

7. Jesus, The Resurrection & The Life Ahead

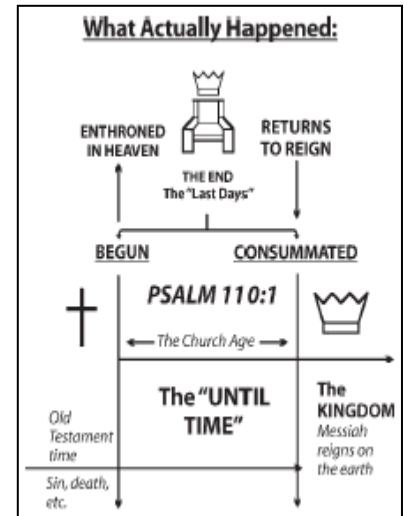
Jesus' Resurrection

What Jesus' resurrection did **not** mean:

- It was **not** meant to prove life after death.
- It was **not** the appearance of Jesus' spirit or ghost—a "spiritual" resurrection.
- It does **not** directly prove that Jesus is God.

What Jesus' resurrection **does** mean:

- It declared the debt for sin has been paid by Jesus and accepted by God so He can give His life to anyone who comes to Him by faith. *All of the New Testament.*
- It announced the beginning of the kingdom. *Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 26:19; John 5:28-29; Acts 3:20-21*



Moving Out

Out of this body, made perfect, and instantly with the Lord. *Luke 23:43; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:24; Phil 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:6, 8*

Enjoying the blessings of heaven in the UNTIL time.

- In a roomy, prepared place, with Jesus, enjoying rest and happiness. *John 14:2-3; Rev. 14:13*
- We'll have personal identity, memory and ability to talk and receive comfort. *Luke 16:22-23; Luke 9:30-31.*
- We may wear white robes and be cognizant of what is happening on earth. *Revelation 6:11; Luke 9:30-31*
- Those who died as babies and small children will be there. *Matt. 19:14; 2 Sam 12:23*

Moving In

Into new bodies when Jesus calls out for us sometime before His second coming to earth when the "fullness of the Gentiles" has been reached. *1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; Phil 3:20-21*

Our new body will be like Jesus' body which was the same as it had been but also different.

- Same—He looked like a normal human being (not glowing or with a halo). He talked, walked and preached a sermon at the same time, which means He had memory. His followers could touch him, hold onto Him, and see he was real; referred to Himself as having flesh and blood; used his hands to break bread, and he ate seafood.
- Different—Sometimes it was hard to recognize him. Jesus could also appear and disappear at will, through walls. His body was physically robust without apparent evidence of his beatings.
- For us, gone will be our sin nature—forever!

Moving Back

We'll come with Him for the battle and stay on to serve Him as He is King of planet Earth for 1000 years. *Isaiah 11; 65; Rev. 19-20* King Jesus will be king over:

- All nations. Jerusalem will be His capital.

- The righteous humans alive at the end of the Tribulation who will marry and have babies but still have a sin nature.
- An earth that is partially restored. Animals will revert back to being vegetarian; animals and people will not fear one another. People will live to be well over 100 years again. Never will a baby or child die. Only the wicked will die early. Everyone will build houses, plant crops, and eat well. They will work and enjoy the benefits. Worship will focus on Jesus in Jerusalem. All will call on Jesus' name together meaning there's probably one language again.
- Resurrected believers who will be priests of God and reign with Him. *Rev. 20:6; Malachi 2:7*

Moving Up

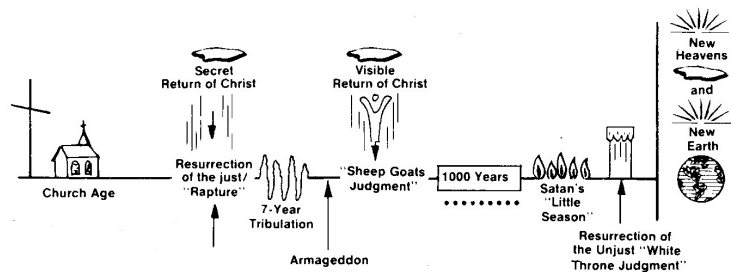
When God's heaven comes to a new Earth, and we get to live in it!

Application

- We are not immune from the sorrow that death can bring, nor should we deny its reality. But in Christ, we share in His victory over death! *Rejoice!*
- Be certain of our reunion with loved ones who have gone before, of receiving a glorious body that will never weaken or decay, of entering a wonderful new life beyond our fondest dreams, and of forever being with this Lord we love and who loves us perfectly! *Expect!*
- Don't long to escape this life, but let God's 'heavenly' life change your earthly reality through His power in us—the power that also raised Jesus from the dead. *Live well!*

A Possible Timetable for the End

When the time comes that God has predetermined to end the "fullness of the Gentiles" (Romans 11), believers (those living and those who have already died) will be "raptured" or "caught up" to meet Christ in the air and then go to heaven to be with Christ in new glorified, resurrected bodies. Afterwards, the Bema judgment of works and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place in heaven.



Meanwhile, on earth a 7-year period of tribulation involving extreme deception, wars, and suffering will follow the rapture of believers. Some Gentiles still on earth will become Christians during this time. However, God's focus will be on Israel, showing Himself to her in such a way that many will believe in Jesus as their Messiah and deliverer and thus reach "the fullness of Israel (Romans 11)."

At the end of the 7-year period, Christ will gloriously return to earth as He promised, setting up His kingdom on earth with Jerusalem as His capital. Those who died as believers during the Tribulation period will be given resurrection bodies and, along with the raptured believers, will rule with Christ on the earth. At this time, Satan will be bound for 1000 years (which is often called "The Millennium"). Worship will center at the Temple in Jerusalem. There will be worldwide peace among people and even among animals. Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord but still not all will believe in Christ because man's sin nature has not been removed from those who live past the Tribulation time. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be freed and will lead unbelievers against Christ but will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire. There will then be a resurrection of all the unsaved from throughout the ages who will be judged as sinners and cast into the lake of fire. God will then create a new universe and new earth, removing all aspects of sin, and will move His heaven to earth as the New Jerusalem. We will live here with Him forever.