed and marriage, all communication between the betrothed once was carried on through “the friend of the bridegroom” (John 3:29). She was regarded as his wife, so that unfaithfulness was punished by death (Deut. 22:23-24).

After the payment for the Bride was completed, the Bridegroom then had to go and build a house for the two of them to live in (John 14:1-3). It would take two or more

years to finish. The father of the Bride then inspected the premises to see if it was ready for the marriage.

While the Bridegroom was the home, the Bride was to make herself ready, for she did not know when he would come for her. She would leave a lamp burning in her window to show she was ready to go out to meet him (Matt.25:7). The Jewish wedding was generally celebrated in the night (Matt.25:6). The Bride had arrayed herself long before the marriage, for her wedding robe of fine linen, clean and white was laid out and ready for her to dress when she heard the Bridegroom coming (Rev.19:7-9). The Bride would always bathe so she would be clean and pure to put on her white robe (Heb.10:22; Eph.5:26-27), often richly embroidered. She would put her bridle girdle around her waist; cover her head with a veil (1 Cor.11:10).

After the father of the groom said it was finish, the Bridegroom, attended by his friends, set out from his house to the house of his Bride's parents (Matt.25:6). The procession was a happy occasion, and was often accompanied by singers and shouting: "Here comes the Bridegroom" with sound of trumpets. He took the Bride back to his house accompanied by singing and the playing of musical instruments. The wedding festivities continued for one or two weeks.

The parable of the ten virgins signifies the conditions of the Church (the Bride) when Christ (the Bridegroom) shall come to judge the world. Five of them were wise. They took care to make proper provision beforehand, and left nothing to be done in the last moment. Five was foolish. They did not see that it was necessary to have the salvation of God in their souls. They had once walked the Christian course, now they have left their first love; they have backslidden from the salvation of God, and now they are excluded from their marriage. Unfaithfulness mans death.

In Ephesians chapter 5, verse 32, Paul states that this was a mystery concerning Christ and the Church. To understand this mystery we compare these parables side by side, comparing earthly things with heavenly truths. So the creation and the union of Adam and Eve was intended, in the design of God, to point out the union of Christ and the Church, a most important union that can be conceived. Therefore, the Apostle called it a great mystery.

It was a constant practice of our Lord to take the subject of His discourses from the persons present, or from the circumstances of times, persons and places, such as, "A marriage for a son," "A marriage feast," or those who had been bidden, or "invited to the wedding" (Matt.22:1-14).

Jesus used the wedding festivities as a way to show his followers what must shortly come to past. Friends of the Bridegroom would pick the future Bride for the Groom, being a member of the "Visible Church" whose duties was to introduce new people to Jesus Christ the Groom. They then must persuade them to enter the Father's House (Church) to hear the preaching of the gospel, where each person will be invited to partake of the blessed wedding. If they accepted Jesus Christ, Repent, and then be Baptized, He/she will now be considered (betrothed) engaged. When they come together with the body of Christ (the Church), and then if they drank from the cup at the Lord Supper, the fruit of the vine, and then she/he will sealed the covenant of the marriage contract (Mark 14:24-25).

Now that the betrothal is finalized, a price had to be paid for the bride (the Church). Jesus paid the ultimate price for the Bride (Church) with the shedding of His blood

And at midnight there was a cry  
made, before, the Bridegroom  
cometh; go ye out to meet Him.  
The Bridegroom came; and they  
that were ready went in with Him  
to the marriage: and the door was  
Shut.

Crucifixion was one of the most cruel and barbarous forms of death known to man. “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s (1 Cor.6:20). So being bought with the price of the blood of Jesus, you are not your own; you are His property.

After the Bride had accepted the proposal from the Groom and price was agreed upon, then the Bridegroom was responsible to build a house before the wedding could take place. It could be a new dwelling, or an addition to his father’s home. After the house was built the father had to inspect the premise before the marriage. Jesus, our Bridegroom, made a statement: “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). Jesus’ mansion is almost ready to be occupied. He is coming back for His Bride.

The parable of the ten virgins shows the state the professing Christians; the visible Church, and what it will be in when Christ returns for His Bride. In this parable the Bridegroom is understood to be Jesus Christ. The wise are those who truly enjoy the purity and holiness of the Gospel. The vessel represented her heart. The oil, her faith. The lamp, which is her burning light within her soul.

The wise had her lamp burning, which shows her burning desire that others could see Christ living in her life; she live the Gospel, her light shone forth to the world (Luke 12:35). The oil was her faith, which works by love (Gal.5:6), and her heart was the vessel, which adorned her life with the fruit of the Spirit (Gal, 5:22-23), which patiently waiting for the return of her Bridegroom Jesus Christ.

The foolish virgins were very much a Christian and faithful followers of Jesus at one time in their lives, but became unsound in their thinking. “The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entered in, choking the words, and it becometh unfruitful” Mark 4:19). They lost the zeal; the flame was no longer burning in their hearts, like many parishioners in our Churches today. They have let the spark that was once burning in their souls (religious profession) become dim (Luke 11:35), and it was to them too late when they heard Jesus Christ coming for his Bride (Church).

The Bride must constantly bathe and be prepared for the coming of the Groom (Esther 3:12; Psa.45:13-14). The Church is represented as the spouse of Christ and she washes, cleanses and prepares herself. How? Sanctify and cleanse with the washing of water by the word (Eph.5:26; Heb.10:22). So when He comes, He will find His Bride in every way splendid and honorable, because there will be no spots or blemishes but only purity and holiness (Eph.5:27).

Jesus has finished His work, He has paid the price for the Church, He has now finished the house, and now He is ready to come for the Bride. ‘The marriage of the Lamb is

come, and his wife has made herself ready.” Revelation paints the festival as a great wedding party in which Christ (The Lamb), and His followers, (The Bride) declare their union. The symbol--the Bride of Christ--represents God’s Church. They are clothed in fine linen, dazzling white, which symbolizes purity (Rev.19:7-9).

Christ Bride has arrayed herself long before the wedding. The Bride’s wedding robe is made out of the righteous of the saints. It is the responsibility of the Church to make herself ready, and it is given her by God to clothe herself (Phil.2:12-13). The raiment of the Bride is to be interpreted as the acts of the saints, and refers to a spiritual body, which the righteous has in accordance with their character. The bride would meet the Bridegroom with a veil over her head; anciently woman betrothed in meeting their future husband, and at weddings only used the veil. The bride’s veil; is a mark of modesty that she subjected to her Lord (1 Cor.11:10).

This is not primarily a human structure like a political, social, or economic organism. It is basically the Church of Jesus Christ. It is a fellowship of saints or people of God. It is the Bride of Christ, saved and sanctified by Him for a union with Himself.

The wise has made herself ready for the return of the Groom. She heard a cry: ”behold the Bridegroom cometh” (Matt.25:6). “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God” (1 Thes. 4:6). The Bride was ready and went in with Him to the marriage and the door was shut (Matt.25:10).

It was the custom for the Bride and Groom to go into the house and shut the door, and then they would fulfill every ideal of human intimacy and mutuality and loyalty. The ceremony would start when the marriage couple would come out, and then the marriage supper would begin. The Jewish marriage was performed in the night, and the hall where the feast was made was superbly illuminated and the celebration would sometimes last for two weeks, like the marriage at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The invitation to the marriage supper had been issued to intimate, all was ready (Matt.22:3-4). Refusal to come to a marriage feast, when invited, is considered a breach of the Law of God. Any one who is invited to the dinner and does not accept this invitation disobeys God and His messenger. This marriage supper was prepared for the marriage of the Lamb. One man came who was not dressed in a wedding--robe (furnished by the Groom), and he was cast outside the chamber into the dark. This call is the universal appeal, which comes through the public preaching of the Gospel, and only a few of the hearers will accept it with all their heart and soul.

Marriage is symbolic of the union between Christ and the Church, and there is a remarkable symbolism between the salvation story and the Jewish marriage. When a young man had chosen his Bride-to-be, he left his father’s house and traveled to the home

of his chosen one. So Christ left His Father's house to come to earth to gain His Bride. Then the father of the Bride and the Groom would negotiate a price. Christ paid the price for us with His own blood. Afterward the covenant physical union had taken place. They were sanctified, or set apart for each other, even as the Church is to be set apart for Christ. Afterwards the Bride and Groom drank from the cup over which the betrothal blessing had been pronounced, symbolizing the establishment of the covenant. Christ did this also when He blessed the cup at the Lord Supper. Next the Groom returns to his father's house for a period of one or two years. Christ also returned to heaven and separated from His Bride. During this period, the Groom prepares a place for them to live at the father's house. Christ is doing this for us now (John 14:1-3). When this waiting period was over, the Groom would go to receive his Bride. We believe Christ to will come to receive us to Himself. Although the Bride knew approximately when the Groom would come, she did not know the exact day: therefore, the Groom's arrival was announced with a shout. So with us, someday Christ will return with His host of angels, and with a great shout.

So what is this parable of the marriage supper about? The Bride is one who has accepted Jesus Christ as her/his personal Saviour, which make up the Church body. The Groom is Jesus Christ who paid the price for His Bride on the cross. Jesus has left to build a house for His Bride, the Church. Only the Father knows when it is a completed. The Bride has made herself ready. He has completed His project, and is about to return. He is coming back with a shout of the archangel, and the sound of trumpets, and His Bride is going to meet Him in the air.

The lesson enforce in this parable is not that of wakefulness, for they all grew drowsy and went to sleep. It is rather that of forethought, for although the five took their lamps, they took no oil with them, whereas the sensible took oil in their vessels as well as their lamps. They know that the Bridegroom will return. So, it is not enough just to have a supply of a spiritual life, which will be exhausted in a short time.

Jesus is still calling people to His marriage supper; every one is invited. "The spirit and the Bride say, come. And let him that hearth, come. And let him that is atheist, come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely (Rev.22:17).

Soon the Lamb will take a Bride, to be ever at His side. All the host of heaven will assembled be; O'twill be a glorious sight. All the saints in spotless white, and with Jesus they will feast eternally "come and dine," the master calleth, "come and dine," you may feast at JESUS table all the time. He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine, to the hungry calleth now, "come and dine".

For the Lord Himself shall decent from  
heaven with a shout, with the voice of  
the archangel, and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then  
we which are alive and remaining shall be  
caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord.

The case for the existence of the Church does not depend upon tradition, personal whim, fabrication, fables, and customs. Church is not just a good idea, and invention of people to serve their objectives or to fosters humanitarian pursuits. The Church has been commissioned by much higher authority than mankind's desire to congregate, people's strong inclination for fellowship, the need for charitable relief efforts, or as an outlet for energies

When did the Church begin? Where did the name begin or come from? Why was the Church established? What is its future? We will try to answer these questions and more in this C.D.

From the Zondervan Bible Dictionary it states, "In English "Church" derives from the Greek word *Kurinkos* (belonging to the Lord), but it stands for another Greek word *ekklesia* (whence ecclesiastical) denoting an assembly. This is used in a general sense in Acts 10:32, but had already been applied as an equivalent for the "congregation" of the Old Testament. Stephen's speech makes this equation (Acts 7:38). And in this sense it is adopted to describe the new gathering of a congregation of the "disciples of Christ."

The Church is then a local assembly of believers as well as the redeemed of all the ages who follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Church is describe as a group of people who transcend all national boundaries and race. The phrase speaks of citizenship, which is much higher and more meaningful than anything this world has to offer.

In the New Testament the Church is often represented in the Bible as a woman, Bride, wife, the true Church or the false Church (Rev.17:5). For instance, He (Christ) said it could be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding dinner for his son. Many guests were invited, but they refused to come to the banquet (Matt.22:2). Then John the Revelator tells us that the time has come for the "wedding banquet of the Lamb" (Jesus), and His Bride (Church) who has prepared herself. She (Church) is permitted to wear the "cleanest and whitest and finest of linens." (Fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God Rev.19:7-8).

Many Churches stand on an impressive record of excellent accomplishments: hospitals, Parochial schools, nursing homes, medical missionaries, welfare agencies, and community services. If we use good works and worthy accomplishment to justify salvation, then the existence of the Church is of little use to God.

The Church had its beginning on the day of Pentecost after the Lord's ascension into heaven (Acts 1:1-4). Then the Church was founded upon the death and resurrection and ascension of Christ and now He is sitting on the right hand of His Father, waiting to return for His Bride. The Church, therefore, is God's plan. She (the Church) is entirely His creation, brought into existence by the redemptive activity of Jesus Christ.

The closeness of the relationship of Jesus Christ to the Church is so apparent, that it should be no surprise that it is compared to a marriage. "And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when He died for her, to make her holy and clean by baptism and God's words, so that he could give her to Himself as a glorious church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault (Ephesians 5:22-23). The more verses we consider, the more we see that the foundation of the Church rest upon the activity of God His Son, Jesus Christ. The Church is a fitting form of fellowship built by God Himself, upon Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone.

The saving works has been fulfilled,  
and the New Testament form of the  
Church can thus have its birthday at  
Pentecost. The term is now used  
regularly to describe local groups  
or Believers.

When you hear the word 'Church' the first thing that comes to most people minds is a building with a recognizable style of architecture: the Church building. Others think of the weekly worship hour: the Church services. And still others may think of a specific religious organization: a Church denomination.

All these definitions are part of today's common usage. Yet in the Bible, the word Church never refers to a building, a service, or a denomination. It always means the people, like you and I, rather than a place to assembly, but a services organism, rather than organization.

The Christian ekkleasa, or Church, came into being after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. As men and women responded to God's call to faith in Jesus, they were drawn together in a common bond of faith, love and mission. The first Christian, therefore, saw themselves as a unique ekklesia (assembly) of believers in Jesus who had been called out from the world (Rev.18:6) to be a witness to the very world they had come from. And their witness was that God had expressed His love to the world (John 3:16) through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of all mankind.

Each Church or congregation is the Church  
in its own setting, and each a manifestation  
or consecration of the whole Church. This  
means that there is a scope for great flexibility  
in organization and structure to particular  
and varying needs.

The Church, then and now, centers on Jesus. Its salvation, identity, purpose and future all revolve around Jesus Christ. He is the foundation, builder, head and owner of the Church, because He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:20).

In simplistic terms, our Church must be Christ--centered because He was the focus of the early Church. He purchased it with His own blood and He remains its supreme head. When Jesus is not given His proper place, everything else will be out of place: Christ must be the heart and center of the Church, because God has given Him that place (Col.1:15-20; 2:9-19).

The Bible says that Christ is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb.5:9, 12:2), which we are saved only by His name (Acts 4:12), which every living creature eventually will

bow to Him (Phil.2:10-11). And that He is superior to the angels, prophets, Moses, and the Old Testaments Priesthood (Heb. chapter 1 through 10).

The first marriage took place when God brought the woman Eve to Adam and joined them as man and wife. God blessed them and said unto them: “be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it.” Therefore, God order the family relationship for human being, a family relationship demands marriage!

For this reason--because of the coming marriage between Christ and the Church--because the Church is now the betrothed Bride, engaged to marry Christ--for this reason, God ordained the marriage institution in the Garden of Eden. The family relationship demands the husband--and-- wife relationship. That demands marriage and faithfulness to that matrimonial bond! The Church is merely that body, composed of the begotten children of God. The Church body is the betrothed Bride of Christ (Eph.5:22-32).

This brings us to the meaning of the Church’s life, and its continuing function. It draws its life from Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, but it does so through the Word of which it is nourished and sanctified, Receiving life by the Word, it also receives its function, namely, to pass on the word that others may also be quickened.

As we live are lives near to the coming of the Bridegroom, it is now time for the Bride to become the wife of the Lamb; the faithful are bidden to come to the wedding supper (Matt.22:2-14). It is time for the Church to make herself ready, instruction by God to clothe herself, with fine linen (Rev.19:7-9). Which has been wash in the blood of the Lamb.

In Paul’s writing to the Corinthian Church in 2 Cor.11:2 he stated: ”For I am jealous over you with Godly jealous: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” How was Paul able to do this? That he sanctity and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it would be holy and without blemish” (Eph.5:26-27). “This is a great mystery; but speak concerning Christ and the Church” Eph.5:32).

Jesus gave as his disciples a commission to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all thing whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt.28:19-20).

How much more commission is needed than these words? Because the Church is the creation of God and exist as a result of a God—center relationship among His called out ones, the Church must be viewed as more than a community. Because of God, the Church was brought into existence. He has done so with a special purpose. In effect, the

Church becomes the Lord's instrument charged with responsibility. The Church has received a commission to go.

When God received Christ into the heavens, the only agency left on earth to carry on the work Christ started is the Church. He granted His Church authority and power. He entrusted into the hands of the Church the everlasting gospel, the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ. As the Church bears witness to that sacred trust, she fulfills the mission given to her by God.

By the hands of the Apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people, and they were with one accord in Solomon's porch. And more believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

The Church's beginning was with His disciples after the death of Christ and when they began to preach. They were told not to go to the Gentiles or to the Samaritans, "but only to the people of Israel--God's lost sheep" (Matthew 10:5-6). As the disciples were preaching during the day of Pentecost, many Jews were saved. Peter preached long sermons, telling them about Jesus and strongly urging all his listeners to save themselves from the evil of their nation. And those who believed Peter were baptized about 3,000 souls (Acts 2:38-41). Again, in another meeting many Jews gathered to hear the word and about 5,000 men believed and accepted (Acts 4:1-4). As the disciples preached there were more added to the Lord, multitudes, both men and women (Acts 5:14). "Thou seest, brother, how many thousand of Jews there are which believe" (Acts 21:20). They became the first fruits (Rev. 7:1-8) unto God better known as the 144,000 of the book of Revelation.

And The Dragon found himself cast down to earth, he persecuted the woman who had given birth to child. But she was given two wings like those of an great eagle, to fly into the wilderness to the place prepared for her, where she was cared for and protected from the Serpent, the dragon, for 1260 years.

The reference appears to be those Jews who were the first converts to Christianity during the time that Peter preached unto them to “repent and be baptized.” These were the first Church of the great “persecutions of the Christian Martyrs which began in the time of Nero” (Fox’s Book of Martyrs). These persecutions of Christians continued for 1260 years that were brought about by the Roman Empire with the sanction of the Catholic Church. John “saw under the alter the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and the testimony which they held (Rev.6:9).

Jesus had journey to the Mount of Olive and sat down to rest when His disciples came unto Him asking Him what the sign would be of His coming and the end of this world. One of His answers was “Then shall you be hated and delivered up to be killed for my name sake” (Matthew 24:9). Paul in writing to Timothy told him, “not to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord but be partakers of the affliction of the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Tim.1:8). John also prophesied that, “the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman (church), and went to make war her (Rev.12:17; 13-14) and “she fled into the wilderness where she was protected by God”

Jesus knew that Satan and his agents would make continual war against His Church until His second coming, but He promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. The Bible says that the Church would never cease to exist during centuries of persecution and opposition (Rev. Chapter 12). The great Anti-Christ, the Papal Church that became the State Church of Rome in about 538 A.D. lasted for 1260 years, with the Man of Sin, or the Pope at the head. Christians were branded as heretics and were persecuted even unto death.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying  
how long O Lord, holy and true, does  
thou not judge and avenge our blood  
on them that dwell on the earth? And  
white robes were given unto every one  
of them, and it was said unto them, that  
they should rest yet for a little season,  
until their fellow servants also and their  
brethren that should be killed as they  
were, should be fulfilled.

The persecution by the Roman Church drove the true Church into the wilderness for 1260 days, or years (Rev.12:6,14; Ezekiel 4:6). Rev.13:5-8 also tells of a great persecution. “And the woman (Church) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there for a thousand two hundred and three score days (1260) years” (Rev.2:6;14). Where she is nourished for a time, and times, and a half a times from the face of the serpent.” Here we have 3 times and ½ times, or years as given by Daniel (Dan.7:25-26). It is 42 months in Revelation13:5-7. Reduced to days in Rev.12:6, it is 1260 days, representing that many years of Papal persecution of the true Church of God, A day is for a year in Bible prophecy (Eze.4:4-6; Dan.9:24-27).

God's true Church was branded as heretics by the Roman Church and was outlaws of the state. This Church had killed over 70 million Christian before the reformation came, later the final breakup of the "Holy Roman Empire" was bought about by Napoleon in 1798 1806 A.D. .

"How long O Lord, does thou not judge and avenge our blood?" The martyrs are asking (Rev.6:10). Their blood, like that of Able, crying out for vengeance from underneath the altar (not actually from heaven) but in a place (graves) of privilege security, where they await the "the first Resurrection" (Rev.20:4-6). John sees the martyrs; Christian who died in God's service, and all their just blood shed on earth, crying out for vengeance. He who was calling the Sovereign, Lord, Holy and True, who must sooner or later assert His Power in a world which challenged His authority, defied what was Holy, and hated what was true. This one deed (the shedding of their blood) will help them to fill up the measure of their fathers, and thus, bring nearer the day of God. The hour when, "the great cup of the wine of the passion of His wrath" shall poured out on civilization. The martyr's emblem of purity, innocence, and triumph is the white robes.

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until their fellow servants also and their  
rethren, that should be killed as they  
were, should be fulfilled.

The New Testament, along with Revelation emphasizes its impact on the spiritual people of God--His own Church that they must go through much tribulation. The Martyrs cry is answered, they were given a white robe, a pledge of victory, of heavenly splendor and immortality, won through loyal service to God. They are told to remain quiet for a little longer. And then they hear why, the end is not yet: their numbers is not yet completed--it must be made up by their fellow--servants and their brothers who were to be killed as they themselves had been. A great martyrdom lies before the church, when it has been accomplished, the righteous shall rise to their reward. Martyrdom is raising its head again in this world in which we now live. Thousand are being killed for being a Christian every day in different countries around the world.

It may be difficult for most Americans to imagine the grave poverty in Bangladesh. Their answer is "Having Nothing yet having it All." The same thing is going on in Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Africa, Afghanistan, China, Laos, Sudan, and all parts of the world. A martyr is not just one who has been killed for his or her faith. In the original Greek, the word "Martyr" means "Witness."

These Christian martyrs are not yet a possessor of their reward--but are heirs to what they shall inherit if they are saved, this is the promised to Abraham. Whatever shall be the reward of the saved, where we shall spend eternity if saved, is definite, specific promise of God. That promise was made to Abraham, who is described in the book of Galatians, which was written for the Gentile converts as Abraham being the father of the faithful. If one is converted, whether Jew or Gentile, regardless of race or color, or sex, if one is in Christ, then he becomes one of Abraham's children (A Spiritual Israelite), and heir of the promise to Abraham.

There is neither Jew nor Greek.  
There is neither bond nor free,  
there is neither male nor female:  
for we are all one in Jesus Christ,  
and if you be Christ's, than are  
you Abraham's seed, and heirs  
according to the promise.

What assurances have we that our departed loved ones have gone heaven? By what authority do we have to believe that we shall go to heaven, if we're saved? This will be a little shocking--but your departed loved ones are still in the grave: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are dead. So is Paul, John, also James, along with Noah, Moses and David. They are all asleep in the grave. They cannot come into their Eternal Inheritance until they have come into Eternal Life. And what is our only hope of inheriting Eternal life? The first resurrection (Rev.20:6).

"Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ were not raised, your faith is in vain, ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished (destroyed)" (1 Cor.15:12-18). The dead in Christ are perished, not alive enjoying the promised inheritance already somewhere, but perished--utterly destroyed--unless there is to be a resurrection from the dead. They who are victorious in the faith will not be hurt by the second death (Rev.2:11).

Both the Old and the New Testament speaks  
of "a new heaven and a new earth" as being  
not a different world somewhere off in space  
but the present heaven and earth renewed to  
their original perfection.

“The visible heaven shall pass away to give place to the abiding new heaven and earth, wherein dwell righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). “The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Dan.2:44). It consists of many stages and phases, issuing at last in heaven being brought down fully to earth, and the tabernacle of God being with man (Rev.21:2-3). There will be no marriage there (Luke 20:34-36), no meat for the belly (1 Cor.6:13), no death, no sorrow, crying, pain, no defilement, no night nor light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth the light (Rev.21:4; 22:3-5). “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Matt.5:5).

Jesus said “That every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last days. No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me to draw him to me: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:40; 44). Not only do the scripture tell us about the resurrection “at the last days” they also point to the end of this age as the time of Christ return, but the same evidence can be seen from the scriptural expression “the last trump.”

The Messiah kingdom, as a whole, both in its present Spiritual invisible phase, the gospel dispensation of grace, and also in its further manifestation on earth in its glory, where finally heaven and earth shall be joined (John1:51; Rev. chapter 21 and 22).

Since the essence of worship is the  
acknowledgment of the worthiness  
of God through praise and adoration,  
worship in the new earth will be richer  
because the redeemed will have a fuller  
appreciation of the worthiness of God.

Elsewhere, the Kingdom is a future realm inaugurated by the return of Christ. The righteous will inherit this kingdom (Matt.25:24), and will shine like the sun in God’s kingdom (Matt.13:43). Entrance into this future kingdom is synonymous with entering the eternal life of the age to come on earth (Matt.19:23-30). If we are Christian, then what the saved inherit is the earth--and not heaven! Jesus plainly said “no man ascended up to heaven” (John 3:13).

“Eyes hath not seen, nor ears hears neither have entered into the hearts of man, the things which God hath prepared for him that love Him” (1 Cor.2:9). These words have been applied to the state of glory in a future world on earth. The inheritance, which God has prepared for us and we cannot even be conceived by the natural mind of man--but God does reveal it to us “by the spirit.” At the creation of the world, at the beginning was the works of God alone, so is this new creation. These words are true and faithful. Truth refers to the promise of these changes, faithfulness, to the fulfillment of these promises. God, in the most special manner, dwell among His followers and circulates His light and His everywhere. Because there shall be a general resurrection, this is the inference, which Paul makes from his doctrine of a general resurrection, “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (1 Cor.15:26).

These rewards are not yet dispensed. At the present time they are reserved and protected by Jesus, who is in heaven. That is why Jesus said, “rejoice.” Jesus now holds it in trust to the true saints who are dead and buried. Jesus adds new element. There, the reward becomes a free underserved grace and is out of all proportion to the character and extent of the service rendered (Matt.20:1-16; 25:21-23). Jesus gave several parables about “the Kingdom of Heaven.” Here, He eloquently summarized and describe the event, during which the saints received the gift of eternal life and the rewards of various responsibilities in the Kingdom of God.

In a sense, this is the ultimate function of the worship of God, namely, to experience His presence, peace, and power in our lives. This experience will be so real in this new earth that the place will truly be “heaven.

“But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in peace” (Pas.37:11). Jesus emphasizes this beautiful grace as one that is outstanding in his own character, associating it with lowliness of heart and gentleness, humility and consideration of Christ. “Inherit the faith” is a symbolic expression for the good things, which were to come with the Messianic Kingdom. Here it conveys the daring thought of the Master, that he world would finally be filled with men and women who exemplify His Spirit in their lives.

Peter writing to the Elect was told through the mercy of God that He has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that there was an “inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled reward reserved in heaven for us” 1 Peter 1:4). This verse goes on to describe the inheritance incorruptible, which Christian received through the power of God, the pure and eternal fellowship with Jesus is God’s gift out of heaven. The greatness of the gift is not to be weighed against suffering, rather our various trials are to be undergone as a means of purifying, and thus making more the Spiritual inheritance.

This is called an inheritance because it belongs to the children of God, the seed of Abraham. These rewards are not yet dispensed. Jesus now holds it in trust on behalf of the true saints who are dead and buried. Notice it! The reward of the saved--the inheritance of true Christians—it’s reserved in heaven. That is where it is kept at this present time. But do Christians go to heaven to receive their inheritance when they die? In the book of Revelation Jesus explains, “And, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give to every man according as his work shall be” (Rev.22:12). When Christ returns from heaven the second time he will bring the reward--now temporarily reserved in heaven--of the saved with Him.

“The kingdom under the heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints,” says Daniel in Daniel 7:27. Jesus did not say Christians will inherit their reward in heaven, rather the reward--authority, an office of power in the kingdom of God (kingdom in heaven) is being temporarily reserved in heaven because that is were Jesus is. But it shall

be brought to earth, where Jesus will reward His saints, in the kingdom of God, here on earth, with position over nations. “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you (Matthew 25:31-34).

To an inheritance incorruption  
and undefiled, and that fadeth  
not away, reserved in heaven for  
us, who are kept by the power of  
God through faith unto salvation  
ready to be revealed in the last  
time.

Here he eloquently summarized and described the event during which the saints received the gift of eternal life and the rewards of various responsibilities in the kingdom of God. Notice the time and location carefully. The time element begins with Christ Second coming in glory. Christ is pictured as bestowing eternal life and inheritance in the “Kingdom of God” or the “Kingdom of Heaven.” This will happen by the process of the resurrection to eternal life and the giving of positions of responsibility. Which ever saints (those called), are alive at whatever future time Christ return will be changed into a spirit “in the twinkling of an eye” (1 cor.15:52), immediately before this changes in the living saints, all the dead in Christ will be resurrection with a Spiritual Bodies to life immortal. Both groups will ascent together as high as the clouds while Christ descends from His present heavenly location and then he shall meet them there in the clouds above and they will descend to earth together.

From this moment all the resurrected saints are to be wherever Christ is to be. We’ve already seen that this is the moment of the second coming of Christ. “The Kingdom of this world becomes the Kingdom of God” (Rev.11:15). He is coming to rule this world and He will do it with the saints (Jude14-15). “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and language, should serve him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan.7:14), “an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan.7:14).

And the kingdom and dominion, and  
the greatness of the kingdom under  
the whole heaven, shall be giving to  
the people of the saints of the most  
High, whose kingdom is an everlasting  
kingdom, and all rulers shall serve  
and Obey Him

“The Lord will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thes.4:16-17). Yes, He shall descend in like manner as His disciples saw him as He ascended up into heaven (Acts 1:11). He will ascend into heaven in human form, but now infinitely more glorious. With a shout! Or “order,” and probably in these words; “Arise, ye dead, and come to receive your reward,” which order shall be repeated by the archangel, who shall accompany it with the sound of the trumps of God, whose great and terrible blast, like those on Mount Sinai, sounding lower and louder, shall shake both the heavens and the earth amid the sound of the Lord Himself.

The Scriptures indicated that the Rapture would be at the end of this age, at the last trump! John in Revelation 11:16 says that the sound of the seventh trumpet--the last trump--will be “the time of the dead “ to be resurrected. God will then “give rewards unto--the saints.” Where, then, is there room for the idea that before any of these trumpets is sounded, the saints will have already been raptured to heaven to be rewarded? Jesus made it clear that there will be no “secret” coming before His real descent in glorious fashion and with his Holy Angels. It is agreed that the coming of Christ in glory with His Holy Angels is at the end of the age (Mark 8:38). “And He will reward every man according to his works” (Mark 16:27).

In a moment, in the twinkling of  
an eye, at the last trump: for the  
trump shall sound, and the dead  
shall raised incorruptible, and  
we shall be changed.

As the Angles sanctify the Divine Name in heaven, so the saints will sanctify the Divine Name upon the earth. “In the kingdom of God,” Christ is to rule the world. It is not yet established; it’s yet to come--but today it is night at hand--and it is later than we think! What a glorious promise! Jesus promised He would come to earth. And He promised further, when He has returned to earth, that He would, as He said, “Receives us unto Himself,” where? Why, as He said, right here on earth! The saints, both dead and alive, resurrected and changed to immortality, shall rise to meet Him as He comes and will ever be with Him, where He is. Yes, that’s different from the fables of this day, but this is the truth of God’s words! If a man goes to his reward or punishment immediately at death, there would be no purpose in a resurrection. The Bible teaches that the dead will be resurrected. This means that those who have died do not yet have their reward.

And no man hath ascended up  
to heaven, but He that came  
Down from heaven, even the  
Son of man, which is in heaven.

The Kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord (Rev.11:15). All is in the future. But there can be no more about future than about the past if God has determined it. The coming of the Kingdom, the last Judgment, and the final reward of the servants of God, happens to be the time of the second coming of Christ.

The Son of Man is come down from heaven to reveal His Divine will. The incarnation of Christ is represented under the notion of His coming down from heaven to dwell upon earth. And He (Christ) is the only one who has ascended up into heaven from the dead. Jesus Christ did not say we should go up to heaven, to be with Him there. Instead said, "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man" (John 3:13)--that is, He! He went again to heaven, from where He had come. But He said, "Where I go, ye cannot come" (John 8:22). Also, He said: "I go (to haven) and I will come again" (John 14:2-3). Yes, come again, back to earth. And when He comes--when He is again here--He will, as He said, "Received you unto myself, that where I am (here on earth), there ye may be also." When Jesus has returned to this earth as King of Kings, ruler of all nations on earth, then He will say to the saved--come, ye blessed--"inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt.25:34).

For in Jesus of Nazareth they saw the Divine inspiration, having witnessed His miracle, and on this day they saw the descent of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. God loved the world so much He let His only Begotten Son shed His precious blood for you and me. What a terrible deed. God has proved His Son's Messiahship by raising Him up from the dead, and by the testimony of men who recognized the slain Messiah after His Resurrection. There are many prophecies of Christ Resurrection in the book of Psalms. Not David, but the Christ, is now at the right hand of God. David is still in his grave waiting the Resurrection of the saints (Acts 2:34; John 3:13).

The spirit itself beareth witness with  
our spirit, that we are the children  
of God: and if children, then heirs;  
heirs of God, and joint--heirs with  
Christ; if so be that we suffer with  
Him, that we may be also glorified  
together.

When Gentiles accepted Christ they are grafted in, and become partakers of the root of the olive tree, or the promises made to Abraham (Rom.11:16-24). They become children of Abraham through Christ. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Paul explains that Abraham is the father of all of them that believe, through they be not circumcised of the flesh, but walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham, "which he had being yet uncircumcised." To Abraham, circumcision was a sign of the righteousness of the faith he had before he was circumcised. It added nothing to him. He was already a righteous man, circumcised as of heart, as we Christian must be

(Col.2:11-13). By this true circumcision, both Jews and Gentiles become children of God and Children of Abraham (Spiritual Jews), heirs according to the promise (Gal.3:26-29). The outward sign is not needful in the New Testament, but it must be from the heart for both Jews and Gentiles.

“For, behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind (Isa.65:17). You can see that this is monumental occasion and it will be here upon this earth. The message is speaking of a celebration, or a feast that is shown in Matthew 22:4, where it is speaking of a dinner for a wedding and marriage between Christ and the Church.

“And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death; neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away,” for the resurrected saints (Rev.21:17).

When Bible truths are told: the truth that man, good or bad, does not receive his reward at death, we are often accused of not believing in heaven and hell. We, the church do believe in the two, heaven or hell. Although many were invited to the marriage supper (Matt.22:1-14). Many made light of it and they rejected the invitations to the celebration, why? One had a farm to take care of, the other bought land, one had a business to see to, the other had bought oxen to take home, and another was too busy because he had taken a new wife so he could not make it. They all had made excuses not to come to marriage supper so they were cast into “outer darkness.”

O that thou wouldest hide me in the  
grave, that thou wouldest keep me  
secret, until thy wrath be past, that  
thou wouldest appoint me a set time,  
and remember me.

We believe in a heaven so Sacred that no one has ascended into heaven except our Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in hell so hot, it does not just burn or scorch, but burn man into ashes (Malachi 4:1,3). Heaven is not promised for the saved; “The meek shall inherit the earth” (Matt.5:5), but hell is promised for the sinners. Most church members trust their salvation to the understanding and teaching of their church and pastors.

It has often been said that the Catholic Church at one time would not let their people read the Bibles. It should also be known that Protestant people do not read and study their Bibles. This is evident from the many false doctrines they hold to day in our society.

Man is mortal and stays in the grave until the last trump is blown (1 Cor.15:52-53). Where does the Bible say where man will be when Jesus returns (John 5:28-29)? They are in their grave asleep, waiting resurrection to life, and the sinners to the resurrection of damnation (Dan.12:2).

When Christ returns to earth to set up His Kingdom with the saints that was in the first resurrection, they will rule with Him for a thousand years, called the Millennium (Rev.20:5-6). Millennium is a Latin word for “one thousand years.” It comes from Revelation where a certain period is a “thousand years.” During this period Satan will be “Bound” with a “Great Chain,” “Lock up and Sealed in Abyss” (grave), so that he cannot

“deceived the nations.” People ”Martyrs” who have been “beheaded shall “live” and reign with Christ.

: The Millennium.” This is a thousand year period of Chris’s coming reign with His saints over the earth; delivered from Satan’s presence. As Satan and his kingdom in successive stage sinks, Christ and His Kingdom rise. Satan has been foiled in his desperate attempt to over through Christ Kingdom by the beast (Russia) (Eze. chapter 38-39) shall by God’s just law of necessary retributive consequence be bound immediately afterwards and imprisoned in the bottomless pit (grave) for a thousand years. On the same just principle they who have suffered for Christ and became martyrs, and has not worshipped the God of opposed world power shall come to life again and reign with Christ at His coming, a thousand years. This resurrection is “the first resurrection.” The rest of the dead (the ones who repented not) lives not again until the thousand years are finish (Rev.20:5).

There shall be a time of trouble, such as  
never was since there was a nation  
even to that same time: and at  
that time thy people shall  
be delivered, every  
one that shall  
be fond written in  
the book. And many of  
them that sleep in the dust  
of the earth shall awake, some will be  
given everlasting life, and some shame and  
everlasting contempt.

The Apostle John summarizes this time of peace in Revelation chapter 20. There he saw in a vision the resurrection, immortal saints who “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Jesus Christ will not work alone in creating a world at peace with God and Himself. Many sincere people assume that when Christ comes, He will take the saints from the earth to heaven. The Bible however, clearly teaches that when Jesus returns, He is coming back to earth. His followers will come back with Him, after they meet Him in the air, and they will stand on Mount of Olive (Zech.14:4-5,9). “And the Lord shall be King over the earth.”

Christ will descend from the clouds with the saints and everyone will alight on Mount of Olive immediately, Christ will begin the Job of instituting His Government over all nations. His first act will be to obliterate armies of the heathens. The now--immortal Saints will remain with Christ on earth and assist Him in the formation of a New Government bring one thousand years of peace and happiness to humanity.

The Resurrection and immoral saints, meanwhile, are to be part of this one thousand year Government. They will have offices of Government and ecclesiastical services to

perform. The resurrection saints will sit down with Christ on His throne after He returns, even as Christ presently sits with His on His throne (Rev.3:21). At the resurrection, the saints will receive a crown of life (Rev.2:10), and Christ will give them “Power over the Nation” and “shall rule them with a rod of iron” (Rev.2:26-27).

The citizenship of one awaiting full membership in the kingdom of God is held in trust even while that member may now be dead and buried. Those who are called and are alive when Christ returns also have their citizenship held in trust.

Blessed is the man that endureth  
temptation: for when he is tried,  
he shall receive the crown of life,  
which the Lord hath promised to  
them that love him.

The first resurrection has been interpreted in a Spiritual sense as a resurrection from the dead of sin to life of righteousness. But it is clear the rewards of the saved will be at the coming of the Lord. The second death is the death at the end of the Millennium Kingdom, after the last judgment, as distinguished from the physical death at the beginning of the Millennium Kingdom. Both physical deaths, before and after, which is the lot of all humanity. One great King over the entire world! This great world Kingdom is soon to be established. All dictators, prime ministers, kings and presidents will lose their positions when the Great King takes over to rule the entire world! Notice the mention of a special time period of a thousand years! This tells us that those who come up in the first resurrection will be Priest and Kings with Christ (helping rule) for that special time of 1,000 years; not in heaven but here on earth.

A great world conflict will come before and at the time of the second advent of Christ. Now let us notice something else, which will be taking place at the same time. “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be taken and half of the city shall go forth into captivity. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the days of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olive, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with thee” (Zech.14:2-5). A vast conflict is here described.

The Lord also shall roar out of Zion,  
and utter His voice from Jerusalem;  
and then the heavens and earth shall  
shake: but the Lord will be the hope  
of His people, and the strength of the  
children of Israel.

All nations of the world, the great and small will take part in this great struggle. Jerusalem will be the center of the battle. Other Bible references indicate that two great alliances of nations will fight against each other. One group will be fighting to hold Jerusalem but they will lose just as the city is taken and half of it is captured: the Lord comes forth and descends to the Mount of Olive. The great conflict in which all nations are engaged just before the second coming of Christ appears to be the same as the battle of Armageddon described in the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation (Rev.16:14; 16). What a vast and tremendous conflict this will be when all the powers of the earth pit their strength against each other. The center of the conflict will be a great battle which will center at Jerusalem. But in these modern times nations are at war everywhere. With the use of great missiles with atomic warheads a vast fiery destruction can sweep around the world. This great battle will cause two thirds of the world population to be killed.

The fourteenth chapter of Zechariah describes three events in order. The first is the great world conflict involving all nations and the battle centering at Jerusalem. The second is the coming of Christ to the earth, touching down at the Mount of Olive. The third is the establishing of the Kingdom of Christ on earth (Zech.14:8-9).

Enter ye in the strait gate: for wide I  
is the gate, and broad is the way, that  
leadeth to destruction, and many there  
be which go in thereat because strait  
is the gate, and narrow is the way, which  
leadth unto life, and few there be that  
find it.

The 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah describe a great destruction on earth: “Not one stone will be left on top of another, turning the earth upside down, and will scattereth abroad the inhabitants and make the land desolate and only a few men left” Isa.24:1,3,6). Most of the chapter is made up of descriptions of a similar nature. Surely, a very great destruction over all the earth is here described. Punishment is especially mentioned as coming on the great and high people and the kings of the earth (Isa.24:21). There is a striking similarity between this verse and the description of events at the second advent of Christ as found in Rev.6:15-17).

This great time of destruction will be so great the earth is even described as being “empty.” The destruction will be so great that the earth will appear empty, but not all will be gone. There will be a few men left.

Yes, the “utter destruction,” the time of desolation, will have come to an end and the work of restoration begins. The terrible scars left by the last conflict will soon begin to disappear. The Lord Jesus will be King over all the earth and a great cleanup work will take place. A part of this is described in the book of Ezekiel 39:11-13, 16).

When Christ sets up His kingdom here on earth the few people that are left will be rebellious and Christ with His saints will have to rule them with a rod of iron, and teach

them the way of the Lord (Rev.19:15). This is the time when the redeemed of this age will reign with Christ on the earth for 1000 years. As we have seen, it will not be a time of desolation, but of restoration. We find the redeemed saints of all ages singing the glory of Christ, and those who are made King and Priests at the resurrection, when Jesus comes, will then reign with Christ on earth; not in heaven.

What will life be like in the new world that Christ will establish at his coming? Is the new world going to be a spiritual retreat somewhere off in space where monastic peace and stillness will prevail throughout eternity? And where “in mansion of glory and endless delight, I’ll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.’ Floating around heaven on a cloud playing a harp in the stillness of the night? With only time on our hands.

Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the  
heathens for thine inheritance, and  
the uttermost parts of the earth for  
thy possession. Thou shalt break  
them with a rod of iron: thou shalt  
dash them in pieces like a vessel.

It is a most difficult task to characterize the life, the living condition, and the pursuits of the world to come, as the Scripture offer only a few glimpses of what life will be like there. The prophets in the Old Testament and Christ’s Disciples in the New Testament left us enough Scriptures to see that the new world will be changed from this world, as we know it.

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord (the kingdom of Christ) shall be established in the top of the mountain, and it shall be exalted above the hills (Christ will be over all governments, large and small), and people shall flow unto it--for the Law shall go forth out of Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem--nations shall not lift up a sword against nations, shall they learn war any more. “But they shall sit every man under his vine and his fig trees, and none shall make them afraid” (Micah 4:1-4). “And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people, and they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa.2:4).

And suddenly there was with the  
angels a multitude of the heavenly  
host praising God, and saying, glory  
to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, good will towards men.

Jesus Christ will create a world of peace and blessing beyond what most have imagined. But these blessing won't happen in all nations all at once. This new society won't be built in a day, with so many wrong ideas to clean and overcome. Nation will need to learn the Biblical way to lasting happiness and radiant health. The Millennium will be a Sabbath of Rest for the nations. When that age comes, and the Messiah is ruling, then wars will cease. There seems to be not much hope that this great boom will come early. Men must first be brought from everywhere to accept their King.

Conditions on earth during the millennium period will have changed very much. The wilderness and the deserts will blossom as a rose, parched ground and thirsty land will have springs of water breaking out, rivers and streams will refresh deserts throughout the land, (Isa.35:1-2. 7, 10).

Here is a chapter full of joy and gladness of hope in realization, of redemption beyond compare. The first two verses describe the desert as blossoming so beautiful as to be compared with the finest and fairest portions of Palestine. Today's wasted land will become fertile in the Millennium, and will not have to depend on dying soil. The earth will be cultivatable! He will reduce the bare, snow--swept and rugged mountains, raises up some of the deep, and water the desert valleys, and change the world's weather pattern. He will make all deserts green and fertile.

And the ransomed of the Lord  
shall return, and come to Zion  
with songs and everlasting joy  
upon their heads: they shall  
obtain joy and gladness, and  
sorrow and sighing shall flee  
away.

Then, there will be provided good gentle rainfall in the right balance, just at the right season! And then what happens? Multiple millions of acres of unbelievable fertile, productive, wonderful farmland suddenly become available--just waiting to be discovered and pioneered. Deserts become green, fertile gardens and lands of trees, shrubs, bubbling springs and brooks, and mountains are brought low, and made habitable. "The wilderness and the solitary places shall be glad for then, and the deserts shall rejoice, and blossom as a rose."

Surely, this will be a wonderful time. It will not be a time of continued world--wide desolation, but of restoration and restitution. In this we find the glorious fulfillment of the divine purpose for the earth as spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He created the earth to be inhabited" (Isa.45:18).

The new earth will be like it was when God created the Garden of Eden for Adam. The first man created to be a gardener, where men would live in peace, happiness and pleasure. This beautiful place was the paradise God created for man. It was a small picture of what the whole earth will be like during the millennium, for the perfect human

creatures to live in for ever and ever in perfect health, joy and contentment, worshipping and serving their creator and ruler Jesus Christ. Paradise will be spread earth--wide. The whole earth will be made into a garden. The land will be blessed like the ancient Promised Land was blessed for the Israelites, land flowing with milk and honey.

How wonderful it is to contemplate the great work of God. He had made this earth for mankind, and no matter how great the forces of destruction, which may come upon it, they will not destroy it (Isa.45:18). God's work cannot be destroyed.

Even the animals will have been changed. "The wolf, leopard, lion and goats will lie down together and a child shall play with them and lead them around. The cows and bears will feed their young together. Such a world is not possible under human government. But with God all things are possible, and He will work even greater miracles than changing animals nature. With a willing humanity He will make a truly marvelous change in man's mind. The "wolves, leopards, lions, goats, calves, bears and cows shall graze together, and the meat eating animals shall eat straw like the ox." "The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put their hands in the viper's den" (Isa.11:6-9). "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my Holy Mountain" (God's Kingdom). The wild animals are not destroyed, but their nature is changed from wild to being tame. Here in this changing of nature of all creatures we have serious effect to show that in the Messianic Age it will not merely be man who will be changed but the whole creation. This same conception is carries over beautifully into the New Testament (Rom.8:19-22).

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Similarly, the prosperity and abundance which prevailed at creation will be restored in the new earth, where "The plow man shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes, him who sow the seed; and the mountains drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt." (Amos 9:13). These descriptions convey the picture of the real and abundant "world to come."

During this time of peace, the ones who are left to rebuild the land from this war that has destroyed the earth will only be done God's way. This is the time when the redeemed of this age will reign with Christ on earth. We may note that Revelation tells us that the redeemed of this age will be "Kings and Priests" (Rev.5:10; 20:6). What is the responsibility of a king? He is to rule, make decisions, and carry out God's plans. The Christian has the responsibility to use their talents to spread God's word. Some has a greater talent than others, so God expects us to use that talent to bring others to God's plan of redemption. Jesus left us a parable of the pound (15 ½ dollars) where He left ten

servants the money to invest while He was gone. Upon His return He called in the men to whom He given the money to find out what they could do with it, and what their profit were. The first man was faithful with the little that he was entrusted with. His reward was that he would have authority over ten cities. The second man would have authority over five cities to rule (Luke 19:12-26). In the new world the saints will be given the responsibility to rule over nations and cities (Rev.2:26). Some will be made Priests (ministers) to teach men God's way to peace and happiness. People will still be rebellious even after they had seen what happened to this earth, and must be forced to changes their ways.

The Redeemed of this age will then be immortal Kings and Priests, reigning with Christ. Evidently, the living water of salvation and the message of everlasting life we be needed by other people who will be living upon the earth. The establishment of the Kingdom of Christ over all the kingdom of this world is described in symbolic language. This prophecy was to be fulfilled by the coming of the Messiah, and portrays perfect peace, security, and rural comfort, where wonderful productive communities flourish and human being live by God's Laws.

And there was giving Him dominion, and  
glory, and a kingdom, that all people,  
nations, and language, should serve Him:  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
and that which shall never be destroyed.

What the Bible calls us kings, actually means Governors, and when it says that we will be Priests, it actually means we will be ministers. This means the saints will also have the responsibility of rebuilding the countries. As Nehemiah was made Governor by Artaxerxes to rebuild the walls at Jerusalem, so the Saints will have the responsibility to Govern, and also have the responsibility to Minister to the people (Isa.65:24). Even before "they call, the Saints will answer and while they are speaking, they will hear."

The Christian in all nation, and among all kinds of people, and through the whole compass of time; all these are said to be redeemed by Christ's blood, plainly showing that His life was a sacrificial offering for the sins of mankind, and He will reign on earth. We find the redeemed, Saints of all ages singing to the glory of Christ, and those who are made Kings (governors) and Priest (ministers) will rule with Christ.

Those who will have been faithful in a very little, will have authority over 10 cities (Luke19:17-19), and Christ will make them rulers over many over things (Matt.25:21). This is to be understood as referring to the New Kingdom, which the nobleman had just received. His former trusted and most faithful servant, he now represents as being made Governor under Him over a number of cities, according to the capacity he has found in Him. Central to life in the new earth will be the regular worship of God on the Sabbath Day. The Governor and Minister will see that "from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship me, said the Lord" (Isa.66:23). In the new earth both personal and public worship will be done with a richer and a more

spiritual meaning. Worship will be richer and more pleasing to God in the new world, not only because of the fuller appreciation of God's mercy and justice but also because of the opportunity to worship with the saint of the past and with Jesus Christ present. During the Millennium the people will be forced to keep the Seventh day Sabbath though out Eternity.

There He said unto him, well, thou  
good servant: because thou hast  
been faithful in a very little, have  
thou authority over ten cities. And  
the second man came and He said  
likewise to him. Be thou also over  
five cities.

Life in the new world will not be spent in idleness or passive meditation but in productive activity and creativity. Those who think that the redeemed will live in a new world as glorified guest, fed, housed, and entertained by God are totally misled. The new earth is not a kind of Disneyland—magic--world where God provides endless free rides to everyone. There will be no “free loaders” in the world tomorrow. Isaiah writes “They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyard and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the Days of my people be, My chosen shall long enjoy the works of their hands” (Isa.65:21-22). The Biblical picture of tomorrow's world is one where people will engage in productive activities. There will be no lack of time or resources to complete our project. In the field of knowledge, we have today we can only scratch the surface of any discipline we chose to specialize in. The more we learn, the more we realize there is yet much to be learned. In the new earth there will be no limit to our growth in knowledge and grace.

The new earth is not a kind of  
disneyland-magic-world where  
God provides endless free rides  
to everyone. The Biblical pictures  
of tomorrow's world is one where  
real people engage in activities

The Christians in India will no doubt be Rulers, Governors, and Ministers in the cities of India. The Christians in Africa will also be Rulers, as Governors, and Ministers to the

people of Africa. The Christians who has suffered in China will also be resurrected to Rule and Minister to the people of China as the disciples who are to be judge over the 12 tribes of Israel.

The New Testament is equally emphatic on the continuity between life in this present world and in the world to come. Perhaps the most powerful image used to convey the sense of continuity and realism of the new world is the image of a city. In Hebrews chapter 11, Abraham looks forward to the “New city which has a foundation, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb.11:10). The experience of Abraham is a type of experience of all believers, because, as the same author explains, “For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come” (Heb.13:14). In view of the limited Divine Revelation about life in the world tomorrow, we can only allude to some of its significant aspects as suggested by Scripture

And I saw the dead, small and great,  
stand before God; and the books were  
opened: and another book was opened  
which is the book of Life: and the dead  
were judge out of those things which  
were written in the books, according  
to their works.

The New Testament closes with a most impressive description of the Holy City Jerusalem, into which we are welcome “only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life,” only these will be able to enter therein. The fellowship we will enjoy with Jesus will bring us into communion with believers of all ages from all over the world. Today we can only fellowship with those who live in our time and in our immediate surroundings. In the new world our fellowship will extend to those who have lived in every age and county: patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs (who is crying out from under the alter, Rev.6:9-10), missionaries, pioneers, family, ancestors and descendants, pastors and laity.

This symbol of this grand fellowship is the great wedding banquet of the Lamb: “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev.19:9). Many was invited but was unworthy to attend because they made excuses why they could not come. Those who are rejected from partakers of the feast fall into the same category, even though their reasons or excuses may be different. They are considered unworthy! They were aware of the invitation to attend, but they had other interests, which were more important to them: these were the things, which really matter to them. Some of these men even killed those who had invited them to the marriage supper (Luke 14:16-24).

This fellowship is “a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and people and tongue” (Rev.7:9) becoming personally acquainted with the great minds and souls who have ever lives. It is impossible to imagine the inspiration

and information we will gain from becoming personally acquainted with the great minds and souls who have ever lived.

“For, behold, I created a new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into your mind” (Isa.65:17). Men and infants lives will have changed in this new world. In the new earth everyone will have unlimited time and resources to achieve the highest goals. The Bible says there will be no incurable diseases, no more tragic accidents, no more crippled children, no more infants dying at an early age. Men will live to be a hundred years old before they die. But not all men will accept God’s plan of salvation during this 1000 years period, but will die in their sins (Isa.65:19-0).

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,  
have we not prophesied in thy name? And in  
thy name have cast out devils? And then in  
thy name done many wonderful works? And  
then will I profess unto them, I never knew  
you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The scripture describes the new world tomorrow not as a totally different world somewhere off in space, inhabited by spiritual souls, but as the earth restored to its original perfection and inhabited by real people. The new earth will be a peace loving, cosmopolitan place where people from different races, culture, and language will live active and exciting lives.

After the thousand years are expired and Satan is loosed from prison, he and a multitude of nations will compass the beloved city Jerusalem (Rev.20:7-9). Furthermore, let us note that Satan is bound and place in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, “that he should deceived the nations no more, till his confinement be fulfilled: and after that he must be let loose for a little season” (Rev.20:3). Then we find Satan loose and he goes out to deceive the nations, which are in the four quarters of the earth (Rev.20:8). The people of these nations are not resurrected people. They are the descendants of those who were left as a natural people who came through the great tribulation period when Jesus came as King to reign on the earth. Now that Satan has risen, they will now be tempted by Satan to choose to whom they will follow.

All of the wicked will be gathered together by Satan, and this great army shall attack Jerusalem and the great camp of the Saints in the valley, which has been made near Jerusalem. Thus, the fire from God destroys this ungodly multitude. They become “ashes” and are “left neither root nor branch” (Mal.4:1,3). Following this is the judgment at the great white throne, which culminates the works of the millennium. : The rest of the dead lived nit again until the thousand years were finished: Rev.20:5).

The redeemed of the present age will already have been judged, for they will have then reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But there is a need for judgment for many others at this time (Rev.20:11-12). This judgment will be made from the records

compiled in the record book of God. Even as it is with us, the name of those are found to be God's true people will be found recorded in the Book of Life (Rev.20:14-15).

For the Lord Himself shall descend from  
heaven with a shout, with the voice of  
the archangel, and with the trump of God:  
and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then,  
we, who are alive and remain, shall be  
caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord.

The sea, and the grave will deliver up the dead and they were judge, each one according to his works. Rather than let them lived a miserable life in hell, Jesus will pronounce a death sentence upon them. They will be cast into the lake of fire, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt.25:41) and they will be completely burned up, and become ashes under the saint's feet (Mal.4:1,3), which is the second death (Rev.14:15).

In 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 26 we read that the last enemy that is destroyed at the time of the reign of Christ is death. Then Christ will deliver up the Kingdom to God the father, which will be all in all.

During the millennium on earth Christ will complete His great work of redemption. At the close of His reign, He will turn the completed work over to God the Father: "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet" (1 Cor.15:23). Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the father. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, only then shall the Son also be subject unto Him--"that" God may be all in all (1 Cor.15:24;28). The Kingdom of Christ does not end; it simply enters a different phase.

The Kingdom of Christ does not end, but He turns His eternal Kingdom over to God the Father. This ushers in the time of a new tomorrows world. Even Christ is then subject to the Father "That God may be all in all" (1 Cor.15:28). This ushers in the beautiful picture described in Revelation chapter 21 and 22, the eternal Kingdom of God on the earth. This old earth will have been cleaned by fire in the same manner it was once cleaned by water, as we find described in 2 Peter 3:5-13).

That thou keep this commandment  
without spot; unrebukeable, until the  
appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who only hath immortality, dwelling in  
the light, which no man can approach  
unto; whom no man hath seen, nor  
can see: to whom be honour and  
power Everlasting.

Bad news will be a thing of the past. Peace, happiness and abundance at last! Our future is a world of great physical blessing under Christ's Millennium reign. Beyond that, Immortal, Spiritual life is spectacular, a transformed universe! When we see and experience suffering in our present world, let us be thankful for our loving Creator's plan of Salvation. This is the hope of humanity. What glorious good news for the Bride (Church).

John warning in Revelation 18:1-8 is not a warning about a future world ruler that will force the world again to a false religion under penalty of death, but an all--world war that will end this world as we know it (Joel 3:1-2, 9-16). That war is God's judgment on this wicked world. That is when Jesus will set up His Kingdom and peace will then cover the whole earth. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready."

For the Son of man shall come  
in the glory of His Father with  
his angels: and then He shall  
reward every man according  
to his works.

Israel is the bride of Christ, we as Gentiles are adopted sons of Abraham, which makes us spiritual Israelite (Rom.11:17-24). "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Both, the Israelites and Gentile that has accepted Christ as their personal savior makes up the Christian Church. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal.3:28-29).

So then, the Church made up of Gentiles and Jews is the Bride of Christ; Christ is the Bridegroom to the Church. His Bride is the object of His love and the source of His joy. Today, Christ as Bridegroom is seeking sinners who will respond to His love and who will be willing to spend eternity with Him.

So, Christ made plans for a feast, a marriage super in honor of His marriage. The banquet follows the ceremony, all preparation has been made, and He sent out the invitation to many but they all rejected the invitations and made excuses why they could not be at the feast that had been prepared. "None of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper" (Luke 14:16-24). Then the Master sent His servants out in to the streets, lanes of city to deliver invitation to the feast and gathering together many guest. There was one man that was there without a wedding garment (not properly dressed), improperly dressed. In the case of the improperly clothed man there were no remorse or repentance was evident, swift judgment that sent him into "outer darkness, were there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" Matt.22:1-14). "Many are called, but few are chosen. It is most evident that the Lamb's wife (the Church) today is being prepared to be united with the Bridegroom at His second coming. Christian are cleaned from sin and transformed into His likeness, so that when the Bridegroom appears, they will be "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white" (Rev.19:7-8).

Today, members of His Church prepare for that great event. Today is the time of preparation; tomorrow the master of the house may shut the door and it cannot be open. Today is the time for the Church to make herself ready to be glorified with Christ, the Bridegroom. May we urge you to our forth an effort to attaining of these divine standards. Anything less than is insufficient!

Then cometh the end, when He  
shall have delivered up the  
kingdom to God even the Father;  
when He shall have put down all  
rule and all authority and power.  
For He must reign, till He hath put  
all enemies under His feet.

“The God of heaven shall set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people but--it will break in pieces and consume all these kingdom, and it shall stand forever. One like the Son of Man comes with the clouds of haven--to the Ancient of Days. Than to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is a everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed, and those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; 12:3).

Thus, we find the glorious destiny of the earth. Just before the second advent of Christ, the condition caused by the war which cause great destruction and the worse desolation that brought the earth to its lowest ebb, to its most accursed condition since the flood of Noah. But the first work of the millennium is that of the cleaning and restoration. During the millennium the earth will be beautiful and good. Following the Millennium it will be a new Earth, perfect and glorious throughout eternity.

Now is the time to accept the Lord Jesus Christ and His wonderful plan of salvation. Now is the time to read and obey the Bible. Now is the time to prepare for the second coming of Jesus that we may be among those who will rise to meet Him, who will then reign with Him on the earth, and eventually enter into the glorious kingdom of God (1 Cor.15:51-58).

Paradise lost to paradise regained! Yes, paradise will be regained before and after the last battle between Christ and Satan at the end of the millennium. Satan is released and goes out again to deceive the nations to battle against the saints and the beloved city of Jerusalem. As the armies come up to Jerusalem, the fire comes down fro heaven and devours them all (Rev.20:7-9). Then begins the white throne judgment of the dead, judgment begins and “whosoever names was not found in the book of life was cast in the lake of fire” (Rev.290:5). “For He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (1 Cor.15:25).

There is not much information in the Bible concerning eternity, when God Himself will dwell among the people. The Apostle John wrote: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the earth had passed away, and the sea was no more" (Rev.21:1). John then saw "The holy city, New Jerusalem, come down from God out of heaven." "And God Himself will descend to earth and dwell among His people, He will be their God and they will be his people. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and death will be no more, nor crying, no more pain for all of this has passed way" (Rev.21:1-4).

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. In flaming fire take vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceive by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that walketh for Him (Isa.64:4). David proclaimed a promise also when he wrote; "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men" (Psa.31:19).

Paul picks up the theme from Isaiah and David when he stated, "Eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, things which God prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor.2:9). We have to be like Abraham, live by faith, and look for a city which "hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb.11:10).

What wonderful conditions are promised for a new world and a new heaven and a new earth (Rev.21:1-4)! We can trust in these promises. The greatest power in the universe, the great Creator, Jesus Christ, has given His sworn oath that they are true. It is because He has promised these good conditions of peace that we know that it will come. And it is because He has said that they will last and we know they will do so. The one who is seated on the Heavenly Throne told John: "Look! I am making all things new," and He said: "Write, because these words are trustworthy and true" (Rev.21:5).

Now in this "time of the end" is when Christ is bringing in a few who will gain everlasting salvation in the new world and a paradise on earth. Jesus Christ said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I will give them eternal life, and they by no means will be destroyed, and no one will pluck them out of my hands" (John 10:27-28).

Jesus is calling those who will hear His voice in these last days, before the righteous new world is brought in and paradise is restored. We must listen and follow Jesus by dedicating ourselves to Him and He will provide us with life-giving spiritual food and guide us to the "fountain of living waters of life" (Rev.22:17). By doing this He will

enable us to regain paradise, where we will have endless life in Christ's Kingdom to come.

We know that Jesus Christ is coming as King of Kings' and Lord of Lords' to set up His Kingdom here on earth. But what must we do to be sure that we will be part of this kingdom and a worker in His government as King and Priest? From the preaching of John the Baptist—"repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" to the final warning in the book of Revelation, the call to repentance. Repentance is not merely for sin. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance" (1 Cor.7:9-10). Sorrow should lead to repentance, but one may be sorrow, and yet not repent. Repentance is a complete change of the purpose of life; from seeking the nature desires to seeking the purpose of God, and therefore it includes obedience to God ways.

Immediately after the tribulation  
of those days shall appear the sign  
of the Son of man in heaven: and  
then shall all the tribes of the earth  
mourn, and thy shall see the Son  
of man coming in the cloud of  
heaven with power and great glory.

If there is no knowledge of the indwelling presence of God in us, we are still dead in trespasses and sins, for the Lord Himself taught that all "must be born again" (John 3:3). Merely accepting Jesus Christ will not save us. We must become new creatures. This is accomplished by the act of God through the Holy Spirit. Remember, salvation is conditional. If we walk in the light than the blood of Jesus cleanseth us from all sins" (1 John 1:6-10). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye prove what is acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom.12:1-2).

Paradise lost to paradise regained! Paradise was lost because of Adam's disobedience, thus Adam lost for himself and for all human race that would come after him, the perfect, eternal life and paradise of Eden. But His (Christ) kingdom, paradise will be restored, how different the new paradise on earth will be! So this is the time that Jesus will fulfill His promise to the evildoers that died with Him on the cross, "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me paradise" (Luke 23:38-43). All these wonderful things are promised in God's Words, the Bible.

The first thing that the people will have to do is to tear down the ruins, and then must rebuild what was destroyed. Paradise will be spread earth--wide. The whole earth will be made into a garden. When the garden is planted, the earth will respond. That promise land will be a place of plenty. The Divine gardener, Jesus Christ, will direct the planting. Under His guiding hand the building and replanting of this land will be helped by the right climate.

There will be no hunger, lack of work, no famines, no shortage of anything. There will be no crime, no misdoing, and no lawlessness. Yes, men will be at peace. They will be at peace with themselves, with their neighbor and with God. Yes, the time will come when the earth will be comfortable and filled with good people. They will be people who have lived through the battle of Armageddon, the children who will have been born to them and the saints who had been brought back from the grave to live in the paradise that was lost. Also, in the promised paradise, “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of our God, as the water covers the sea’ (Isa.11:9). And He will guide us to the “fountains of the living water of life.”

Blessed and holy is he that hath part  
in the first resurrection on such the  
second death hath no power, but they  
shall be priest of God and Christ, and  
shall reign with Him a thousand years.

In every way God will make a garden where man will be able to live in a peace, happiness, and pleasure. It was for this reason that it was called the Garden of Eden, as this means “Garden of God.” The Garden of Eden was just a small picture of what the earth will look like for man to live in during the thousand years reign with Christ. Man will live in perfect health, joy, and contentment, worshiping and serving our creator and ruler of this universe.

Be sober, be vigilant, because your  
adversary the devil, as a roaring  
lion, walking about seeking  
whom he may devour.  
Then shall He say also into  
them on the left hand. Depart  
from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting  
fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Walk  
In the Way  
Of  
Goodness

Humans want to decide for  
them selves what is good.  
But only God can define  
goodness----it is a fruit  
of His spirit

