

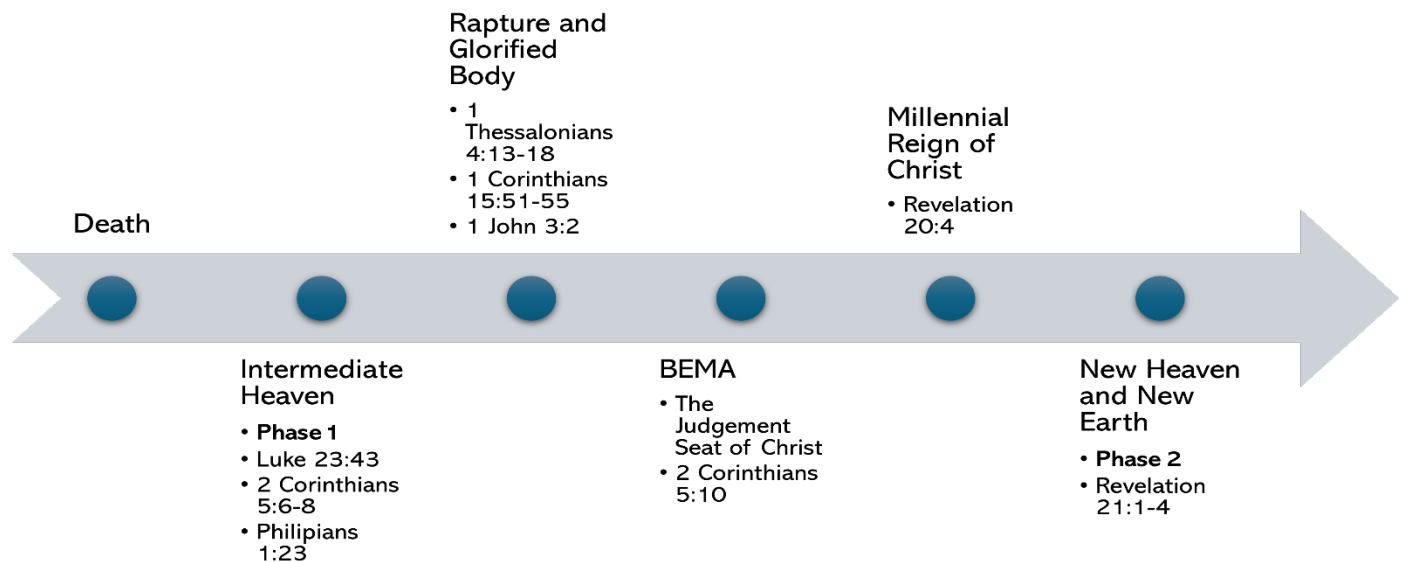
Where does a Christian go when they die?

(The rapture and rewards)

7.26.26

I Thess 4:13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. 18 Therefore encourage^[a] one another with these words.

I. A timeline of events



Church age to

Rapture to

Tribulation to (7 years)

Second Coming to

Millennial Reign to (1000 years)

New Heaven and Earth

II. The rapture or the second coming of Christ?

A. I Thess 4:17-18 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words.

B. --What is the difference between the rapture and the second coming of Christ?

C. The return of Christ

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels^[a] with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

- With the Rapture Christ comes for us in the air and takes us with him/ In the Second Coming Jesus comes to dwell with us;

- With the Rapture – Jesus gathers his people himself/at his second coming, his angels do the gathering;

- With the rapture, Jesus comes to reward / At the second coming – he comes to judge

- With the Rapture there is no mention of the Kingdom, but the Kingdom begins with Jesus' second coming.

III. The judgement seat of Christ

A. Believers Will Be Judged. (Bema seat/Judgement seat of Christ)

--The judgement seat of Christ is when all believers works will be tested

II Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

--It is not about condemnation

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

--The judgement seat of Christ will test our motivation and be an overall evaluation of what we did in/with our Christian life

I Cor 3:12-15 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

I Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

B. What are the rewards?

"What are the five heavenly crowns that believers can receive in Heaven?"<https://www.gotquestions.org/heavenly-crowns.html>

1) The Imperishable Crown – I Corinthians 9:24-25 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

2) The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thessalonians 2:19) “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

3) The Crown of Righteousness – (2 Timothy 4:8) “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

4) The Crown of Glory – (1 Peter 5:4) “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

5) The Crown of Life – (Revelation 2:10) “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

C. --Why rewards?

--The justice of God ([Hebrews 6:10](#)) For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers,* as you still do.

--God will give rewards in heaven in order to fulfill the law of [sowing and reaping](#) ([Galatians 6:7–9](#)) Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. **8** Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. **9** So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

IV. Miscellaneous observations and questions.

A. Will the Judgement seat of Christ be public?

B. Will we keep our rewards?

Revelation 4:10–11 is part of the vision Jesus gave John. In this scene of heaven, we see that “the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.’”

Close:

“I don’t want anyone praying for my recovery”

...British theologian and preacher. 1981 Martin Lloyd James