

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES

A Comprehensive View of God's Great Plan from
Eternity to Eternity Illustrated with Chart

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CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE TRANSLATION OF THE CHURCH THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

In our last lesson we saw that God's purpose for this age is the building of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we want to consider the future events which will take place "**in the air**" and in heaven as soon as the body of Christ, which is His church, is complete. These events, about which we are to study today, will begin with the translation of the church, and will culminate in the visible, bodily return of Christ in glory, with the church, to establish His millennial kingdom on earth.

Just as the first coming of our Lord into the world nearly two thousand years ago covered a period of time — thirty-three and one-half years — so also His second coming will cover a period of time.

Between the two events which mark the beginning and the culmination of the second coming of our Lord; that is, between the translation of the church and the return of Christ in glory with the church to rule and reign — between these two great events the seventieth week of Daniel will run its course in the earth.

In our next lesson we plan to consider this earthly scene foretold by the Prophet Daniel, by the Lord Jesus Himself, and by His apostles.

Today, however, it is our purpose to consider only the heavenly scene which will be enacted while the seventieth week of Daniel is being fulfilled in the earth.

A glance at our chart will indicate, in outline, just what will come to pass during this period — both in heaven and on earth. Leaving the earthly scene for the present, let us look at what the chart indicates regarding the events to take place "**in the air.**"

As “**the bright and morning star**,” our Lord will come to take out of the world His saints; this is what we call the translation or rapture of the church. Then at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” the believers’ works will be judged, and rewards will be given for service rendered in His name. At some time during this period, possibly as it draws to a close, “**the marriage supper of the Lamb**” will take place. And then, as the “**Sun of righteousness**,” Christ, with His bride, will return to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. These are the outline facts which we want to consider as fully as space permits today.

The Translation Of The Church

1. The Church Will Not Go through the Great Tribulation.

Our chart indicates the fact that the church will not go through the tribulation; but as many Christians are confused in regard to this question; let us take time to see what the Bible says about it.

Some hold that the church will go through this “**time of Jacob’s trouble**”; others, that it will not; yet others, that there will be a partial rapture, some believers being delivered out of it, while others pass through this time of great tribulation on earth.

By “**the Great Tribulation**” we mean that period of terrible suffering still in the future.

Concerning it Jeremiah and Daniel uttered grave warnings. And concerning it Christ said: “**Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be**” (Matthew 24:21).

The major part of the book of Revelation tells of it in no uncertain terms. We shall study about it in our next lesson, but here let us remember that this time of trouble will run its course during the last three and one-half years of the seventieth week of Daniel. The sufferings will be terrible. Men will desire to die, but will not be able to escape by death. Therefore, the question that has been raised is an important one to every Christian: Will the church go through the tribulation?

Let us put the question in this way:

Who will go through the tribulation? The Scriptures divide all mankind into three classes: “**The Jews . . . the Gentiles . . . the church of God**” (I Corinthians 10:32).

The nation of Israel, still rejecting Christ as her Messiah, will pass through this time of sorrow, described as “**the time of Jacob’s trouble**.”

The Gentile nations will also go through the Great Tribulation, for it will cover the whole earth. It will be universal. The whole world will be under the rule of the Antichrist.

According to Revelation 7:9-14, John saw coming “**out of great tribulation**” “**a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues**.”

These will be the martyrs of that period, who refuse to worship the Antichrist. But “**the church of God**” will be translated before that time of sorrow comes upon the earth. As we well know, in the church of the Lord Jesus there is neither Jew nor Gentile. God has broken down all barriers of race and color and nation and tongue. The church is “**a new creation**” in Christ Jesus, and in Him all national distinction passes away.

As members of His body, we are all one in Him. Therefore, when God’s Word tells us that Israel and the Gentile nations will go through the tribulation, it does not refer to the church, in which God sees neither Jew nor Greek. In the church all are one in Christ Jesus.

It is true that the saints are exhorted to glory in sufferings for Christ’s sake, yet there is a great difference between suffering at the hands of men and suffering from “**the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**” (Revelation 19:15). How could the church pass through His wrath? Did not God deal with our sins when He died for us? It is a strange doctrine that can teach such a theory when the church has been washed in His shed blood, and has been promised by Christ Himself that she “**shall not come into judgment**” (John 5:24).

Both of Paul’s letters to the Thessalonians deal almost entirely with the second coming of Christ, and I Thessalonians 1:10 says that the Lord Jesus has “**delivered us from the wrath to come.**” (See also I Thessalonians 5:10).

In chapter four of this epistle we have one of the clearest of Scripture passages regarding the rapture of the church. Then in chapter five “**the day of the Lord**” is mentioned; this expression always refers to His visible return in glory to put an end to the Great Tribulation, and to set up His kingdom.

Please note the order here: first the translation of the church; then “**the day of the Lord.**”

Again, there is no Scripture to support the theory of a partial rapture.

I Corinthians 15:23 tells us that “**they that are Christ’s at his coming**” shall be changed. No matter how immature, no matter how weak, all believers will be translated, forever to be with Christ. Great or small — everyone who is trusting in the finished work of the Lord Jesus on Calvary — these are among the number “**that are Christ’s.**”

Another crushing argument to the interpretation of a partial rapture is seen in the fact that, although many events must precede the tribulation, such as the revival of the Roman Empire, the return of the Jews to Palestine in unbelief, the apostasy in professing Christendom, the increase in lawlessness on the earth — while we are definitely told that these events must precede the tribulation period, yet we are not told to wait for these things. We are told, rather, “**to wait for His Son from heaven . . . even Jesus**” (I Thessalonians 1:10).

And yet another positive proof that the church will not go through the tribulation is seen in II Thessalonians 2:7, 8:

“The mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who letteth [hinders] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (Lawless one) be revealed.”

Read all of this chapter prayerfully, my friend. The wicked one is none other than the Antichrist. And who is He who is hindering Satan’s work in the world? It is the Holy Spirit of God, He “will hinder” the manifestation of the Man of Sin — how long? **“Until he be taken out of the way!”**

The meaning here is unmistakable. The Holy Spirit who dwells in the church, which is His temple, will be **“taken out of the way”** at the translation of the church. **“Then shall that Wicked (one) be revealed!”**

Since the Great Tribulation does not begin until the latter three and one-half years of the seventieth week of Daniel, since the seventieth week of Daniel does not begin until the Antichrist is revealed, and since the Antichrist cannot be revealed before the Holy Spirit, with the church, is **“taken out of the way,”** do you not see that the church cannot go through the tribulation?

What a **“blessed hope”** it is to know that, so far as God has revealed the future to us in His Word, the very next event will be the translation of the church! At any moment our Lord may call to His saints, saying, **“Come up hither!”**

2. The Church Will Be Secretly Translated.

The world will not see the Lord when He meets the church **“in the air”** (I Thessalonians 4:17). When He comes in glory to set up His kingdom, after the tribulation period, Israel will receive Him as her Messiah. **“His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives”** (Zechariah 14:4). But to Israel He said as He wept over Jerusalem before He went to the cross, **“Ye shall not see me henceforth till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”** (Matthew 23:39). And before Israel says that, she will have gone through **“the time of Jacob’s trouble.”** Then she will hail the Lord from heaven as her Messiah and Deliverer — not until then. It is then that **“every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him”** (Revelation 1:7). But only the church will see Him when He comes for His saints. The risen Lord appeared only to believers after He arose from the grave. The last glimpse the world had of Him was on the cross. And the world will not see Him henceforth until He returns in power and great glory to reign.

The world will know that some significant event has taken place when all true Christians are gone, but there is no intimation in Scripture of any physical phenomenon.

There will doubtless be a great stir for a time. Families will be separated from loved ones. Unsaved husbands will wonder where their Christian wives have gone. Unsaved wives will wonder about their Christian husbands. Parents will miss their Christian boys and girls; and all children who have not reached the age of accountability will be taken to be **“with the Lord.”** **“As a thief in the night,”** He will come; and only the ears of the redeemed will be tuned to hear **“the voice of the archangel”** and **“the trump of God.”** Let me ask you, my friend: Is your whole family ready for the coming of the Lord for His saints? Are your loved ones waiting for **“that blessed hope”**? Are you?

As “**the bright and morning star**,” Christ will come for His church; and the morning star shines in the darkest hour of the night, just before the rising of the sun.

The world is now in the darkness of sin and chaos and lawlessness and rumors of wars. At any moment the Morning Star may appear! Are you eagerly looking for His “**appearing**”? When He comes as the “**Sun of righteousness with healing in his wings**” (Malachi 4:2), then “**every eye shall see him**.” But when He comes for His saints, He will call them away, to meet Him “**in the air**.”

Do you not want to be ready for His coming? You may, by letting Him into your heart as the only Saviour from sin, by faith in His shed blood on Calvary’s cross.

3. The Church Will Be Translated, That Sin May Come to a Head.

As we have already seen, “**the cup of iniquity**” will not be full until the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is taken “**out of the way**.” The church is His temple, and must be taken away before the Antichrist can be revealed. God never executes judgment in the earth until “**the cup of iniquity**” is full.

When Satan, in the person of the Antichrist, is worshipped on the very spot in Jerusalem which God designated as the place where Israel was to worship Him — then sin will have come to a head. Then the cup of iniquity will be full, and the godless world will be ready for the purifying judgments of God. But before that day, the church for which Christ died will be with Him!

4. The Church Will Be Translated, That She May Escape the Purifying Judgments which are to come upon the world.

Believers on the Lord Jesus Christ are His representatives before a God-dishonoring, God-rejecting, Spirit-resisting world. The whole Church Age is likened unto the night.

Jesus, the Light of the world, was crucified; and now the Sun is away. He has left us, His blood-bought children, to shine “**as lights in the world**,” “**in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**” (Philippians 2:15). But before He cleanses the earth by His purifying judgments, He will take His witnesses, His representatives, His church, to be with Himself.

5. “That Blessed Hope” (Titus 2:13).

Are you looking for “**the bright and morning star**,” my brother? If so, what joy fills your soul!

Let us examine briefly some Scripture that tells of His appearing for the saints. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18 we find comfort and hope concerning our loved ones who “**sleep in Jesus**.” And beginning with verse 16, we read that “**the Lord himself shall descend**.”

He will not send Michael or Gabriel or some of the angels to take us home to heaven. He Himself will come for us!

He “**shall descend**” in His glorious, resurrection body. He shall descend from heaven “**with a shout**.” With what word? With the invitation, “**Come!**” “**Come up hither!**” (Revelation 4:1).

His very first word to us was, “**Come unto me.**” And He will call to us again “**with a shout**” — the shout of victory over death and the grave. “**‘Come up hither,’** My redeemed children,” the Lord Jesus will say when He comes for His saints.

At His word “**the dead in Christ shall rise first.**”

In every part of the habitable globe “**the dead in Christ shall rise.**” It is estimated that more than three million Christians were buried in the catacombs of Rome. Think of the countless numbers in the sea, in lonely graves, in unmarked tombs! But the Lord knows where the bodies of His saints sleep!

“**The dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up.**”

Like Enoch and Elijah, all the saints living when Jesus comes will be changed, translated, not to pass through death. Would you not like to be among that number, my friend — never to die? “**Together with them**” — together with our loved ones now with Christ — “**in clouds**”; i.e., “*in clouds of saints*” — together with them in clouds we shall “**meet the Lord in the air**”! We shall meet the One who died for us, the One “**altogether lovely.**”

Is it any wonder the Apostle Paul added this statement: “**Wherefore comfort one another with these words**”?

Is it any wonder he wrote again in I Corinthians 15:55: “**O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**” (Read carefully all of I Corinthians 15 in this connection).

“**Behold, I shew you a mystery**” (something not hitherto revealed), Paul wrote as he was guided by the Holy Spirit. “**We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**” (I Corinthians 15:51, 52).

I am so glad we are going to have new bodies in that day, free from weariness and pain and suffering and sorrow.

“**We shall all be changed**” from weakness to power, from mortality to immortality, from humiliation to glory, from our natural bodies, to be “**fashioned like unto his glorious body**” (Philippians 3:21).

One moment we shall be treading the soiled streets of this earth; the next, walking the streets of the New Jerusalem. Therefore, let us deny “**ungodliness and worldly lusts . . . live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**” (Titus 2:12, 13).

“The Judgment Seat Of Christ”

When we are translated, forever to be with the Lord, “**we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**” (II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10). This will be a time of heart-searching.

Let us see what the Word of God teaches concerning it:

1. Only Christians Shall Stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

If you read carefully the context of the two references just quoted, you will note that these words were written to Christians only. All unbelievers, all the wicked dead, will be judged at “**the great white throne**” described in Revelation 20:11-15; but that event will not take place until after the thousand years’ reign of Christ on earth. Between “**the resurrection of life**” which will take place when “**the dead in Christ shall rise**” at the translation of the church — between this “**resurrection of life**” and “**the resurrection of condemnation**” spoken of by our Lord Himself in John 5:29 — between these two resurrections Christ will reign on earth for one thousand years. (See all of Revelation 20, especially verses 5, 6, 12-15).

Here we read: “**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power**” — and “**the second death**” is “the lake of fire” (verse 14).

A great multitude of the redeemed will appear before the judgment seat of Christ when the church is translated. But why “**the judgment seat**”? Have our sins not been judged at the cross? Has God not promised to remember them no more forever? Yes, He has blotted them out. We shall not meet our sins when we stand before Him. Thank God! They have been washed away in His shed blood! Then why are we to stand before His “**judgment seat**”?

The answer is clearly given:

2. “The Fire Shall Try Every Man’s Work of What Sort It Is” (I Corinthians 3:13).

Read carefully I Corinthians 3:11-15, and you will find the description of what will take place at the judgment seat of Christ. The question of salvation is not in the picture at all. Every man who appears in that great company will be there because his hope is fixed upon the “**one foundation,**” even Jesus Christ (verse 11).

It will be, rather, a time of testing our works, for reward or for loss of reward. Salvation is not a reward; it is a gift. And it is received down here on earth if it is received at all. We shall be rewarded as servants of God; and we cannot become His servants until we are His children.

You will note that the works which we build upon the one foundation — Christ Jesus — are compared to “**gold silver, precious stone, wood, hay, stubble**” (verse 12). And “**the fire shall try it.**”

The fire of God’s holiness will consume all that is as “**wood, hay, stubble.**”

All that I have done in the name of Christianity for my own glory, for the glory of my church, for my family's glory — all that will be burned up. I shall have received my reward down here on earth, from the praise of men. I am afraid much of our so-called Christian service will not be **“to the praise of his glory”** in that day.

But let us look further: Gold in the Word of God is a symbol of His deity and glory. Silver is a type of redemption; Israel always paid the redemption money in silver, according to the express command of the Lord God. And the precious stones speak to us of souls won for Christ: **“They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels”** (Malachi 3:17).

- Every time we exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in His deity, as the eternal Son of God, we are laying up gold, as it were, building upon the one foundation a work that shall abide.
- Every time we tell the story of redemption, we put silver upon that foundation, and it shall abide.
- Every time we win a soul to Christ we are building a precious stone upon the one foundation, and it shall abide — to the praise of His glory, throughout the endless ages.

Let me ask you, my friend: “What kind of material are you putting into that building that must stand the fire of the holiness of God?”

He does not ask for the things the world calls great. He is not hard to please. Even a cup of cold water, given in His name, will not lose its reward. Your salvation is not in question here. The thief on the cross had no time to serve God after he was saved; and the Lord does not count anything we do until after we accept Him as a personal Saviour; yet the repentant thief was saved. He was **“saved, yet so as by fire”** (I Corinthians 3:15).

This is a comforting fact; it assures us of eternal security, regardless of service rendered, so long as we are trusting in the finished work of Christ. But are we willing to meet the Lord without something that shall glorify and honor Him in that day?

Some years ago in Dallas, Texas, a large hotel burned. Some of the guests got out with their baggage; others had time only to escape in night attire. Yet they themselves were just as safe as if all their clothes had not been burned up. So it is that at the judgment seat of Christ many will be saved who will receive no rewards. Shall you? Shall I?

“Shall I go, and empty handed?
Shall I meet my Saviour so?”

All our works, all our words, all our thoughts from the time we accepted the Lord as our Saviour — all these will be judged in that day. (See I Corinthians 4:5). All the unknown and unsung words and deeds of mercy; all the silent praises and prayers; all the selfish motives and idle words and bitter thoughts — these will go on parade before the all-seeing eye of the Son of God.

What a solemn thought this is!

3. *“If Any Man’s Work Shall Abide . . . He Shall Receive a Reward” (I Corinthians 3:14).*

Do you remember the prize day at school, my friend? There is a day coming when God will give out His own rewards for service rendered in His name and for His glory. We have space here only to name them.

(a) *“The Crown of Life” (James 1:12).*

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation [trials]: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

I wonder if I am talking to someone who is enduring sore testings, as unto the Lord? *“Blessed is the man who endureth trials!”*

(b) *“A Crown of Righteousness” (II Timothy 4:8).*

At the close of his life on earth Paul wrote these words: **“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

Paul has been in heaven more than eighteen hundred years, and he has not yet received that crown. It is to be given to him **“at that day.”** And it is to be the reward of all who **“love his appearing”** and are faithful in service.

(c) *“An Incorruptible Crown”* awaits every believer who runs the Christian race with singleness of purpose, his eye upon the goal (I Corinthians 9:25). And this requires temperance **“in all things.”**

(d) *“A Crown of Glory” (I Peter 5:4).*

To the undershepherd who faithfully feeds **“the flock of God”** is this reward promised

“And when the chief shepherd shall appear,” the Lord says to him, **“we shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”**

To every pastor, evangelist, Sunday School teacher, father, mother — to every undershepherd who has diligently given out the Word of God to those entrusted to his or her care, the Lord will give this **“crown of glory that fadeth not away.”**

Christ crucified, risen, ascended, interceding, and coming again — this is the message, for the preaching and teaching of which the crown of glory is promised. It is a solemn thing to be a pastor, a Sunday school teacher, a parent! Any other message, no matter how benevolent or kind, will lose its reward.

(e) The Martyr's Crown.

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

This passage of Scripture is often linked with James 1:12, and the two crowns mentioned are thought to be one, bestowed for enduring trials, whether less severe or even **“unto death.”** Be that as it may, we like to think that God will reward in some special way those who lay down their lives for His name's sake.

(f) The “Crown of Rejoicing” (I Thessalonians 2:19, 20).

This is the soul-winner's crown. And what a crown it will be for the Apostle Paul who wrote these words! Not only the Thessalonian Christians, but all the hosts of others whom he led to Christ, will be his crown of joy **“in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.”**

But some will say: “My duties keep me at home. How can I go out and win souls?”

My friend, your family, your neighbor, your delivery boy, the stranger who goes to your door — how many of these have you led to Christ? And as you intercede for the lost, God honors your prayers just as much as He does the spoken word of the minister of the Gospel.

“He that winneth souls is wise . . . And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever”
(Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3).

“Behold, I come quickly,” the risen Lord is saying to you and me today. **“Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be . . . Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown”** (Revelation 22:12; 3:11).

Some years ago a man in a certain city stood on a street corner, giving out tracts and Christian literature. A working man dressed in overalls took one of these tracts, read it, and accepted Christ as his Saviour. Later the new convert went back to that street corner to thank the man who had been the human instrument in his salvation; but the man was not there. Supposing him to be sick or perhaps to have moved away, the young convert took the place of his unknown friend.

About a year later, in a testimony meeting, he told the story of his conversion, and his unknown friend was in the audience. Then it was that he, too, arose and said:

“My friend, I got discouraged — and you have taken my crown.”

Are you discouraged in your appointed place of service, my Christian brother?

“Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Jesus is coming, and He will not forget **“your work and labour of love”** (Hebrews 6:10).

4. *All of God's Ways with Believers Will Be Vindicated at the judgment seat of Christ.*

- Then you will know why God has permitted you to have a weak body.
- Then you will know why He let your fortune slip away from you,
- Then you will know why the sorrow and heartache and pain. God's ways with us are beyond our understanding now, for "we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face" (I Corinthians 13:12). Then all the mysteries will be understood; all the problems will be solved. And "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Again, at the judgment seat of Christ we shall find out what will be our place of service in His millennial kingdom. Some will have authority over five cities; some, over ten cities. And our place of service will be determined, not by our success here, but by our faithfulness.

"Wherefore we labour, that . . . we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (II Corinthians 5:9, 10).

"The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb"

At some time between the translation of the church and the visible, bodily return of Christ in glory with His saints "the marriage supper of the Lamb" will take place. (See Revelation 19:7-9). It seems very clear that this will follow the judgment seat of Christ. And very probably it will be toward the close of this period, during which the seventieth week of Daniel will be running its course on the earth. It will be a wonderful scene! The church, which is the bride of Christ, will be presented to Him at the marriage feast! No wonder Revelation 19 opens with the "Hallelujah" cry ringing out in heaven!

1. *The Bride "Hath Made Herself Ready" (Revelation 19:7).*

"To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (verse 8). Here the word in the original is "righteousnesses"; it is in the plural. While the sinner is redeemed by the imputed righteousness of Christ, yet in this passage the word refers to the righteous acts of the believer, acts which have made him more and more beautiful, more and more like Christ, more and more "ready" for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

When a bride-to-be looks forward to her wedding, she fills her hope-box with fine linen. Stitch by stitch she embroiders initials and lays away the articles, that she may be "ready" to meet her bridegroom. This is but a faint illustration, my friend, of the meaning of Revelation 19:7, 8. You and I have a hope-box, wherein God puts every righteous act. Thus, you see, this scene is linked with the judgment seat of Christ. When you and I stand before Him and our rewards are displayed, then we shall be presented to Him — to the praise of His glory. What have you put in your hope-box this morning?

What did you put in it yesterday?

In that day we shall be beautiful, first in the righteousness which Christ gives to us the moment we put our faith in His atoning work on Calvary; and we shall be beautiful in the righteousnesses which will make us “approved” of Him at His coming.

2. *“Blessed Are They Which Are Called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb”* (Revelation 19:9).

Who are the “called”? The bride is not “called.” The wedding guests are invited or “called” to the feast. And who are they here? Some would make Israel the bride; but this is a heavenly scene, and Israel is an earthly people. Who are the “called”? Adam, Eve, Abraham, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, Solomon — all the Old Testament saints; John the Baptist, “the friend of the bridegroom”; all who died trusting in the Christ of prophecy and the Christ of history before the church began on the Day of Pentecost — these are among the “called.” Then all the tribulation saints, both Jew and Gentile, all who refuse to worship the Antichrist, thus becoming martyrs of Jesus — these, too, will be “called” to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

You and I will be there if our garments are washed in the blood of Calvary; but we shall not be the guests; we shall be the members of His bride! “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him” (Revelation 19:7). We shall look upon His face, and we shall be like Him. We shall spend all eternity in the light of His presence. There will be no more sin, no more curse. Even our crowns shall be to the praise of His glory.

My unsaved brother, will you not join that blood-washed company which loves His appearing? Then with the bride you can sing even now, and throughout the endless ages, the song of the redeemed.

“The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom’s face;
I will not gaze at glory,
But on my King of grace —
Not at the crown He giveth,
But on His pierced hand:
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel’s land!”

~ end of chapter 11 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
