

Let us take a moment to reflect on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and what it will be like.

The Lord Jesus first came about 2,000 years ago. He was born of the Virgin Mary, crucified by the Jews, buried, resurrected on the third day, and ascended into heaven to the Father. Even today, He remains in the heavens, having received the crown and all authority over heaven and earth (1 Timothy 6:16). Yet, He went there to prepare a place for us, a dwelling for His followers (John 14:2).

Soon, He will return to take us to be with Him, so that wherever He is, we may also be (John 14:3).

The Rapture: The Day We Will Be Taken Up

When the day comes for Him to take us, it will be the Day of the Rapture. He will not descend to the earth, but will remain in the heavens, calling us to ascend to Him. At that moment, we will hear the sound of the trumpet, and a supernatural power will descend upon us, transforming our weak earthly bodies to become like the glorious body of our Lord Jesus. We will rise and

leave this earth for the first time, ascending into the heavens (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

Those who have rejected Christ will not see Him when we are taken. Just as when He first resurrected, only His disciples witnessed Him—while the Pharisees, Sadducees, and even Pilate remained unaware—so will it be on that day. Only Christians who have held firmly to their faith will see the Lord in the heavens and hear the trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Those who have died in Christ will also rise first and will witness the events unfold. Afterwards, the living believers will join them, and all of us together will be clothed with glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

The world, however, will not recognize or understand this event. They might sense an unusual phenomenon, perhaps like an earthquake, but they will not see anyone. Only the raptured believers will see the resurrected saints ascend to meet the Lord.

The Heavenly Feast and the Tribulation on Earth

In heaven, there will be a joyous feast for seven years—a time of incomparable happiness. Meanwhile, the earth will go through the Great Tribulation, when the Antichrist will rise and deceive those left behind. Many will refuse to believe that Christ has returned and will be misled into receiving the mark of the Beast. They will eventually face the Day of the Lord's wrath, when God pours out His judgment in the form of the seven bowls of wrath (Revelation 16).

After these events, the Lord will return to execute judgment on the wicked, along with His saints who were in the heavenly feast. This marks the start of the Millennial Reign of Christ on earth, lasting a thousand years. During this time, only a remnant of people who survived the tribulation will witness His glorious return on earth (Revelation 19:11-16, Matthew 24:30).

The Thousand-Year Reign and New Creation

The Millennial Kingdom will be followed by the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, where there will be no death, aging, trials, or suffering. All things will be made new, and the saints will live with the Lord forever in eternal glory (Revelation 21:1-4).

The Lord will ensure that we are among those invited to the heavenly marriage feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

The Fate of the Unrighteous and the Mark of the Beast

Those who died in sin without Christ will remain in hell until the final judgment, when each will be judged according to their deeds and then cast into the lake of fire, which is the ultimate eternal punishment (Revelation 20:11-15).

Those left alive who accept the mark of the Beast will not escape either. They will experience severe plagues, thirst, famine, and calamities as God pours out His wrath through the seven bowls of judgment. Water will turn to blood, the sun will scorch the earth, and unusual phenomena will fall from the sky (Revelation 16:1-9).

Even without the rapture, these people will face immense suffering similar to those in hell, making it clear that the rapture is not optional—it is a blessed escape from God's wrath.

The Importance of Readiness

Jesus warned that no one knows the exact day or hour of these events, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Mark 13:32-37). He urges vigilance and prayer, likening His coming to a master leaving his house and instructing his servants. We must stay spiritually awake, avoiding sin, laziness, and spiritual sleep, so we are ready for His return.

Sin in any form—drunkenness, sexual immorality, theft, pride, envy, lies, murder, or malice—leads to spiritual unpreparedness. True readiness means living a holy and faithful life.

Conclusion

May the Lord help us to be among those called to the heavenly feast and raptured into His presence. Share this good news with others, and continue in faith, for the day of the Lord's coming is near.

Maranatha! The Lord is coming soon.

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