

What Will Happen at the Rapture?

by Armin A. Wolff

In any Bible study, do not just believe Armin Wolff or whoever, but be like the Bereans in Acts 17 -- read the scriptures carefully, pray for the Holy Spirit to open your understanding of God's word and come to your conclusion on this or any subject. Points raised as questions will hopefully create an incentive for you for further study on your own.

What exactly is foretold to happen at the moment the rapture, the catching away of the church of Jesus Christ occurs? Will born again, Spirit filled believers disappear without a trace in an instant? Will driverless cars simply crash, possibly killing people? Will airplanes whose Christian pilots are raptured fall out of the sky or possibly keep flying on automatic pilot until they run out of gas?

• **What is the rapture?**

The word "rapture" is nowhere to be found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin "raptus" which means to catch or snatch away. The original Greek text uses the word "harpazo" which is also translated as "pluck up" or "taken away by force", such as someone getting arrested and taken away.

• **When is the rapture?**

There is general agreement in much of the church, about the event of this catching away, but over the timing of it there is much more controversy. God alone knows the exact day, but that day is also determined by the full number of people to be rescued thereby becoming members of the church of Jesus Christ. (Rom 11:25) The Greek word translated full number or fullness is a nautical term used to describe the full crew needed before a ship could sail. Followers of Jesus Christ can have a part in making this happen sooner rather than later. (2Peter 3:12) Most disagreements revolve around the timing of this event in relation to the period of time known as "The Great Tribulation". Many, including myself, believe the rapture will come immediately before the last seven years of history as we have known it, leading up to the final war of Armageddon. Jesus Christ will terminate this last war of humanity with his personal return to earth. The day or hour when this event that has been called "The Rapture" happens will however come as a complete surprise to both believers and unbelievers.

1Thess 4:13-18 But I would not have you ignorant, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, that you be not grieved, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him all those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. For we say this to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall not go before those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet 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 in the air. And so we shall ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Paul writes these verses in the context of the Christian foundational belief in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, so will his followers be raised. Then Paul through the Holy Spirit gives a terse but succinct insight into how this will happen. The focus of this study is not what happens during the tribulation, but before and after. The first and primary purpose of the Rapture is to change our mortal bodies into an eternal, immortal one, just like the one He received when he rose from the dead.

Phil. 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.

• **Rapture in Old Testament**

Here we also read of a resurrection, of God's people being hidden until the judgment is passed. Note that it also mentions rooms for the people of God as well as a shut door. Jesus talks about preparing rooms in the father's house for his disciples and the door to the banquet being shut.

Isaiah 26:19-21 *Your dead ones shall live, together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew is as the dew of lights, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter into your rooms and shut your doors around you; hide for a little moment, until the fury has passed by. For behold, Jehovah comes out of His place to punish the people of the earth for their iniquity; the earth also shall reveal her blood, and shall no more cover her dead.*

Also note the parallels between the Thessalonians passage above and these verses in Isaiah.

- ***The first resurrection***

All believers, living or dead, at the time of the rapture, are said to be partakers of the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. The second death has no authority over these, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years.*

Jesus Christ, the Scripture tells us, is the first fruit of the resurrection.

1Corinthians 15:20 *But now Christ has risen from the dead, and has become the first fruit of those who slept.*

Therefore by examining the details of His resurrection, we can get some clues into the resurrection of the saints that already died and the rapture for those saints still alive at its occurrence.

- ***The moment of the resurrection of Jesus***

After the unspeakable ordeal of the crucifixion, Jesus' battered and disfigured body was taken from the place of execution and laid in a new unused tomb.

Matthew 27:57-60 *When the evening had come, a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, came, who also himself was Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in clean linen, and laid it in his new tomb, which he had cut out of the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and departed.*

- ***Resurrection energy***

In the wee hours of the morning of the first day of the week, the awesome resurrection power of God flashed into the lifeless body of the Lord Jesus. This immense energy re-created the body of Jesus into a transcendent, eternal, glorified form. This glorified body flashed out of the enveloping grave clothes, which were left behind in a pile where the body had lain. The two ton stone covering the opening of the tomb was not rolled away to let Jesus out, but was removed for the benefit of those who came to the grave that morning. That way they could clearly see the tomb no longer held their Lord. He appeared to his disciples in a physical, fully clothed body that could be seen and felt. He likes to eat, although he doesn't have to eat like we do in order to survive. In many of the interactions with his disciples after his resurrection he shares food with them. I like that because I also enjoy eating!

Luke 24:39 *Behold My hands and My feet, that I am He! Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see Me have.*

His body was quite different from our present mortal bodies. God is very detail oriented, both in his creation and his holy Word. The only man-made thing in heaven now and forever, are the wounds that sinners inflicted on the Lord of the universe. For one, His new body did not have blood in it. His physical body is eternal, not subject to the limitations of space and time. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve each had a similar bloodless eternal body not subject to death or decay. When they sinned, Adam and Eve perceived themselves to be naked, because they had lost the robe of light, which is the righteousness of God. (Psalm 104:2)

Genesis 2:23 *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man.*

- ***Blood is absent in heaven***

Because blood was spilled for sin, first the blood of animals and then ultimately the blood of Jesus Christ, blood represents an atonement for sin. Because there is no sin in heaven nor was there on earth before Adam disbelieved and therefore disobeyed God, blood is not necessary or even allowed.

1 Corinthians 15:50 And I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Our present flesh and blood body is corrupt and subject to corruption.

- ***Instantaneous change***

Just as Jesus was changed in an instant on the morning of his resurrection, so all Christians indwelt by the Holy Spirit shall be changed. Just like Jesus' grave clothes were left in a pile where his old battered body had lain, so too will our earthly clothes and other physical objects with or on us stay on the spot where we happen to be when the transforming resurrection power of God flashes all over the earth on that glorious day.

In an instant of time, all Spirit filled Christians, will be translated, snatched out of and away from this present space-time dimension into the eternal realm which can be thought of as enclosing and encompassing all time from its beginning to its end. Right now, we are in this world physically, but we are not of this world spiritually. After this transformation event occurs, we will still be in this world physically, but also in eternity physically. Just as Jesus, so we too will be clothed with a robe light which is the righteousness of God.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I speak a mystery to you; we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet. For a trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.

- ***Non local being***

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first of the sabbaths, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace to you!

Even though Jesus could be seen and felt with the physical senses, he was able to slip in and out of our present time-space dimension as easily and effortlessly as one of us might walk from the kitchen into the living room. He was and is still today a non-local person, not confined to any particular time and place. Non-locality also confers the ability to be in any number of places at the same time. In theological terms it simply means God is omnipresent, that is He is non-local.

- ***Nature mirrors part of its Creator***

In scientific terms, in quantum physics, a particle can be non-local. That means simply that where an isolated particle is in time and where it is in space cannot be known exactly. This property of elementary particles is part of what is known as *The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle*. If you want to know more, you may research it on your own.

When there are many particles such as in our normal world, their aggregate place in time and space can be ascertained to a greater and greater degree of certainty. Thus you and I and the objects we are familiar with, being collections of an unimaginably huge number of particles are local, that is they are limited to a specific region in time and space. The quantum world is weird and strange, yet very real.

- ***Jesus ministers to his brothers***

Jesus showed himself and ministered on earth as the resurrected and transcendent Lord. One episode of this ministry shows His great love for Peter though he had denied Jesus. After He shared breakfast with His disciples, He turns to Peter. There is no scolding or chastisement as Jesus gently reinstates Peter to the ministry of the Church.

John 21:15 Then when they broke fast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

For the entire story, please read the rest of the verses following.

- **Emmaus**

Here Jesus goes on a 7 mile walk with two disciples, giving them a Bible study which culminates in them having dinner together that evening. Supposedly, he is their guest, but he simply disappears after giving them the bread as they recognize him. They are so excited about having seen the Lord, they walk all the way back to Jerusalem in the dark to tell the other disciples. Jesus new transcendent body is obviously composed of an entirely different arrangement of matter than the normal matter we are familiar with. (Luke 24:13-33)

- **Forty days**

After his resurrection, Jesus did not immediately depart Earth and go to heaven, but was still here for forty days in his transcendent glorified body, ministering to those whom He dearly loved, his children.

Act 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself living after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them through forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- **Servants not greater than the master**

Because Jesus is our model, the servants of the Lord, Christians, will likewise not vanish and go straight to heaven after the instant transformation out of a mortal body into an immortal, eternal one. They too will be given the joy to minister on earth for a period of perhaps 40 days just as their master set the example. There is nothing in Scripture that I know of, that states that believers will instantaneously disappear, only that they will be changed from mortality to immortality in an instant.

John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, A servant is not greater than his master, neither is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

After their instantaneous resurrection/transformation, the holy glorified people of God, that is the Church, may be here on earth for a short time, before Jesus will call them to himself in the clouds. From there he will personally escort them to heaven for a celebration such as the universe has never seen. This celestial banquet is called the marriage supper of the Lamb. Rev 19:7-9

1Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall ever be with the Lord.

There is nothing in this passage that says that zero time will elapse between the time of transformation from a mortal to an immortal physical body and the actual meeting of those physical bodies in the clouds where the actual reunion with Jesus Christ takes place.

- **All assumptions must be examined**

It is an unwarranted assumption that the physical transformation of the mortal body as given in 1 Cor 15 and the reunion with Jesus Christ in the clouds of the air are not and cannot be separated by a period of time. As an engineer and scientist I have always been told to challenge all assumptions, because many assumptions made by man historically have turned out to be not the way things really are. God is eternal, but humans are time bound and as such have always made erroneous assumptions concerning time periods and still do so today. The evolutionary theory with its billions and billions of years is a modern example of this error. The early Christians believed that Jesus Christ would return in their lifetime, but here we are many centuries later still waiting for Jesus Christ to appear a 2nd time.

- **Immortals and mortals together**

The transformed believers and the still mortal unbelievers will not be distinguishable at first glance from one another. Just as Jesus after his resurrection appeared as a human to all who saw him, so too the glorified resurrected people of God will be capable of functioning in their job just as they always had before the instantaneous transformation took place. However, the transformed believers, being immortal creatures of flesh and bone (no blood) have the capability of obeying, when Jesus calls them a few short days later into the clouds to go with him to heaven.

- **Working side by side**

Luke 17:34-36 I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed, the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two shall be grinding together, one will be taken, and the other left. Two shall be in the field, one will be taken, and the other left.

Two people shall be working at their job, whatever that may be, but at the rapture one will be transformed in an instant into immortality, but the other one will be left in their mortal flesh and blood state. Believers will be given the opportunity to gracefully complete any immediate task such as maintaining control over a car and if they happen to be a pilot of an airplane, continue flying it safely to its destination. Jesus is not the author of chaos and destruction. Such is reserved for unrepentant sinners.

This passage will find its 2nd fulfillment after the return of Jesus Christ, when he will judge the inhabitants of the earth on the basis of whether they have helped or not his brothers, the Jews, during the time of the great tribulation, also known as the time of Jacob's trouble. One will be allowed to enter the kingdom and another refused on the basis of their attitude and action toward Israel and the Jewish people.

• ***Resonant Response***

There is a principle in nature known to scientists as resonance. The un-damped strings of a piano respond to a particular pitch of sound or a radio receiver picks up a particular station. These are natural examples of the principle of resonance in our physical world. When Jesus appears in the clouds and calls the transcendent glorified believers with the last trumpet, they will be able to instantly respond because of the resonance by the Holy Spirit within them. (1Cor15:51-52)

Just like Jesus, the transcendent glorified believers will not need a rocket, spaceship or spacesuit to leave this earth and follow Jesus to glory in heaven when He comes in the clouds to call them. The now immortal followers of Jesus Christ, having previously been resident in a flesh and blood earth suit, are now ready and able to join Jesus in the clouds, because they are living in their glorious new heaven suits which are capable of living anywhere Jesus is capable of being.

• ***Exhort and warn unbelievers***

Especially the living, now transformed Saints will have a short opportunity to warn their unbelieving friends and relatives one last time of the impending judgments of God and exhort them to repent and to not submit to the coming world ruler by giving their allegiance to him. Some of the now resurrected Christians, especially those who had died recently, may be given an opportunity as well to come and warn some of those still on earth of the coming judgment.

Matthew 27:52-53 and the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep arose, and coming out of the tomb after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

The glorified Saints can still tell their unbelieving friends that their refusal to submit will cost them their life here on earth, but promise them a place in eternity with God. The word "Islam" means "submission". It is very evident that in our present time this political system masquerading as a religion is rapidly gaining strength worldwide. In those countries where Islam holds power, anyone not willing to submit themselves to this way of life, is at best made a second class citizen and at worst simply killed.

Rev 6:9-11 And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, Until when, Master, holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? And white robes were given to each one of them. And it was said to them that they should rest yet for a little time, until both their fellow servants and their brothers (those about to be killed as they were) should have their number made complete.

It is instructive that these righteous ones under the altar ask for vengeance, but are not chastised or rebuked, but are only told to be patient.

• ***Fearlessly immortal***

Because the transcendent immortal saints of God are no longer subject to death nor the constraints of time and space, they will go anywhere and do anything that Jesus through the Holy Spirit tells them to do, without the slightest interference by any human power or even Satan himself. Just like Jesus did, they too will be able to enter the most secure and the most secret facilities anywhere on earth, in order encourage and comfort those imprisoned there. Millions of mortals will come to believe in Jesus Christ after the transformation event that happened all over the earth in an instant of time.

The glorified believers cannot be killed or harmed in any way. Their testimony and exhortation to those still mortal, to endure and resist the coming evil ruler no matter what, will contribute to a great harvest for the kingdom of God during the period of time called the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:13-14 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes, and from where do they come? And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes, and have whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.

• **Innocent Children**

The sudden transformation of innocent little children and their subsequent call by Jesus to himself will be the beginning of the end time judgments for unbelieving parents. God is not unjust but incredibly merciful. He will spare all that are truly innocent from the time of His terrible wrath about to be poured out on this planet. It would certainly be in keeping with God's mercy and love to allow these transformed little children to warn their unbelieving parents of the coming judgments and therefore turn their lives over to Jesus, no matter what the cost.

Luke 18:16-17 But Jesus called them and said, Allow the little children to come to Me, and forbid them not. For of such is the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no way enter into it.

Jesus indicates that little children belong to him, since they are not yet capable of understanding the requirements of the law of God. In the Jewish culture, they have the celebration of bat mitzvah for girls at age 12 and bar mitzvah for boys at age 13, where they become adults, accountable to keeping the law of God.

Since children are not held accountable for their sins, adults have to become like children. In the very beginning of his gospel account John explained how we do that.

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Believing that the Jesus' death paid the full penalty due us for our sins gives us the authority to become God's children, and in that way we unburden ourselves of the responsibility for our sins. This is what it means to be born again.

• **Desperate hatred**

There is nothing more feared and hated by any government, than loss of control over those governed. Because no human and no government has any power over those that have been redeemed and transformed, the governments of earth, driven by Satan, livid with rage, can now only persecute and hurt the mortal ones who come to believe, but are still under the earthly governmental power.

*Matthew 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you. And you will be hated of **all** nations for My name's sake.*

All believers in the only true God, both Jew and believing Gentile will be hated more than they ever have been before in all history, during that final time on earth, referred to in the Bible as the Great Tribulation, known in the Old Testament as the time of Jacob's trouble. Since the church is no longer here, the only people of God that Satan can still go after are the Jews in the nation of Israel and millions of Gentiles from all nations who still respond to the call of God even though now most of them will have to die for their faith. God will protect the remnant of Israel until the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

• ***Not Easily explained away***

If the rapture of the church only involves the sudden disappearance of millions of people without a trace, as is assumed by many, that could more readily be explained away by the God haters. One such explanation might be that aliens came and abducted these troublemakers so that at last humanity can have “peace” because the earth is now rid of these fanatics who were opposing “human progress” such as abortion, gay marriage as well as refusing to submit to Allah, the god of Islam. If however, the transformed/resurrected believers and innocent little children are here on earth for a little while, interacting with those who are still mortal, just as Jesus did, then fabricating a lie about what really happened will be almost impossible, at least at first. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus was seen after His resurrection by at least 500 people at the same time.

1 Corinthians 15:6 Afterward He was seen by over five hundred brothers at once, of whom the greater part remain until this present day, but also some fell asleep.

That made it pretty hard to deny that Jesus was indeed alive. Anyone who really wanted to know could ask these eyewitnesses who were still around.

• ***Like Jesus***

The resurrected/transformed followers of Jesus Christ will also be like Jesus in that they may follow him to glory by leaving this earth behind in the same way and after the same length of time after their glorification as their Lord did. Similarly, the resurrected, glorified saints of God will meet the Lord Jesus in the clouds.

*Acts 1:9 And saying these things, as they watched, He was taken up. And a **cloud** received Him out of their sight.*

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He shall be revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

• ***Everyone on earth will know***

Therefore it is highly improbable that this world changing event called the rapture of the Church will be something that can be kept hidden and easily explained away, at least initially. Millions of transformed Christians and innocent little children will have given final testimony to the truth and reality of the resurrected Christ. A great multitude of relatives and friends of these Christians may at last believe and repent, because of what they have seen and because of the truth they have been told by the transformed Christian believers. Before their departure, the glorified Christians have the opportunity to give hope to their unbelieving friends and relatives by exhorting them to hang in there and be faithful until Jesus returns to earth. God is merciful to those who cry out to him even in the time of judgment.

• ***Witness of God still on earth***

After the departure of the glorified Church, all this will be soon forgotten when most of those who now finally believed the truth have gone underground or have been murdered because of their faith by the overwhelming majority of unbelievers, Islamists and their governments. According to the book of Revelation, the witness of God on earth will continue, but now primarily through the nation of Israel instead of the Church which has left earth to go to heaven with Jesus. God will continue His witness to humanity all the way through the end, by working with and through Israel. We are given more information about this in the book of Revelation. However, in spite of all the judgments and miraculous witness of God, humanity as a whole will not repent and turn to God.

Revelation 9:20 -21 And the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and golden, and silver, and bronze, and stone, and wooden idols (which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk). And they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Even in the nastiest and most severe judgments ever visited on this planet, God still holds out His hand of grace and mercy to any sinner willing to repent.

• ***Armageddon***

One of the prophecies that God gives us is on the subject of the last battle of the final war of humanity at a place called Armageddon.

(Revelation 16:16, Zechariah 12:3) All nations will send their armies against the city of Jerusalem. What would it take to motivate **all** nations on earth to do this? What lie or deception could be used by the world ruler to accomplish this?

- ***An alien invasion***

The rapture and the testimony of those transformed will soon have been forgotten and overwhelmed by a very effective lie and propaganda promulgated by the satanic Antichrist and his government. (2 Thessalonians 2:11) For at least 100 years or more there have been books and movies describing alien abductions and invasions. A divided and warring humanity is united in battle against these. It is quite likely that this is how this unprecedented event will be explained to the God-hating masses left on earth. Indeed it is true that the redeemed people of God are aliens and strangers who will return with their King, Jesus Christ, to invade this Earth when Jesus Christ the God-man takes back the ownership of this planet, which Adam handed to Satan.

- ***Jesus returns to earth***

After the wedding celebration in heaven, the transformed, glorified people of God will return to Earth with Jesus Christ to help Him rebuild a devastated earth and form a world government of peace among men.

Rev 19:14-16 And the armies in Heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, so that with it He should strike the nations. And He will shepherd them with a rod of iron. And He treads the winepress of the wine of the anger and of the wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His garment, and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- ***Destined to rule***

The earth was made for man and man was designed to rule over it. This is what the redeemed will be assigned to do under the leadership of Jesus Christ. By sinning, Adam foolishly gave dominion over the earth that was originally given to him by God over to Satan, but the second Adam, Jesus Christ, has won it back by dying on the cross to redeem this planet from the clutches of Satan.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. The second death has no authority over these, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years.

It is at this time that the faithfulness and labor of all true Christians that ever lived on earth will be rewarded by the delegation of the authority of Jesus Christ to his faithful servants. Now being transcendent and immortal, like the Lord, Christians will be at home in the New Jerusalem and commute down here to earth instantaneously, to joyfully carrying out the commands of and fellowship with Jesus Christ. We will be awarded co-ruler-ship with Christ here on earth, as well as heavenly awards or crowns which will be given out to believers at the bema-seat judgment upon his return.

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, Well done, good servant, because you have been faithful in a least thing, have authority over ten cities.

God has always included people in what he was doing. This will be no different. God's just, yet stern government on earth through Jesus Christ will continue this principle by including all of His body in some measure in His work. Unlike in our world right here and now, there will be no unemployment in the kingdom of God. The church will be the governing elite with delegated authority from Jesus Christ.

- ***Jewish Supremacy***

Israel will be the premier nation on earth, with Jesus Christ personally being physically present there in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish system of sacrifices will have been reinstated, though not this time for the remission of sins, but to remind Israel and all people on earth of the work that Jesus Christ did on the cross on behalf of all humanity. People will still have to believe what Jesus said: "you must be born again."

The survivors of the nations deemed worthy to enter into the peaceful age of the millennium, will pay taxes to Israel.

Isaiah 60:11-12 Therefore your gates will always be open; they will not be shut day nor night, to bring to you the wealth of the nations, and their kings may be led. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you will perish. Yes, those nations will be completely wasted.

• ***Three kinds of humans***

There are three groups of people on earth. One of them are the forgiven and redeemed by freely given grace and mercy, members of the body of Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, the Church, the immortal new creatures made possible by the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The 2nd class of people are the descendants of Abraham according to the promises of the fathers. These are the Jews, God's people of the covenant he made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The final class of people are the natural masses of humanity. This will be no different in this new era, except that the redeemed ones will have glorified, immortal bodies, whereas the natural man, both Jew and Gentile, will still have the old bodies of flesh and blood, subject to the limits of time and space and finally death.

2Cor 5:17 So that if any one is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The immortal, transfigured people of God, we will be able to live equally well in the heavenly dimensions or right here in time and space on earth.

• ***Sheep and Goats***

What will happen to those people in all nations who, managed to escape being killed in the Great Tribulation? There will be, as is the case today, the unbelievers and there will be those who have come to know Jesus Christ. The latter resisted the antichrist by not taking the mark of the beast. The latter will be relatively few, because most of them will have been murdered, but they will be separated out at the judgment of the sheep and goats. These will be the sheep of the Lord who will be allowed to enter the millennial kingdom in their mortal bodies.

Matthew 25:32-34 And all nations shall be gathered before Him. And He shall separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. And indeed He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats off the left. Then the King shall say to those on His right hand, Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

If you read the rest of this passage of scripture, it appears that among the sheep, there will also be people who were not believers themselves at the time, but sympathized with Jews and helped those who did believe in Jesus. These did not give their allegiance to the antichrist nor accepted the mark of the beast. They compare to the people who helped Jews during the time of the Nazis. All who did that during that time were not necessarily only Christians. Together with the surviving Christians and Israel they will re-populate the earth and be ruled for 1000 years from Jerusalem. That city will be the capitol of the whole planet, from where Jesus Christ and his body, the Church will rule. Those that had taken the Mark of the Beast and those that refused to help Jews and Christians, the goats, will be thrown into the lake of fire.

• ***Human longings realized***

Then at last, the golden age of man on earth will begin. It will be what mankind has dreamed of and longed for since the first humans rebelled against God and declared their independence from Him and His benevolent and just government. Planet Earth will be renewed and mankind can look forward to a wonderful future right here on earth for 1000 years. There are many wonderful prophecies in the book of Isaiah giving us a small glimpse of what life on earth will be like in those days.