

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

The New Jerusalem

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Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. JOHN 14:1-4

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. REVELATION 21:1-6

The prophetic signs of the Lord's coming are increasing. After the Lord raptures His church and takes them to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the world will experience a catastrophic tribulation. This will culminate in the nations of the earth coming against Israel in the plain of Megiddo. The Lord will lead the saints back to earth and defend Jerusalem in the final battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:14). Satan will then be bound for a thousand years while the Lord establishes His physical kingdom on the earth and reigns as the King of kings (Revelation 20:2).

After 1000 years, Satan will be released for a season and will deceive the nations one more time. They shall gather together against Jerusalem. The Lord will defeat these armies and cast Satan into the lake of fire. Then the Lord shall execute judgement on all people from the beginning of time at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:7-15). Born again Christians will not be a part of this judgment. All those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the fire with Satan. This is the second death. After this event, the Lord will burn up the heavens and the earth and dissolve everything. He will then create a New heaven and earth and reveal the new Jerusalem which will come down from heaven. The city is truly beyond our imagination in beauty and glory (Revelation 21).

Application

The teaching that the saved in heaven will be merely spirits who float around on clouds and do nothing but play harps has no foundation in the Bible. If every person could learn the truth about God's holy city and the new earth, millions more might begin to understand His love and would turn to Him and enjoy the peace, joy, and purpose that He designed them to experience.

The Lord taught in Mathew 24:42-51 that we should always be ready for His return. Because He comes suddenly, there will be no last minute opportunities to change things or repent. Therefore, we need to take advantage of every opportunity now to seek the Lord and be about our Father's business. The Lord promises to reward those servants who continue to be faithful in their labors. When He comes, He should find us exercising our faith, using our talents to further His kingdom, praying, laboring in His harvest, teaching Bible studies, and feeding His sheep.

Discussion

1. How do we know the Lord's coming is near?
2. How should we prepare for His coming?
3. Describe the New Jerusalem. How big is it?
4. How will life be different on the new earth?
5. Will we know each other on the new earth, and will there be children there?
6. What activities will take place there?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people awaken to the near return of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God's people have a sense of urgency and prepare themselves.

Pray that the Lord removes all distractions that keep us from being about our Father's business.

Pray that the Lord thrusts laborers into the harvest.