# **TOPIC: Your Destiny**

From the very first few chapters of the Bible, it is evident that we were created by God, we were to rule and reign over this Earth, and remain in perfect fellowship with our Creator! But in Genesis chapter 3 we learn that our free will to choose—which is supposed to be a loving gift from our Father—meant that we could also chose to listen to and succumb to deceitful words from Satan and we fell from this perfect state. We FELL very hard and all future people on the Earth inherited a sin nature—each and every one of us. God had to eject us from Eden because He could not permit us to remain in sin and be eternally sinful forever. So, we were cast out of the Garden of Eden and to be honest with you...the entire Bible after that is "His Story" of redemption. Over and over again, we read that we messed up, chose our own way, fell into sin and depravity, and ignored His laws, His standards, and His guidance for us. An endless cycle that leads to eternal separation from God...the ultimate death.

But He pursued us and made a way for us. He offers us Salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. This requires a step of faith. We have to humble ourselves—come to the end of ourselves—and realize that we need a Savior. I did. It's not enough to know ABOUT HIM OR EVEN BELIEVE THAT JESUS EXISTED OR THAT THERE IS "A" GOD somewhere out there. It says in James 2:19 "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder." We have to go a step further and fully repent, accept, acknowledge, and submit to His Lordship over our lives. Then we can receive the benefit of His forgiveness and a wonderful future! We'll talk about that future in a moment, but first, we must understand that the Lord did not desire us to live perpetually in sin. In Deuteronomy 30:19 it says: "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." And in John 3:16 we hear the familiar verse in the New Testament: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Don't let the familiarity of this verse blind you to the simple truth: That God sacrificed His Son to pay the price that you deserved to pay, in order to make a way for you to enter back into a correct and perfect standing before God. Our punishment was put on Jesus so that we could inherit eternal life!

Did you know that WE ARE HIS JOY? Let's read Hebrews 12:1-3 "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who **FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Bear with me for a few moments before I give you the good news of your **Eternal Inheritance**! We've seen that God prompts us to "Choose Life" and that we are the "Joy set before Him". If the Rapture has occurred and you find yourself left behind, that doesn't mean that He doesn't still say to you: "Choose Life" and that we are the: "Joy set before Him". His sacrifice and provision for Salvation are still available to you now!

I've imagined that there are a thousand circumstances, excuses, sheer stubbornness, and maybe hardness of heart that would explain why you did not experience the blessed hope promised in Titus 2:13. This is YOUR moment NOW. You are at a VERY critical point, because the Bible predicts that wave after wave of death will sweep the entire planet—these are from an entire series of judgements meant to do one thing: to bring people to the end of themselves so they will call out to God Almighty for Salvation in Christ alone. Not our will, not our strength, not through politics, government, "religion", not through ascendance or science and technology. Not through the machinations of the Antichrist and the promises of the False Prophet. It is through Jesus Christ that we receive the covering of our sins through His blood that was shed on the cross 2,000 years ago. It is His provision, freely offered to us, that we know we can inherit our future and Eternity with God...secure for all time, in perfect fellowship with our Creator YET AGAIN.

But for now, there is no way to soften the blow of what must be said to you now. Many people, many billions of people will die; about half of the worlds' population. But there are also millions, tens or hundreds of millions of people that are going to yield their life to Jesus Christ during the Tribulation. **Listen now: YOU NEED TO BE ONE OF THEM!** In fact, so many people come to a real, authentic, and genuine relationship with Jesus that their number cannot be counted!

Are you going to be among the "great multitude" mentioned here? Let's read Revelation 7:9-17 "After these things I looked, and behold, A GREAT MULTITUDE which no one could count, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches [were] in

their hands; <sup>10</sup> and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and [around] the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen." <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I {this is the Apostle John} said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. <sup>16</sup> "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

STOP. Let's STOP for just a moment. IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST, IT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED HIS GIFT OF SALVATION, REPENTED FROM YOUR SINFUL WAYS, AND SEEK TO LIVE THE REMAINING DAYS OF YOUR LIFE ON EARTH SERVING HIM, then do you understand what these verses are saying to you? If, or more likely WHEN you die—either through the effects of the coming judgements or by the hands of the World System and the Antichrist—you will be IMMEDIATELY TRANSLATED INTO HEAVEN! You don't just disappear, you aren't in purgatory, you aren't in suspended animation, you don't just become a part of the Cosmos transmuting as it were into a blob of atoms, nor are you reincarnated—those are lies! You WILL BE given a new, perfect white robe that signifies your purity IN CHRIST! You will be able to show your eternal gratitude by serving the Lord (just as all previous generations of Believers are also doing) for all time! You will be protected, loved, cared for, given rest, and note that all the travails, depression, fear, sadness—all those things that make us shed tears—the Lord Himself will wipe those tears away!

## The Millennial Reign of Christ

There are only two ways to see the Millennial Kingdom. The first is **IF** you manage to survive the terrible effects of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgements and make it through ALL SEVEN YEARS to the end of Armageddon. The second way is to already be in Heaven during the Tribulation and to **return with Jesus at His second coming**. Those that were caught up in the Rapture—consisting of those that are dead in Christ from centuries ago, those born-again believers who were alive at the time of the Rapture, and Tribulation Saints killed during the Tribulation—are all going to make up this group. So, if you are martyred you will be in Heaven with us and you will participate as we follow the LORD from Heaven back to Earth at His second coming! Those that are NOT in Christ, those that have taken the Mark of the Beast, that continue to resist and hate God will be separated out as we'll see in a minute and will eventually face the Great White Throne Judgement. These will not enter the Millennial Kingdom...in fact, they will bypass it completely.

Did you know that the Bible predicts that Jesus will physically rule over the entire Earth for 1,000 years? That's where we get the term: **Millennium**. We read in Matthew 25:31-34: "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then **He will sit on His glorious throne**." But as I've said, not all that survive the terrible seal, trumpet and bowl judgements will enter the Millennial Reign of Christ. Look at how the text continues, "32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and **HE WILL SEPARATE THEM FROM ONE ANOTHER**, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Bible Scholars consistently refer to those that Believe in Christ as "sheep" and those that do not as "goats", so the identity of those that enter Christ's Kingdom is well established.

What makes this 1,000-year reign of Christ so special is the promise that the Lord will restore all things to their original pre-fall-of-mankind state. Act 3:19-21 says "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until [the] period of **RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS** about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time." This will co-inside with total **victory** by King Jesus, note Psalm 110:1-2 where King David writes: "The LORD says to my Lord: "**Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.**" <sup>2</sup> The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, [saying,] "**Rule in the midst of Your enemies.**""

Satan, also called the dragon, and all his evil influence is bound during this 1,000-year reign! In Revelation 20:1-3 we read: "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss, and shut [it] and sealed [it] over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time." So, those that enter the Millennium will truly be living in the most ideal period of all human history since the Fall of Mankind. The ability for Satan and demons to corrupt our world and to interfere in our lives will be blocked during this time! Those that are in the Millennium will visibly see Jesus, they will think more clearly because the enemy is not able to lie, confuse, deflect, distract, or interfere with our ability to experience the fullness of Jesus and the beauty He restores throughout the Earth!

## We will co-reign with Christ

During the Millennium, we will co-reign with Christ. **So, we are given RESPONSIBILITY!** In Daniel 7:27 it says: "Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of [all] the kingdoms under the whole heaven **will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One**; His kingdom [will be] an **everlasting kingdom**, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'"

Furthermore, in Revelation 2:26-27 it says: 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, **TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS**; <sup>27</sup> AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received [authority] from My Father;"

Later in Revelation 20:4-6 it says: "Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I [saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will REIGN WITH HIM for a thousand years."

## Satan will be released for a short time

Many millions of people will be born during the Millennium under the perfect conditions ushered in by Jesus Christ. Unlike those of us that received our resurrected and perfected eternal bodies when we went to Heaven, they still have a physical body, a sin-nature, and the ability to pro-create. It is they that will repopulate the Earth after all the death and destruction of the Tribulation period is finished. Lifespans will dramatically increase again! It says in Isaiah 65:20 "No longer will there be in it an infant [who lives but a few] days, Or an old man who does not live out his days". It goes on to state that a youth that dies at anything less than 100 years old will be thought to be cursed.

Over this 1,000-year time frame, it is clear that some do not truly believe in Jesus—even though He reigns from Jerusalem. Even under perfect conditions and perfect ruling authority, they will succumb to yet another period of deception and rebellion against our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How sad this will be! We see this in Revelation 20:7-10 where it says "When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. <sup>9</sup> And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, THERE IS NO MORE SATAN, DEMONS, THE ANTICHRIST, OR THE FALSE PROPHET! ALL EVIL WILL BE GONE! HALLELUJAH!

#### The Great White Throne Judgment

The judgements are nearly done, but there is a final judgement called the "Great White Throne Judgment". All people that physically died "In Christ" before the Rapture, plus those that were caught-up in the Rapture, plus all the Tribulation Saints (like you!)—those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ will NOT be subject to the Great White Throne Judgment! Only unbelievers from past centuries, those that rejected Christ during the Tribulation, including those that took the Mark of the Beast, will face this horrible and final judgment. Remember that taking the Mark of the Beast is an AUTOMATIC AND ETERNAL DEATH SENTENCE. Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, educated, or non-educated—those that rejected the LORD JESUS CHRIST will now stand before Him and will be judged. What makes this so sad is that they don't have the covering, the protection, the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ. THEY DID NOT SEE THEIR NEED FOR CHRIST AND DID NOT ASK TO BE SAVED. They relied perhaps on their good deeds...but these are entirely inadequate to compensate for the stain of unforgiven sin. Therefore, those that stand before this Great White Throne are not forgiven of their sins...in fact it is too late to be forgiven. Their eternal separation from God is assured...this is the ultimate death—the Bible calls this the second death.

This final judgment is found in Revelation 20:11-15 "Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And **I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne**, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life; and **the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds**. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; **AND THEY WERE JUDGED, EVERY ONE [OF THEM] ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS**. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

In the sobering passage found in Luke 13:22-28 "And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there [just] a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the **NARROW DOOR**; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> "Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' <sup>26</sup> "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; <sup>27</sup> and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; **DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'** "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. Now, we know why the Lord said in Matthew 7:14 "For the GATE IS SMALL and the WAY IS NARROW that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

However, you know that YOUR NAME is written in the Lamb's Book of Life IF YOU ARE A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST...AND IF SO, YOU WILL NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT. HALLELUJAH!

#### The New Heaven and Earth and the New Jerusalem

After the Great White Throne Judgment, there is the final transition to our "ETERNAL STATE". It's described in Revelation 21:1-7 "Then I saw A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer [any] sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be [any] death; there will no longer be [any] mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." <sup>6</sup> Then He said to me, "IT IS DONE. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. <sup>7</sup> "HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL INHERIT THESE THINGS, AND I WILL BE HIS GOD AND HE WILL BE MY SON."

This is to fulfill the prophecy found in Isaiah 65:18-19 "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem [for] rejoicing And her people [for] gladness. <sup>19</sup> "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying."

The Apostle John admonishes us to look to our **eternal future** which stands in direct opposition to temporal pleasures of this life. Here's what he says in 1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> **The world is passing away**, and [also] its lusts; **but the one who does the will of God lives forever**." So, when you find yourself struggling to obey the Word of God, suffering in this world, longing for righteousness, remind yourself that YOU will prevail and inherit eternal life.

## Your Decision for Christ

Does it make more sense now **WHY** those you know have been warning you about yielding to Jesus Christ? They're gone now to Heaven...you understand that, right? I am also in Heaven now because this recording was made before the Rapture while I was still able to record it as a gift to you. Those that loved you sought to bring the lifesaving opportunity to receive Jesus, to show you your need for Christ, to encourage you to repent of your sin, helped you to acknowledge that you CANNOT EARN your own salvation through anything you've done. Truth is **NOT** relative. **YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN NOR ARE YOU GOD**. In Isaiah 64:6 it says: "For all of us have become **like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away." Or a similar thought is found in Romans 3:23 "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." **WE HAVE ALL SINNED**, so it is *foolish not to desire to be partakers of our Eternal State with God forever—eternal bliss, fellowship with God and others, without a sin nature and without any conflict, misunderstanding, hurt, pain, sickness, and death*. BUT YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN, BELOVED!

Yet sadly, many will not yield. May this not be said of you! It says that those that take the Mark of the Beast will face eternal damnation. Those that shake their fist at God and do not repent will be given their true expressed desire: to be eternally separated from a loving God that made a way for them through the atonement and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But, if they don't receive this gift of forgiveness offered and paid for at such a great cost, that's their decision entirely. God will respect their wishes to be separate from Him. And unfortunately, they will realize only too late their true standing with God.

As if to underscore the horror of finding oneself on the wrong side of Salvation in Jesus Christ, let's read a passage about a rich man—most likely a successful, smart, if not self-absorbed man who was unyielding to Christ. It's found in Luke 16:19-31: "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20 "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the [crumbs] which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22 "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' 25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and [that] none may cross over from there to us.' 27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead." Now, these words were written by Luke, one of the Disciples of Jesus Christ, so how much more severe is it to not only ignore and reject the writings of Moses and the Prophets in the Old Testament, but add to that the sum total of all the New Testament teachings! Surely, it will be VERY FOOLISH if someone can't humble themselves to receive eternal salvation found in no one else: Jesus—the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. So many people make the mistake of thinking of Jesus as "baby Jesus" in the manger on countless Hallmark cards and movies. It's almost as though they don't really understand WHO HE IS. In actuality, He is the LORD, and He continues offering all that will accept Him the hope of forgiveness leading to everlasting salvation, but one must take responsibility to receive it.

I pray—and millions of other born-again believers, past and present, also pray that that **you grasp all that is at stake**. Yielding to Christ is more than just saying a "sinner's prayer" because it's not just a string of sentences you utter, nor the way it is expressed from your heart and mind that matters. It's both. **You must get to the point where you really believe with your heart and mind**.

And just a word about **urgency**—and this will be my conclusion to this segment—you don't know when one of those seal, trumpet, or bowl judgments will kill you. Just as you don't know when you will succumb to a hostile and violent planet where people prey on others, where lawlessness is unleashed in its full measure because the influence of the restraining force of the Church is removed. **You MUST ACT NOW**. Your life is hanging by a thread and the reality is that every second counts right now. You might die from starvation, from pestilence, from a 100-pound piece of hail—you just don't know. It is very likely you will not see death coming for you. It's better...SO MUCH BETTER for you to get on your knees and cry out to God. DO IT NOW! YOU ARE WARNED!

In our next segment, I'm going to make a very important assumption that YOU have made the decision to yield to CHRIST and that you are now born-again! With your eternal future secure now, we will see you very soon! But does that mean that you can just kick back and wait for the 7-year Tribulation clock to run out? As the Apostle Paul famously argues: "NO! May it never be!" (Romans 6:2). Instead, we're going to talk about finishing well in these last days.