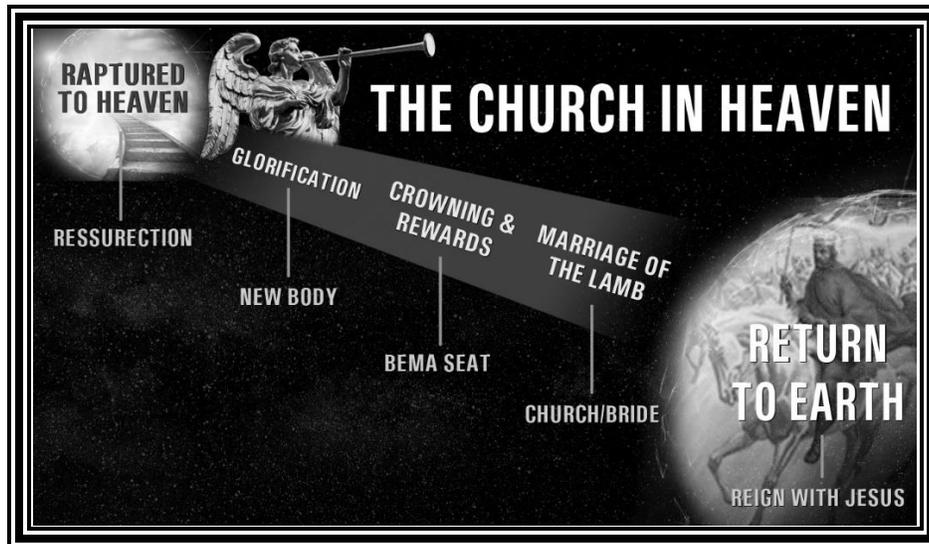


After the Rapture



God's Plans for the Church in Heaven, During the 7-Year Tribulation on Earth

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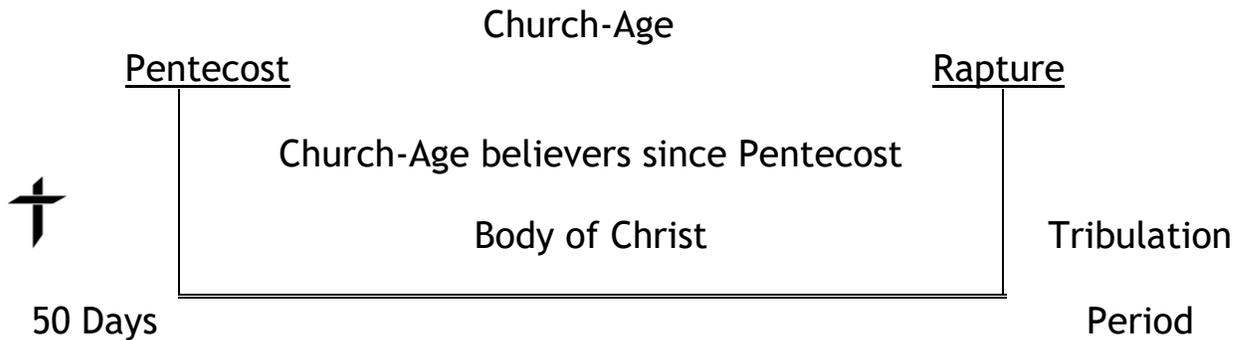
November 9, 2021

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES

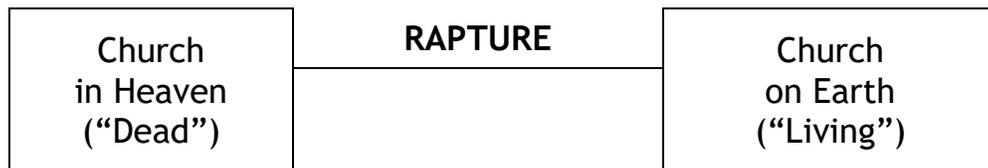
I. Stages of the Rapture - I Thess. 4:14-17

*14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep (have died) in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** (“harpazo” - 13 times in NT) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

- A. The church is comprised of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture
- B. The Holy Spirit began building the church at Pentecost - 1 Cor. 12:13
For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
- C. The Church-Age began with the miracle of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and will end with the miracle of the Rapture



- D. All living and deceased, Church-Age saints will meet in the Rapture



- E. OT & Trib. saints, resurrected after the Tribulation - Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:4

II. Our Christ-Like, Glorified Body

A. The final generation of believers will not see death - 1 Cor. 15:51

I tell you a mystery, we shall not all die, but we shall all be changed

B. 4 Contrasts of Natural bodies to our Glorified Bodies - 1 Cor. 15:42b-44

42 The body is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1. The first contrast pertains to Durability

“sown perishable” = Ability to age, decay and die

“raised imperishable = Everlasting

2. The second contrast has to do with Value & Potential

sown in dishonor = Strong tendency to dishonor God

raised in glory = Perfectly suited to honor God

3. The third contrast has to do with Weakness & Strength

sown in weakness = susceptible, disease, infections, broken bones

raised in power = Our spiritual body can never wear down

4. The fourth contrast is to Time, Space and Gravity - Lk. 20:34-36

sown a natural body = Only suited for earth & breathing oxygen

raised a spiritual body = No limits to time, space, gravity, etc.

C. Our glorified body is our same body perfected, like the body of Jesus!

John looked at the linen wrappings lying there... he saw and believed - Jn. 20

“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” (Heb. 9:27)

*“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
(2 Cor. 5:10)*

III. Crowned and Rewarded at the Bema Seat

A. Everyone will be Judged for their Works - Mt. 16:27; Rev. 20:13; 22:12

B. Paul explains the Rules of our Examination - 1 Cor. 3:10-15

¹¹For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw ¹³each one's work will become clear (The spiritual value of your endeavors will be revealed); for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1. You can build with worthless carnal materials = Wood, Hay and Straw
2. How you live after you're saved has no effect on your salvation - vs. 15
3. You can build with spiritual materials = Gold, Silver, Precious Stones
4. We are promised 5 Crowns and rewarded Authority in the Kingdom

Crown of Life - Faithfulness

Casting Crowns

Crown of Rejoicing - Soul Winners Crown

Crown of Glory - Pastors & Teachers



Crown of Righteousness - Love Christ's Appearing

Incorruptible Crown - Self Discipline in Serving the Lord

C. Service in the Church-Age is preparation for our role in the Kingdom

Kingdom authority is based on faithfulness today - Lk. 19:17-19

IV. The Marriage of the Lamb - Rev. 19:7-9

⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the church) has made herself ready. ⁸And to her it was granted (sanctioned by the Father) to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for (on) the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me, Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper (reception on earth) of the Lamb!'

- A. God chose a Marriage to illustrate the moment we become ONE with our Lord - Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:25-32
- B. God chose the intimate picture of a wedding to describe the quality of relationship He wants to have with us!
- C. The 3 Phases of the Union of Christ and the Church

1. Phase one: Engagement - Rom. 7:4 NKJV; 2 Cor.11:2

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

2. Phase two: Ceremony in the Fathers House - Rev. 19:7-8

His wife has "made herself ready"

- a. By first receiving her Glorified Body
- b. By passing through the Bema Seat
- c. Being clothed in fine linen, clean and white

3. Phase three: Reception on Earth - Rev. 19:9

Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those WHO ARE INVITED to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. - Mt. 8:11