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That Will Be Glory for Me

932-A

**Series: Living the End Times:
Once the King Has Come**



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Father,

We bow and we give this time to You. We acknowledge that no one can teach but Your Holy Spirit; that there is no truth but Your Holy Word, that no one can impart or communicate truth to our lives, but You. We realize that except we be born again we do not have the Receiver to receive truth. So, we come to Thee this morning, acknowledging in Your presence together, Father, that we're not the ones who can; that You're the one who can. But we come in an act of surrender, Father, knowing that if we lay ourselves at Your feet and ask, that it's the desire of Your heart to teach us.

And so, we do that, and we pray that in spite of the teacher, because of Your Spirit, we might learn this morning. We acknowledge that all praise and all honor and all glory must go to our soon-coming King, the Lord Jesus, Himself, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

You have probably all experienced something like this; your entire life being affected because someone you love is about to come home. Maybe it's a child who's gone off to summer camp. You thought when they left it would be a good break, but after the first six hours you realize you couldn't live without them. And you weren't looking forward to the laundry coming home, but you were looking forward to the child coming home. Or, maybe it was a relative who had been overseas on a military assignment and you had been separated for years; maybe your husband or maybe a friend you haven't seen since your school days—800 years ago. And they are coming to visit and there's a sense of excitement that fills the air because someone is coming back.

I can remember one time in particular, when our daughter had been overseas for the summer, and she was coming home. And I can remember the sense of expectancy and excitement that affected everything we said and everything we did. It affected our conversation. All we talked about was "Kay's coming home!" Even people who didn't know her had to listen as we told what she had done for the summer and when she was coming home.

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They didn't care, but we didn't care that they didn't care. We wanted to talk about it. Maybe you've been there.

And then it affected our preparation. We wanted to get the house in order. We wanted everything to be just perfect when she got home. We put a big sign up that said "Welcome Home!" My wife fixed one of her famous, caloric desserts that sends you into oblivion. For days all we talked and thought about was her homecoming.

Then it affected our dedication. We planned our time around that airplane schedule. We planned our calendar around that day. We had to take a trip, but we made sure we got back in time because everything centered around her return. We dedicated our lives to putting that one event as number one. It affected our conversation. It affected our preparation. It affected our dedication. All of life was lived in the light of something that was about to happen. Someone was coming back! Now it isn't a difficult analogy to make, I know. In case you are not aware of it, you and I have each received a love letter from the best friend we have ever had. His name is Jesus.

This love letter begins like this,

"Dear Beloved,

I am coming soon. I can't tell you the exact day or hour, but get everything ready, because in a moment, at an hour that you know not, the King is coming back, and He is coming back for you!"

Now, I don't have to tell you, beloved, it ought to affect our *conversation*. We ought to be telling everybody we meet, "Jesus is coming back!"

It ought to affect our *preparation*. We ought to be getting our "house" in order. We ought to be making preparations for that glorious day. Why live for today? Jesus is coming back.

It ought to affect our *dedication*. All of our priorities ought to be centered around what will happen when He comes. Because what will be important then, is all that ought to be important now. If what we possess will become inconsequential, then why spend all of our hours accumulating things we'll lose? And if the lives we've invested in are all that will last, then why not devote our every waking moment to people? Jesus is coming back! What else could really matter?

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Now I don't know about you, but I've walked for days in Christian circles, having fellowship with committed men and women of God without hearing a word about the return of Christ. We talk about plans. We talk about programs. We talk about budgets. We talk about procedures. We talk about policies. We may even talk about people, but we talk as though this world is where it's at, as though the game was being played by Satan's rules; as though his objectives, possessions, achievements, authority, acclaim, acceptance and numbers could be translated into Christian jargon. And the world would see a Christianized community of men and women who occasionally talk about heaven and hell, but live as though this earth was where it's at.

My friends, we ought to get excited. Throw down those world-centered goals of ours, this things-centered preoccupation of ours and throw open the windows of our spirits and shout to a confused and frustrated world, "Jesus is coming again!" Our conversation, our preparation and our dedication ought to focus on the return of our Lord.

Now let me ask you a question. What place does the return of Jesus Christ play in the scheme of your life? Now be honest, when was the last time you talked about it? Do you know what the Bible says will happen? Do you understand those key events that are about to unfold before you, as God pulls back the curtains of eternity and lets the drama of redemption play the final act?

God has given you a copy of the program. He has named the cast of characters; He's defined the roles of each. He has painted a picture on the canvas of Scripture with graphic reality of the order of the events and the effects of those events on those who believe and on those who do not. He has told us, "Get ready." And now what He expects of us, knowing what's coming, and who's coming, is that we live our lives in the light of that fact, without apology and without compromise.

We ought to all be able to name those events, and the order in which they will occur—their importance, and let that knowledge permeate our attitudes. Because I believe if we do, that this fellowship of already excited saints will explode with anticipation; will explode with expectation, because the King is coming soon!

So, for the next few weeks, you and I are going to get aboard the Eternity Express and ride into the future with Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at what's going to happen on planet

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earth and better still, what's going to happen in the heavens, when the hourglass of time, as we know it, has emptied the sands of this age into the container of human experience and the clock that stands at the gates of eternity, like a supernatural sentinel, strikes high noon.

Life as we know it, beloved, will cease to be. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye the Scripture says, everything will change.

For now [today] we see through a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now [today] I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (I Corinthians 13:12 NKJV)

Like a spine-tingling thriller that leads to an incredible conclusion, the Bible has etched in indelible ink the entire story. It's history, even though it hasn't happened yet, because history is HIS story, and in God's mind it is already an accomplished fact.

As you have already seen and heard, today's lesson is entitled, "That Will Be Glory For Me." It's an overview, and we will look at:

I- The Priority

II- The Program

III- The Plan

IV- The Purpose

V- The Person

THE PRIORITY

Why take time in this busy age in which we live, with all we have to do, to talk about something as impractical and as theological as the second coming of Christ? I want to give you some reasons. I'm going to do it by asking you some questions. We're going to play a game called, "Did you know?" You don't have to answer; it's probably better that you don't, but I'll ask. We're going to call it, "Did you know."

1- Did you know that one-fourth of the Bible (that's 25% for you who are struggling with math) is devoted to prophecy?

2- Did you know that nothing confirms the validity of the Word of God more than fulfilled prophecy? The foundation of our confidence in God's Word has been carved in the granite of Old Testament foreshadowings and promises which have been fulfilled and New Testament prophecies that have already come

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to pass. That's where our confidence comes from.

3- Did you know that the New Testament deals with the second coming of Christ and related events more than 300 times?

4- Did you know that at least five full chapters in the New Testament are devoted to the End Times? Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13, Luke 21 and I Corinthians 15.

5- Did you know that three complete books of the Bible are apparently in the Bible just to give us insight into future events? I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians and the book of the Revelation.

6- Did you know that there is more in the New Testament about the second coming of Christ than there is about salvation, faith, assurance and love?

7- Did you know that there is more direct subject matter devoted to this doctrine than any other doctrine in the Bible?

8- Did you know that every writer mentions or refers to this subject in every book in the New Testament?

9- Did you know that understanding this doctrine opens the door to other key Bible doctrines?

10- Did you know that this doctrine is the doctrine upon which rests our hope?

11- Did you know that the doctrine of Christ's return is by far the most powerful incentive we have to godliness, faithfulness and a commitment to evangelism?

12- Did you know that no other concept offers more encouragement when times are hard than this one?

13- Did you know that God has promised a special blessing for studying this subject?

Because, if you did know these things it ought to be evident by your conversation, it ought to be evident by your preparation and it ought to be evident by your dedication. The second coming of Christ ought to be central in your thinking. Central in what you say, central in your ministry. But, if you didn't know these things, if this is somewhat new to you, what more incentive do you need to search the Scriptures with us these next few weeks for some answers?

I believe we need to know what lies ahead. For one thing, our children need to know. We are bringing them up in a world

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that has no hope. We are bringing them up in an age that has no standards. Vague references to heaven, hell and eternity are not enough. They need to know Jesus is coming. They need to know how. They need to know why. They need to know about Armageddon—history yet to come. They need to know about the Bema Seat of Christ. They need to know about the Wedding of the Lamb. They need to know about the Millennium. They need to know, so we need to know.

Secondly, those of you who are new Christians need to know. Some of you have come to Christ in the last three or four years. Chances are you may have a limited understanding of what lies ahead for the Christian. Beloved, you've got an incredible inheritance, and unless you read the fine print, you may miss an unbelievable blessing.

Lastly, those of us who have already walked the walk and lived the life and studied the studies for a few years need to be reminded. You see, the dust of this earth gets in our pores and the tears of this life blur our vision, and no matter how Bible-trained we may seem to be, we fall into the trap of losing perspective, and we become bond slaves to a world that is passing away. We build bigger barns and place our confidence in their security. "Eat, drink and be merry" becomes the theme of our lives even though our bumper stickers say, "In Case of the Rapture, This Vehicle will Self-Destruct," or "This Driver Will Disappear," or whatever. We need to be reminded this world is not our home. And very shortly it will cease to be. And the Scriptures ask the question, "In the light of that, what manner of men and what manner of women ought you to be?" (II Peter 3:11). So much for the priority. It's not an alternative, it's a necessity.

THE PROGRAM

What will be the program? How are we going to approach this somewhat controversial topic?

Well, I'm going to answer that by making five or six simple statements that will set the parameters for this study. I'm not too fond of introductory studies because they tend to be somewhat dry, but it's necessary to set the ground rules before the game begins. So, what will be the objectives of our Scriptural Star Trek into the mysterious, exciting galaxies of our future as Christians? Here are the rules of the game, at least for this study.

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1- This will not be a study of the last days. That may disappoint you. Now, I realize that current events and the local newspaper are literally an extension of the Book of Revelation. Still, that will not be a major consideration in this study. Because: 1) much of that kind of study requires speculation and imagination; 2) it tends towards sensationalism if the speaker is tempted in that direction, and boy, this one is; and 3) because Christian bookstores, radio programs and TV programs abound with speculation about Russia's every move, the common market, the oil crisis, the coming of known cosmic changes and the buildup of hostilities in the Middle East. And it's exciting, it's challenging, but it is being well-covered and I for one can't do it justice.

2- This is not a study of controversial details. We are not going to discuss the pros and cons of different doctrinal discoveries and how they differ. We're going to major on the major theological issues that those of evangelical persuasion agree on. And even where there is a slight difference in opinion, we're going to take one position and major on the event rather than become entangled in controversy. So, if you're looking for a good argument, sorry.

3- This study will conform to the doctrinal persuasion of this fellowship. We state in our doctrinal position that we look for the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. If that doesn't mean anything to you, good, don't worry about it. If it does and you don't agree, please focus with us on the things you do agree on. But we will take a pre-tribulation position on the rapture, and explain as we go, why, not being dogmatic, but we want to major on the experience, on the event itself, not on a group of theological alternatives. While we are arguing theology, the Lord might return and we would miss the joy of anticipating His coming because we were so busy being bound up in discussions.

4- We are going to teach this from a simplified perspective. This is not a seminary class, and I'm not qualified to teach that kind of a study. And many of you aren't ready for that kind of study, and I'm not sure we need that kind of study. So, we are going to take the six or seven major events that lie before us, that we know from Scripture are going to happen, and we are going to try to get excited about them. We're going to look at the facts.

5- Our objective is going to be application, rather than information. In other words, how can knowing about the Bema

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Seat of Christ change our priorities? How can knowing about the Great White Throne Judgment change our evangelism? How can knowing about the Marriage of the Lamb affect our marriages? The Bible is a practical book of shoe-leather mentality, and eschatology is no exception.

6- Our textbook will be the Word of God. It's the only accurate source we have. We will use for confirmation that these verses apply to these events, some of the works of godly men who fought the fight and lived the life in generations past.

7- Our final objective is going to be to see what each of these events teach us about the character of God. I don't think we ought to study history or study Bible events without always laying them back on the grid of who God is. So, we're going to try to look at each of these events in the life of the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible is a biography, not a history book. It contains a lot of history, but it is HIS story. It's a biography written about a King, a revolution, redemption, reconciliation and reunion. Our goal is to look at each of these events in the light of who God is. So that's the Priority and that's the Program.

THE PLAN

Let's look at the Plan. If you have a transcript, there is a page we'll use through the entirety of this eight weeks. There are two separate outlines; they are simplified, but they give you an idea. On page 19 of this lesson is a timeline or sketch of the major events that you and I as Christians can be certain will take place. Now, obviously, it's not drawn to scale—it's drawn rather to demonstrate these experiences that will come to pass as the pendulum of history swings back in the direction of eternity.

Now, let me give you a very quick overview of where we are going. At the left of the chart you can see what is commonly known as the Church Age. That's the era of spiritual history that began at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to indwell the Christian, and when the church became God's vehicle to lift up Christ to fallen man.

Now, in most theological minds, we are, at least, in one of the final stages of the Church Age. And while a day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day, the times indicate that His coming may be soon. So, I have drawn a place there, you can see on that chart, that simply says, "You Are Here"

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(that always helps us) at the end of the Church Age, referred to by many as the “Last Days.”

Now these are the things we will be looking at. We will be looking first of all, next week, Lord willing, at the rapture of the church. We read about it in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. We’re going to take a God’s eye look at this promise that could easily be fulfilled in our lifetime. In fact, it may happen before next Sunday. Praise God! But this is something that will happen to only *one* generation in history. The next lesson is titled, “In the Twinkling of an Eye.” We will be looking in detail at the rapture of the church and we’ll see what it reveals to us about the patience and orderliness of God.

And the next week, the Lord willing, we will be looking at the Bema Seat of Christ and then the Marriage of the Lamb. And you’ll be there for both of those events if you are a Christian, and what a time it will be. And we’ll see what they tell us about the love of God and the grace of God.

Then we will look at the tribulation—a seven-year period of plagues, conflicts and destruction, when the absence of the restraining power of the Holy Spirit allows the devil to have his day. That lesson will be entitled, “When the Lights Go Out on Planet Earth.”

Then that dreadful era of human history will culminate in the war to end all wars known as Armageddon and we will learn from that about the judgment of God.

Then it will happen. Jesus who came for us at the rapture will enter history one more time, coming with us to put an end once and for all to Satan’s reign of terror and to deliver mankind. And we are going to see graphically from the Scriptures, about the power of God and the righteousness of God as it’s revealed in the second coming of Christ.

And then is the Millennium—a thousand years, and at the Great White Throne Judgment then, when unredeemed man will be judged. And finally, the New Jerusalem come down from God out of heaven, and a God’s eye view of the peace of God. So that’s the Priority, the Program and the Plan. Before we put this preview to bed, let’s look at the Purpose and the Person.

THE PURPOSE

The Purpose of this study is basically three-fold. Studying

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the events of eternity that are yet to unfold ought to do three things for the Christian. And I would like for each of us to pray in the coming week, that these nerve ends will be touched through this study.

First of all, it ought to affect our perspective—the way we look at life. I mean, if this world is not our home, and if very shortly there is to be ushered in, a series of dramatic events in history that will make every cent we've earned worthless, every set-back we have suffered unimportant, all the pain we have endured invaluable; and if everything physical is going to decrease in value until it reaches zero, and everything spiritual is going to increase in value until we lay it at the feet of Jesus, nothing we do from now until then ought to look the same. That trial you are enduring has purpose. That grief you just suffered will not last. That ambition that so consumes you is ridiculous. I mean, if all of life is about to be lived in the Spirit realm, then my friends between now and then, we had better live life with the realm of the Spirit in mind.

This leads us to the second thing that ought to happen. It ought to change our priorities. I mean, if Jesus is coming soon; if all we are laboring for is about to go up in smoke; if the only investments we are making that will bear dividends are the investments we are making in people, then you and I ought to do some revising of our calendars and some restructuring of our schedules.

If you knew you were investing in something that had a 100% chance of failure—I know, some of you have and I've gotten in on some of those with good advice, too—but, what sense would it make to go and make an investment in something that you knew was going down the drain? You say, "Well, I would never do that." Oh? On the other hand, suppose you had a chance to invest in a sure thing—stockbrokers in the crowd perked up. If someone offered you an investment in something guaranteed, with long-range dividends that would defy the law of multiplication and offered you a written guarantee signed by the most reliable authority on investments in the world, how long would you have to think before you decided where to invest?

You see, what has happened in these twenty centuries of the Church Age is that gradually we have lost the vision. We have forgotten what's going to happen. And we've lost our sense of

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values as to what is really important. I mean, we can get excited about watching the early church in action, and we just say, “That’s them; that’s not us. It’s too bad.” I hope that by the end of these eight weeks, at least some of us will have re-directed the compasses of our lives toward eternity and the needle will be pointing straight to glory.

Then, it ought to affect our personalities. Christians by divine description ought to be the most incredibly different people in the world. Now, we are different, but not always for the right reasons. Our objectives ought to be so eternal, our priorities so spiritual, that the tougher things get on earth, the happier we ought to be. The more severe the testing, the more radiant the joy. The darker the clouds, the deeper the peace. The more traumatic the trial, the more evident the grace. That’s what Scripture says. In fact, even death, that known enemy of mankind, ought to bring out in the Christian personality a shout of triumph, a shout of joy.

Likewise, those storm clouds that hover over twentieth century man in the form of natural disasters, world conflict, impending shortages, bank failures, currency failures, national collapse—instead of causing us to be depressed, they ought to be a signal for the Christian that God’s next great act of love is about to unfold on the stage of history, and these tragedies are only signs of His coming. We ought to be excited. The tougher it gets, the more excited we ought to be. What a relief! It will soon be over. All this war and all this warfare, it will soon be over. All this conflict and all this pain, it will soon be over. All of this pressure and all this persecution, it will soon be over. The King is coming.

As we sang a few moments ago, “Oh, that will be glory for me, glory for me. When by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory for me.”

My friends, the darkest night in history is about to dissolve into the warmth of the glow of life’s most exciting experience, so don’t go around with a long face and a broken heart. Jesus is coming back! It ought to affect our perspective. It ought to affect our priorities. It ought to affect our personalities, because our very reason for living switches to the victory mode. And we become a part of the army of God that’s moving with confident excitement toward that grand moment in history, when the victor’s crown will be ours and the enemy will be slain once and for all. We’re

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marching to Zion, beloved. “Onward Christian Soldiers” ought to be our song of triumph. And if that doesn’t affect the way you act and the way you respond, then either you are not a child of the King or you have lost your perspective along the way.

We must be reminded of what is about to happen. And once we’ve been reminded, we ought to become a band of men and women so transformed, because we are invincible, undefeatable and unswerving in our commitment to the King.

THE PERSON

As we study these incredible events, what we are going to ask ourselves each week is, “What do they say about God?” And I’d like to remind you, this morning, in light of this overview, that it ought to confirm two things about our blessed God—*the infallibility, and the immutability of His Word.*

Old Testament Prophecy Reference	The Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment Reference
Genesis 3:15	Seed of woman	Galatians 4:4
Genesis 18:18	Seed of Abraham	Acts 3:25
Isaiah 9:7	Heir of David’s throne	Matthew 1:1
Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem	Matthew 2:1
Daniel 9:25	Time of birth	Luke 2:12
Isaiah 7:14	Virgin birth	Matthew 1:18
Jeremiah 31:15	Infant massacre	Matthew 2:16
Hosea 11:1	Flight into Egypt	Matthew 2:14
Isaiah 9:1-2	Ministry in Galilee	Matthew 4:12-16
Deuteronomy 18:15	As a prophet	John 6:14
Psalms 110:4	Priest like Melchizedek	Hebrews 6:20
Isaiah 53:3	Rejection by the Jews	John 1:1
Zechariah 9:9	His triumphal entry	John 12:13-14
Psalms 41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Mark 14:10
Zechariah 11:12	Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Matthew 26:15
Zechariah 11:13	Money to Potter’s Field	Matthew 26:6-7

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Old Testament Prophecy Reference	The Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment Reference
Psalms 27:12	False witnesses accuse	Matthew 26:60-61
Isaiah 53:7	Silent when accused	Matthew 26:62-63
Isaiah 50:6	Smitten and spat upon	Mark 14:65
Psalms 69:4	Hated without a cause	John 15:23-25
Isaiah 53:4-5	Suffered vicariously	Matthew 8:16,17
Isaiah 53:12	Crucified with sinners	Matthew 27:38
Psalms 22:16	Hands and feet pierced	John 20:27
Psalms 22:6-8	Mocked and insulted	Matthew 27:39-40
Psalms 69:21	Given gall and vinegar	John 19:29
Psalms 22:8	Mocked in derision	Matthew 27:43
Psalms 109:4	Prays for His enemies	Luke 23:34
Zechariah 12:10	Side to be pierced	John 19:34
Psalms 22:18	Soldiers cast lots	Mark 15:24
Psalms 34:20	Not a bone to be broken	John 19:33
Isaiah 53:9	Buried in a rich man's tomb	Matthew 27:57-60
Psalms 16:10	His resurrection	Matthew 28:9
Psalms 68:18	His ascension	Luke 24:50-51

By infallibility, I mean it cannot fail. By immutability, I mean it cannot change. Whatever your God has said will happen. No word He has ever spoken can ever be incorrect, inadequate, insincere or incomplete. Over the archway in a church I used to be a member of, were these words, "God said it. I believe it. That settles it!" I was always impressed with that, but it isn't true. The second phrase is unnecessary. God said it. That settles it. Whether or not I believe it becomes my problem, but it does not change the fact that God's word is perfect.

Isaiah 46 says:

...My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure:

(Isaiah 46:10)

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Numbers 23 says:

God is not man that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

(Numbers 23:19)

The Psalmist added:

Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

(Psalm 119:128)

The Word of God is infallible; it cannot err. It is immutable; it cannot change. God won't wake up one morning and decide to call off the wedding, or nullify the judgment, or avoid the tribulation, or scrap His plans for the New Jerusalem!

...with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

(James 1:17c)

“For I am the Lord, I do not change;” ...

(Malachi 3:6)

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

(Psalm 119:89)

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

(Psalm 33:11)

That's why Hebrews 6 says:

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,

(Hebrews 6:17)

What God has prophesied and what God has promised is already an accomplished fact, and it's so important as we go into this study, that you realize that. I have given you a list of some of the fulfilled promises of Scripture to remind you about your God and how wonderful His Word is. I would encourage you to keep this list as a reminder when the enemy begins to assail you. Generations before Christ walked this earth, God's Spirit told us, through God's Word, that He would be born of the seed of the woman (Genesis 3), the seed of Abraham (Genesis 18), the heir of David's throne (Isaiah 9), the child of a virgin (Isaiah 7). It says He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5). We read of His flight into Egypt (Hosea 11), His ministry in Galilee, His role as a prophet, priest and King, His rejection by the Jews, His triumphal entry, His betrayal and even His being sold for thirty pieces of silver, even to the detail of the Potter's field.

We read hundreds of years before His birth of His accusation,

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crucifixion, down to the details of the vinegar and the gall, the piercing of the hands, the feet and the side. We hear Him pray for His enemies (Psalm 109), see soldiers cast lots for His clothes (Psalm 22). We see that not a bone will be broken (Psalm 34) and that He was to be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53). We read that He would be gloriously resurrected (Psalm 16:10) and ascend to be with His Father (Luke 24:50-51). I've listed them so you can use them as a reference. God graciously told us all these things before they would happen to prepare the Jews and to prepare us through the perfectness of His Word.

Now He has told us in like manner exactly, exactly, exactly what will happen in heaven and on earth when the second hand of history rings the alarm bell of eternity and life as we know it, takes on a new dimension. He has told us how He will come for us; He's told us why He will come for us; He's told us what He will give to us; He told us when He will be wed with us; when He will come with us. He has told us all about Satan's moves and Satan's misery. He's told us! We need to listen to what He's told us.

You say, "Well I can't believe all of those prophecies about raptures and plagues and God riding into history from heaven on a white horse to win a war. I can't believe all of that." Isn't it strange in a world that is so obsessed with science fiction, outer space and cosmic miracles, it can't believe that the Living God who created all things for His pleasure can in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, speak a word and all of mankind will be swept up into His waiting arms? Or in a moment of majestic triumph return in great splendor?

Beloved, I believe it. I believe every Word God has written. And because I believe that, I believe that some golden daybreak, Jesus will come. I believe the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God will sound. And I believe you and I will be snatched up together just as He said. And I believe the King is coming back once and for all to deal with sin, with Satan and with suffering. And I believe we'll be with Him. You say, "Because it makes a good story?" No. "Because that would be nice?" No. Because God said it and because His Word is infallible, it cannot err. And because His word is immutable; it cannot change. I expect it to happen. Do you?

So, I look with excitement and anticipation. I think that song ought to capture the spirit of our expectancy, "That Will Be Glory for Me."

That Will Be Glory for Me

My prayer for this study is that as we journey through these days together, we will get so excited that we will leave this place and shout it to the rooftops. Jesus is coming again. Because, beloved, that will be glory for me, and if you're a Christian, that will be glory for you.

THAT WILL BE GLORY FOR ME

Get all excited, the King is coming
On clouds of great glory, He'll come!
He'll take and destroy all the hosts that oppose
And once and for all 'twill be done!

Ah, but first our blessed Lord must come
To draw us to heaven to be
Forever and ever by His precious side
Oh, that will be glory for me!

We'll worship before His Bema Seat
Where there in the light of His power,
We can cast at His feet all the crowns we've received
What glory there'll be in that hour!

Then here comes the bride clothed in garments of white,
Ne'er again will we e'er be alone,
For we'll as His bride be fore'er at His side
Such joy we will never have known.

Then Praise God, as King He will come
Into earth's Armageddon He'll ride,
And as Israel's enemies fall in defeat
What glory! We'll be by His side.

Then comes millennium—1,000 years
When Jesus in power will rule on,
Until at the end after one final fling
Satan at last will be gone.

And lo, out of heaven with majesty crowned
What awe we will feel as we see,
The New Jerusalem come down from God
Oh, that will be glory for me!

That Will Be Glory for Me

That will be glory, praise God, what a day!
When all we have longed for comes true,
And beloved, if you are a Christian,
It will be also be glory for you!

But if you don't belong to the Master
Right now, you can say to God's Son,
"Come into my heart, Lord Jesus"
And then, "Lord Jesus, come!"

Let's pray.

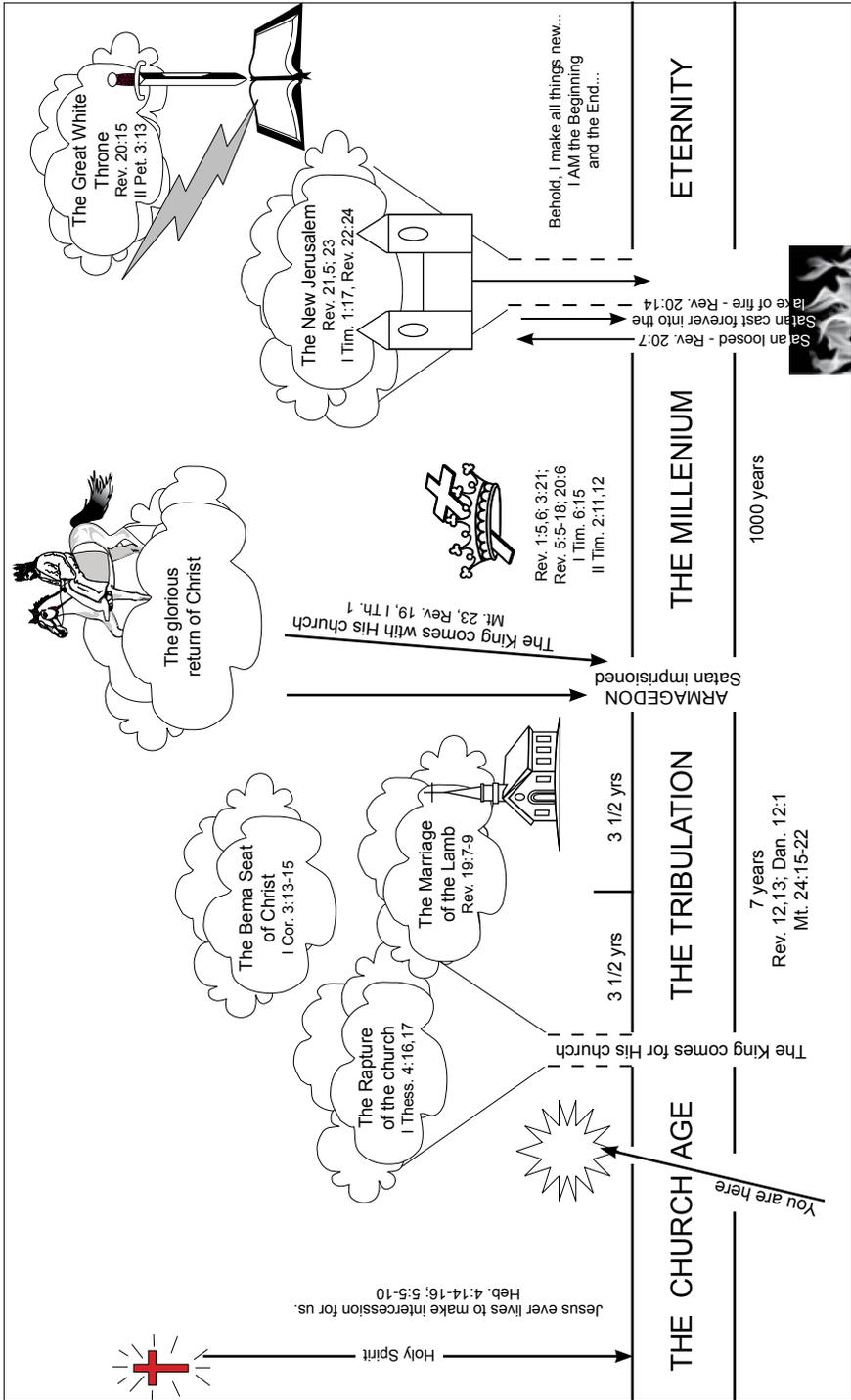
Our gracious Father,

What glory, even to catch a glimpse of what is about to happen. How can we walk this earth and allow the dust of it and the grime of it to so infiltrate our senses that we forget this world is not our home, and that one day very, very soon, all of mankind is going to shift into the eternal mode? And all we have prayed for and longed for and labored for will come to pass. We will be reunited with those we love. We will be gathered around the throne of our precious King to worship Him and adore Him and praise Him forever. And the things we have so come to dread about this life will pass away. These bodies wracked with pain will be gone. We will have new ones. Death will be a thing of the past. Sin will be a thing of the past. And, Father, we just forget as we go about our daily routine, what we have to look forward to, like children in school who labor and who are willing to endure because graduation is coming.

May we as believers, begin to get excited that the crown still awaits us; the graduation ceremony is yet to come. Get us excited, Lord. Get us excited, because our Master is coming again.

In His name, we pray.

Amen.



That Will Be Glory for Me

DEFINITIONS FOR THIS STUDY

The Church Age: The period of time in which we now live. It began at Pentecost and will end at the rapture of the church.

The Last Days: The final period of the Church Age in which the signs of the times indicate that while we do not know the day or the hour, Jesus should be coming for us soon. Many believe we are living in the last days.

The Rapture: The glorious coming of Christ for the Church, when “The Lord, Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout: and those who are alive in Christ, and those who are asleep in Christ will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

The Bema Seat of Christ: The rewards platform in Heaven where those who are found in Christ will be rewarded according to what Christ has been allowed to do through their lives.

The Tribulation: A period of seven years in which life on the earth will be characterized by bitter plagues, conflicts, and destruction, culminating with the battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ.

The Battle of Armageddon: The final conflict at the conclusion of the tribulation period, which will end with the coming of the King.

The Second Coming of Christ: The return of the King with His Saints to rule and to reign.

The Millennium: The 1000-year reign of Christ and His church.

The Great White Throne: The final judgment of those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. They will be judged according to their works and sentenced to eternity in hell.

The New Jerusalem: Our eternal home; Heaven on earth forever with God where there will be no more death, no more sorrow. Praise God.

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(02.04.21.dvd)