# GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT & THE NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

(Revelation 20 – 21 - 22)

## SESSION #14 – WORKBOOK Intended For "KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD"

**Unveiling Mysteries in the "Book of Revelation"** 

**Based upon the Book:** 

#### **GOD'S ANOINTED WARRIORS**

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#### (Slides # 2 - 3)

The events which will be addressed in this presentation are intended to provide God's anointed Christian warriors with insights into the coming Kingdom of Almighty God.

> A Kingdom which will bring closure to the 1,000 year millennial reign of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### (Slides # 4 thru 8)

#### THE COMING DAY OF JUDGMENT

This coming Day of Judgment will be such a glorious event for all those who have been burdened throughout the centuries for it will be a day when righteousness and justice will be manifested forever and ever.

#### First Purpose for the Day of Judgment:

- ➤ Everyone will finally understand that God is truly omniscient and omnipresent; that is, He knows our every thought and the true motive behind our every action throughout each of our individual lifetimes.
- Nothing has ever taken place in the actions, minds, or hearts of any man or woman that is hidden from our all-knowing and always-present God who initially created us in His image.
- ➤ His eyes have not only been upon us outwardly, but He also sees into our minds and hearts during every second of our entire lives.

#### For example:

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. *Hebrews 4:13* 

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. **Proverbs 15:3** 

Death and destruction lie open before the Lord; how much more the hearts of the children of man! **Proverbs 15:11** 

And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. **Revelation 2:23** 

One by one, every man and woman who ever lived will stand before the Great White Throne of Almighty God.

And as the true hearts of each person become visible to all (for we will all be witnesses), then all will come to understand His righteousness that determines man's eternal destiny.

In summary, the Day of Judgment will display the perfect righteousness of God in the determination of each person's destiny.

#### **Second Purpose for the Day of Judgment:**

It is to reveal the degree of rewards as well as the degree of punishments for every person who ever lived since the foundation of the world.

- ➤ The degrees of reward or punishment are related to the lives that people have lived and the knowledge that they have received throughout their lifetime. All of this will be revealed to the world when the "books" are opened before the Throne.
- ➤ The bible reveals that some rewards are greater than others AND some punishments are more severe than others.

#### Third Purpose for the Day of Judgment:

#### It is to execute God's judgment on each person before the entire creation.

- This is a universal judgment over all of mankind; a judgment passed upon the wicked and the righteous on the same day.
- All will be judged; and this judgment brings forth varying degrees of rewards to His people as well as varying degrees of punishments to His enemies.
- For example Are they truly sons and daughters of God where they will live together with Him on the New Heaven and New Earth-----OR will they be cast into the Lake of Fire from which they will never depart?

#### FROM THIS JUDGMENT, THERE SHALL BE NO APPEAL, IT IS EVERLASTING.

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#### (Slide # 9 thru 11)

#### **JUDGMENT DAY - WHO WILL BE THE JUDGE?**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **Revelation 20:11** 

➤ It appears as if the One who sits on the Great White Throne, from whose presence both the heavens and earth flee away, is Almighty God, the creator of all life, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Yet, God, the Father, judges the world in and through His Son.

The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. **John 5:22-23** 

- ➤ When the entire creation appears before the Throne on the great Day of Judgment, it is unquestionable that the Father will personally be present sitting on the Great White Throne.
- > Jesus Christ is the Son of Almighty God, but He also has a human nature and He is the Father's representative to the entire world. The Father's authority has been given to His Son:
- Therefore, we shall all stand before the Father and His Son, who also sits on His throne at the right hand of the Father. And in the Son's hands, will be the Book of Life.

This will be the Day when we hear the following words of Jesus spoken in finality before each and every person.

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10:32-33

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#### (Slides # 12 thru 18)

#### **JUDGMENT DAY - WHO WILL BE JUDGED?**

## Now again, who will stand before the Great White Throne in judgment? Answer:

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life.

And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it,

Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **Revelation 20:12-13** 

## Thus, all of mankind, from Adam to the very last person who ever lived; all shall appear before the final judgment seat.

- ➤ Cain and Abel, Moses and Pharaoh, Elijah and Jezebel, David and Goliath, John the Baptist and Herod who beheaded him, Apostle Paul and the Emperor Nero, Martin Luther and all the Catholic Popes,
- ➤ Charles Spurgeon and Karl Marx, Adolph Hitler and Corrie Ten Boom, Stalin, Mao and the millions of Christians slaughtered under their rulership, Bill Gates, Hollywood celebrities and the homeless, the Clinton's and the Reagan's, the Obama's, the Biden's, and the Trump's, great and small, kings and slaves, rich and poor, young and old; all will appear before the Judgment Seat of Almighty God.
- ➤ Bodies of the dead which were never retrieved such as suicide bombers, those lost at sea, those devoured by beasts, those that have been dead for thousands of years; all will be resurrected and their bodies and souls will be reunited.

#### And they will stand before the Judgment Seat of Almighty God.

## This may also be the day that the rebellious angels that aligned with Satan against the Lord will also be judged:

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—Jude 6

#### **The Final Judgment Occurs:**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **Matthew 25:31-34** 

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **Matthew 25:41** 

#### <u>In summary – </u>

- Following this final resurrection, mankind will appear one-by-one before the Throne; the books will be opened and the thoughts and deeds of every living being will be disclosed to every generation throughout the history of mankind.
- > As the final judgment is pronounced on each person, they will either go to stand with the righteous at the right hand of God or with the unrighteous on the left.

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**BREAK-TIME** 

(Slides # 19 - 20)

#### (Slides # 21 - 22)

#### JUDGMENT ACCORDING TO WORKS

We will all be judged by our works during our lifetime - as we see in verse 12:

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life.

And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **Revelation 20:12** 

All the works of mankind must be revealed in their true ethical character. All of our works in their proper light shall be exposed before God, before the world, and before ourselves.

➤ The reason for this is that God must be justified when He judges and that He has always declared righteous judgments throughout history no matter whether mankind agreed or disagreed with the consequences of His judgments.

This Day of Judgment is at the end of an age when the thoughts and intents of every heart is exposed and the righteousness of Almighty God cannot be disputed by either His people or His enemies.

- Many times throughout our life, we see evil people getting away with rape and murder and we wonder why God does not immediately pour out His wrath upon these people.
- ➤ But on this Day, every mouth will be silenced and all shall acknowledge the perfect justice of God in both His righteousness and His timing.
- ➤ No one shall be dissatisfied with His judgments. Satan and his demonic world, as well as God's people and heaven's angels will have to acknowledge that God's judgments are perfectly righteous.

Although believers have nothing to fear from the judgment, the realization that everything we have said, thought, and done will be revealed before the entire world. This should provide us with a strong and continuing incentive to fight against sin.

#### (Slides # 23 - 26)

#### WHAT WILL BE THE STANDARD BY WHICH MEN WILL BE JUDGED?

The standard is the revealed will of God in each of our lives, but it is not the same for all. Some have received greater revelation of the will of God than others.

Those who have received a greater revelation of God's will, have greater responsibilities.

➤ All of mankind, even those who are ignorant of the Bible do know that God is their Creator even though they refuse to accept the truth.

#### This is revealed in Romans 1 where we read:

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

- For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
- For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
- For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Romans 1:18-21**

#### This is often referred to as our conscience.

That inner sense of right and wrong that is the essence within the soul of every human being for mankind was created in the "image of God."

The reason the Bible teaches that the final judgment will be according to works, even though salvation cannot be earned by works, is the intimate connection between faith and works.

Faith will always reveal itself in works; as good works are the visible evidence of true faith. If the faith is genuine, the works will be there:

As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. <b>James 2:2</b>					dead. James 2:26
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(Slides # 27 thru 29)

#### THE "BOOK OF WORKS" & THE "BOOK OF LIFE"

All believers shall stand before the Great White Throne on Judgment Day and as the books are opened, we shall see our sins as they have never fully been seen before.

- ➤ On that day we shall all understand that even some of our best works were defiled by sin and therefore, we have no hope for eternal life based upon our perception of "good works."
- ➤ However, there is another glorious book and it is held in the hands of Jesus Christ standing at the right side of His Father.
- > This is the Book of Life which contains the names of all His chosen ones who are redeemed by the blood of their Lord and Savior.
- Thus, following the exposure of one's works, the Book of Life will then be opened to determine if their name is recorded.

If so, then their sins are removed from the presence of God as far as the "east is from the west."

➤ Then we will be called to stand on the right side of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### This is the fulfillment of His promise when He said:

The one who conquers will be clothed in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

**Revelation 3:5** 

## The great and final decision in judgment shall be whether or not one's name is written in the Book of Life!

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:15** 

## In summary then - the significance of the Day of Judgment can be summarized in the following three observations:

- 1. This Day reveals to all, that salvation and eternal blessedness is dependent on one's relationship to Jesus Christ.
- 2. This Day underscores man's accountability for his life and the opportunities that God has provided to allow one to accept or reject His holy authority over life.
- 3. This Day is the final and decisive conquest of all evil and the great revelation of the victory of the Lamb who was slain and rose again.

At the close of this Day of Judgment, the will of God for this age will be perfectly comp (AMEN)						
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#### **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ALLOWING EVIL IN HIS CREATION**

At the end of this Day of Judgment, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which was introduced in the Garden of Eden, will have fulfilled its purpose.

(Slides # 31 thru 36)

#### Now, what do I mean by this?

In my video session entitled "Spiritual Warfare and the Problem of Evil" I presented eight wondrous truths that evolved from the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden.

#### A brief summary of these eight glorious truths are as follows:

- 1. Adam's fall revealed that mankind had free-will, but did not yet have a true heart of love for God, his Creator.
- 2. The fall of mankind demonstrates our dependency upon God that is needed to conquer death and to sustain life.
- 3. The depth of our Lord's love would not have been seen and understood without the Fall and thus, we would not have truly known Him as He desired for us.
- 4. Knowledge of good and evil is necessary in order to truly understand and fully appreciate the perfect world in which believers will eternally live.
- 5. The fall provided the opportunity to bring forth Kingdom Warriors empowered by God to fight the battles against the powers of evil for the purpose of delivering numerous peoples unto salvation who have been enslaved by Satan. These are certainly among those who receive the greater rewards.

- 6. The fall of mankind provided the opportunity for our heavenly Father to introduce His Son who would reflect God's personality in a way hat mankind can truly understand. We would not have truly come to know Him without the Fall for Jesus would not have become a man.
- 7. Those who are "born again" by the blood of Christ have a new relationship with God—that was not available to Adam—in his original state. This is a relationship of family—purchased by the blood of God Himself. Mankind no longer appears simply, in the image of God, as Adam was before the Fall; we have been born again and our identity is now—sons and daughters of Almighty God, who is now, not only our Creator but, our glorious Father.
- 8. Those of mankind who choose to believe and follow the Lord will one day be united together, forever in the likeness of His Son.

#### This is the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus to His Father

Dear Father - The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:22-24:

#### Thus, those whose names are written in the Book of Life can say:

"Thank you Father, for allowing the Fall to occur - which has provided us with the opportunity to grow more and more into the likeness of Your glorious Son through our growing understanding of good and evil; and to allow us to stand against the darkness of evil as we allow the Light of Jesus Christ to shine through us."

And at the close of the Day of Judgment, the sons and daughters of our Almighty Father may eat from the Tree(s) of Life forever and ever.

**BREAK-TIME** 

(Slides # 37 - 38)

(Slides # 39 thru 44)

#### LAKE OF FIRE - THE PERMANENT ABODE OF THE UNGODLY

The Lake of Fire (Hell) is described in various sections of the Bible as a place of > Darkness, / fiery torment, / sorrow, / bitterness / disgrace, / and everlasting contempt.

None of the characteristics of the Lord - which we take for granted in this life - will be available in Hell.

> For the Lord's presence is no longer available!

#### For hell is a place that is absent of the presence of God. That is:

- ➤ Light will no longer exist only darkness!
- > Love will no longer exist only anger and hate!
- Joy will no longer exist only depression!
- ➤ Peace will no longer exist only restless turmoil!
- ➤ For the Lord's presence is no longer available!

#### Who are those who will be thrown into the Lake of Fire?

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." **Revelation 21:8** 

#### The defeat of Death:

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:14** 

Death lost much of its power when Jesus was raised from the dead and lost even more throughout the millennial period. But now, **Death is the last enemy to be defeated.** 

## Death appears as the evil angel who is the rider on the pale horse and Hades as another evil angel who follows right behind him:

And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth. **Revelation 6:8** 

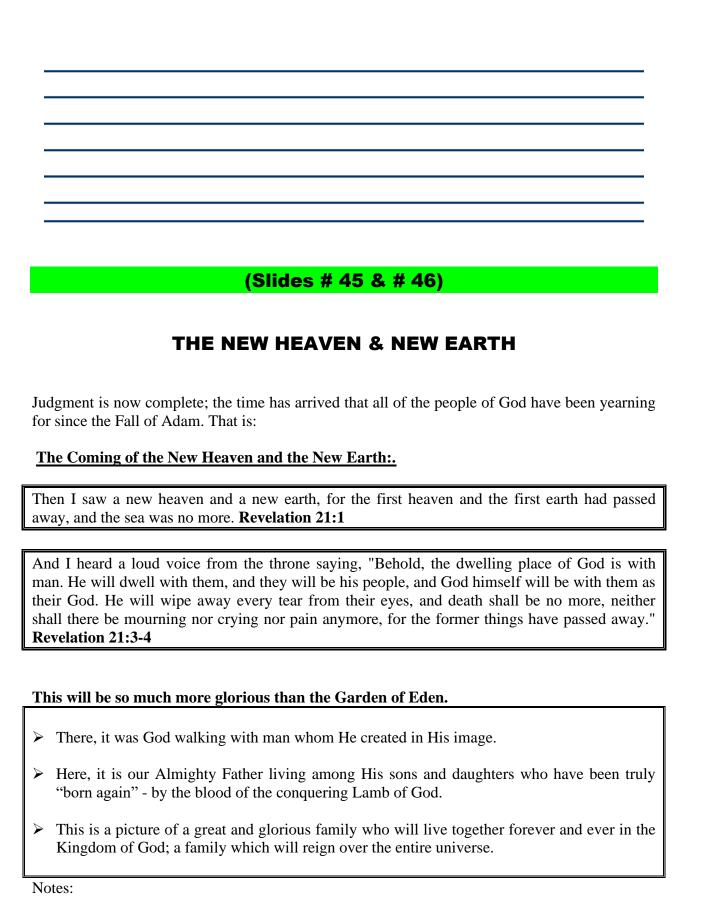
#### Death & Hades are:

#### The two most powerful angelic beings in the demonic realm under the rulership of Satan.

- Now Satan, together with his cohorts the angel of Death, and the angel of Hades will all join the Antichrist and the false prophet in this horrendous, putrid, and tormenting Lake of Fire.
- The Lake of Fire is an eternal demonstration of the wrath of God.

God's righteous power and glory can be demonstrated both in blessing and in punishment.

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#### (Slides # 47 thru # 50)

#### **NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH - A RESTORATION - NOT A CREATION**

A New Heaven and New Earth do not mean that the present heavens and earth have been completely annihilated and replaced.

- From the very beginning, God promised mankind nothing less than the Earth itself as his proper habitation and inheritance.
- ➤ When man sinned, his dominion over the Earth was not taken away but, the Earth over which he now ruled was under a curse.

And he who was seated on the throne said, <u>"Behold, I am making all things new."</u> Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **Revelation 21:5** 

The New Heaven and New Earth is a "restoration" of the old, not a "creation" of a new.

#### **Consider the following three points:**

- 1. Here the word "new" is the Greek word "kainos;" which communicates that it is new in nature and not a new creation.
- ➤ If it was "new" in origin, then the Greek word "neos" would have been used.
- ➤ This is a "kainos" heaven and "kainos" earth that is revealed in these passages.

Thus, the earth is being perfectly restored – to the point where our Lord, who created both the heavens and the earth, can once again say "It Is Good!"

#### 2. All of creation awaits the coming restoration:

The Book of Romans informs us that this present creation is eagerly waiting the revealing of the sons of God so that it may be free from its bondage of decay and death.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:19-23

#### 3. Consider our very selves.

- > Our resurrected bodies are not a new creation; we are **REBORN** into new bodies in which sin can no longer enter.
- ➤ We will not be a totally new set of human beings, but people of God who formerly lived lives upon the earth.
- ➤ Unrighteousness will never again be found in us and likewise, unrighteousness existing in the old creation will never be found in the restored creation.
- The New Earth will still be as much Earth as the new us will still be us.
- ➤ The earthly beauty that we now see won't be lost, but will become even more beautiful following the restoration of the Heaven and Earth.
- All of the old Earth that matters will be drawn into Heaven, to be part of the New Earth.

#### GOD IS NO MORE DONE WITH THE EARTH THAN HE'S DONE WITH US.

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#### (Slides # 51 thru # 54)

#### THE NEW JERUSALEM

The New Heaven and New Earth will need a Capitol City from which to govern the whole universe.

And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Revelation 21:2** 

#### This is the New Jerusalem, which is the promised restoration of the beloved City of God.

➤ This city will be a place from where God the Father and His Son will dwell with reborn sons and daughters - as well as the beloved angels - who have been guardians of His people throughout the age of mankind.

## This is a place that was being prepared for His people when Jesus first ascended to heaven over two thousand years ago where He promised us that:

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. **John 14:2-3** 

#### There will be no temple in the New Jerusalem:

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **Revelation 21:22-23** 

The City is also described as the Bride of Christ which appears to indicate that the all of His sons and daughters are within its walls as it descends to the New Earth.

#### The beauty of this City is far beyond our most incredible imaginations.

- A City of pure gold, transparent as glass, with twelve foundations adorned with every kind of jewel, and with twelve gates, each composed of a single pearl.
- Each of the twelve gates is inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; and the twelve foundations under the walls of the city are inscribed with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lord Jesus.
- Thus, all His sons and daughters, from both the old and new dispensations have entered through the gates and live within these walls surrounding the City of New Jerusalem.

>	This City is designed as a perfect square measuring approximately 1,400 miles both in length and in width, with walls 216 feet high.
>	This is the distance from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean westward to Colorado.
>	A River of Life flows out from the Throne of God throughout the city and through the gates into the world beyond.
>	Trees of Life, which were denied to Adam following his fall, now grow on both sides of this River and are accessible to all of His people.
>	There will never again be any need for sun or moon, for the glory of the Lord provides a great and glorious light forever.
	QUITE AN AMAZING PICTURE!
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#### (Slides # 55 thru # 57)

#### THE NEW HEAVEN & EARTH - BORING OR EXCITING?

Heaven has always been dominant in the thoughts and lives of all of mankind since the beginning of time. Everyone strives to imagine what life will be like in the eternal realm.

- ➤ The Heaven that Jesus described is not some spiritual realm of disembodied spirits.
- > Such a place could never be home for us, because human beings were not created for a non-physical existence. Human beings are by nature physical as well as spiritual.
- Our home that we love is the place that God made for us: The Earth. We were made from the earth and for the earth. Earth is our home.

The coming of the New Heaven and New Earth is a real event that will visibly combine both the physical and spiritual worlds together forever.

The presence of our Lord is currently in Heaven, but at the end of the age, when all evil has been cast away, God will unite the Heavens and the Earth under the headship of Jesus Christ, and His people will have access to His presence forever and ever.

- ➤ Everything good, enjoyable, refreshing, fascinating, and interesting originates with God. Outside of God's presence, there is no joy.
- ➤ On the New Earth, our Lord will give us renewed minds and marvelously constructed bodies, full of energy and vision. There will never be a moment of boredom among His people on the New Earth.
- ➤ Deep in our hearts, we all desire a resurrected life on a resurrected Earth instead of a disembodied existence in a spiritual realm. Why do we desire this?
- We desire it because it is God's plan for us to be raised to a new life on the New Earth.
- > It is our Lord who created us to desire what we were made for.

HE DESIGNED US TO LIVE ON EARTH AND TO DESIRE THE EARTHLY LIFE.

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#### (Slides # 60 thru # 62)

#### LIFE ON THE NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

The birth of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago brought heaven down to earth; not earth up to heaven.

The coming New Earth will be God's permanent dwelling place and will be as pure and holy as Heaven has ever been.

God's greatest gift to us is "Himself." His presence brings about great joy and is fully satisfying; while His absence brings thirst and longing.

- ➤ One can easily see the joylessness in the unbelieving world. Joylessness is present even among the wealthiest people on earth.
- ➤ Kings, politicians, and celebrities who are worshipped by masses of followers are really empty and lonely in their private lives and therefore seek for personal joy in the world of sexual immorality, alcohol, drugs, and riches giving them power and control over others.
- Now, the Book of Ecclesiastics on the OT reveals these hearts of joylessness among the rich and powerful.
- > Nobody will ever find true joy until they seek the presence of the Lord, who will then, open His arms and embrace them.

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Curiosity about heaven frequently surfaces as family and friends gather together to socialize.

#### **Such questions as:**

What will our bodies be like? Will we eat and drink on the New Earth? What will we know and learn? What will our daily lives be like? Will we desire relationship with our loved ones again as well as with God? Will animals inhabit the New Earth? What about our pets? Will there be art, entertainment, and sports? Will we design new technology? What will be the mode of travel? Will we explore the stars and planets in the universe? Whom will we meet and what will we experience together? And Finally - Will we be with our family and friends forever?

The finest book that I have read which addresses these questions and many others is Randy Alcorn's book entitled "Heaven."

We will one day pass from this Earth to the present Heaven through death, but eventually we'll be back to live forever on the restored Earth.

- We are pilgrims in this life, not because our home will never be on Earth, but because our ultimate home isn't on the present Earth which is still under the Curse.
- It was always the plan of our Lord for physical human beings to live on a physical Earth.

When sin entered the world of mankind, our Lord didn't abandon His plan; instead, He chose to become a Man on this same Earth.

#### Why?

So that His people would experience His glory forever and that the Lord Himself could enjoy the company of men and women in the world that He made for us.

#### "BEHOLD, I AM COMING SOON!"

"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." **Revelation 22:7** 

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. **Revelation 22:12** 

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! **Revelation 22:20** 

#### Jesus is coming soon and He has told us how He would come.

- ➤ He would come accompanied by wars, plagues, famines, persecutions, sufferings, and in a generation when knowledge would greatly increase.
- And as the appointed time of His coming draws closer, the more intense the power of His enemies will assert itself.
- Yes, He is coming very soon, but to understand just how rapidly Jesus is coming, we need to consider what must take place before His actual physical coming.
- ➤ Thus, the Book of Revelation was written not only to provide essential information for the last generation, but also to encourage the church in all generations to maintain their steadfast loyalty in the midst of demonic pressures and persecutions.
- We may not know the exact timing of His return but it will be unexpected to many for He comes as "a thief in the night."

## For His people who are not in darkness, but remain awake, His coming will not be unexpected as He tells us:

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

> There are many followers of Christ today who are awake and like the "Sons of Issachar" – they are discerning that the time of His coming lies shortly before us; most probably in this generation.

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#### (Slides # 66 & 67)

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION MUST REMAIN OPEN TO BOTH THE KINGDOM OF GOD & THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD

When this Book is opened and expounded, it will strengthen the faith and hope of the people of God.

However, it will also bring much ridicule from both within and outside the church:

- > There will be many who will have nothing to do with it; they will mock and belittle those who proclaim it. They will say, "You are a dreaming, hateful pessimist who is scaring people."
- > Even among evangelical Christians, there are those who will have nothing to do with it. They like to say "don't worry about it for things will all "pan-out" in the end."
- This is a very dangerous mindset that may lead one to being among the five virgins who were unprepared for His coming and reacted too late to enter into the marriage feast with Jesus. It wasn't their unbelief in Christ that kept them out; it was their apathetic attitude toward preparedness for His coming.
- This Book of Revelation will also arouse opposition among the unbelievers whose hope lies only in the future of this present world; for this prophetic book leaves no hope for their vain dreams for they desire to establish a united worldly government.
- > Those who proclaim these end-time prophecies will one day be considered a threat to the national security of our country.

What then? Should we keep the Book closed because of a threatening and hateful opposition? No! Because we are to:

Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." **Revelation 22:11** 

#### This Book will draw the lines.

- > It will strengthen and emphasize the great difference between the true people of God and those of the world.
- ➤ It will make the people of the world more conscious of the great difference between their worldly desires and those of the people of God;
- ➤ It will also make God's people more conscious of the great difference between their desires and the worldly desires.
- And for this latter reason, the Book must not remain closed, but must be open so that all can hear and read and this two-fold effect may be achieved.

Stand fast Christian warriors; the truths in this prophetic Book need to be openly proclaimed to this generation of both believers as well as non-believers.

Notes:			

#### A FINAL WARNING

(Slide # 68)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **Revelation 22:18-19** 

Now, the warning in these verses does not apply to the imperfect understanding of believers who read and teach this Book. After all, these words are prophetic and therefore, there are inherent difficulties in its interpretation.

No, this "warning" does not refer to misunderstanding the Book, but it refers to a deliberate attitude of unbelieving what is recorded in this Book.

- ➤ It is addressed to those who are acquainted with its contents, but would change the message of this Book to suit their own purposes, so that the Kingdom of the World is confused with the Kingdom of God.
- > They do it by adding or detracting from it, so that the light of the truth of this prophecy is dimmed.
- For example, they deny the truth of a physical coming of Jesus Christ by "spiritualizing" these scriptures or by denying the "inerrancy" of these truths.
- Those who do this must be aware of the punishment that awaits; that is, they could very well be deprived of their part in the Book of Life.

Notes:			

#### (Slides # 69 thru # 71)

#### SEVEN BEATITUDES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

<u>Blessed</u> is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. **Revelation 1:3** 

<u>Blessed</u> are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" **Revelation 14:13** 

"Behold, I am coming like a thief! <u>Blessed</u> is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!" **Revelation 16:15** 

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." **Revelation 19:9** 

Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:6**"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." **Revelation 22:7** 

<u>Blessed</u> are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. **Revelation 22:14** 

#### "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen"

Additional Notes:			

## THE LAMB OF GOD - OUR TRUE

#### "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF"

The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.

Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.

## His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief

- A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.
- > A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.
- > These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:

....... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*