

## THE RAPTURE

Those who are obeying God will indeed be *protected* from the terrible times that are prophesied to occur on this earth shortly before Christ's return (i.e. THE GREAT TRIBULATION). But they will NOT be taken into heaven (i.e. the rapture), but instead will be protected by God ON EARTH. Also, the GREAT TRIBULATION will last 3½ years and NOT 7 years (as is commonly taught).

But a *pivotal event* will indeed occur seven years prior to Christ's return (but it won't be the rapture), instead the Antichrist will make an agreement (apparently) with the Jews that will once again allow animal sacrifices to take place at their temple in Jerusalem (see Daniel 9:27—especially Good News Translation). The animal sacrifices that God told the Israelites to perform in the Old Testament were being performed by the Jews regularly until the Romans stopped them from doing so in 70 AD (and they have NOT taken place since). The Bible is very clear that animal sacrifices will be reestablished in the end-time, but that they will be stopped by the Antichrist 1,290 days prior to Christ's return (Daniel 9:27, 12:11).

When the sacrifices are stopped, a statue of the Antichrist (i.e. “abomination of desolation”; “image of the beast”) will then be set up in the temple for people to worship (Daniel 12:11, 9:27; Revelation 13:14-15—especially New Living Translation). At this point in time God will take His people who are wholeheartedly following Him to a place *somewhere on earth* where they will be protected and nourished by Him (please see section below titled “*Protection*”).

Then 1,290 days after the animal sacrifices are stopped and the statue of the Antichrist is set up in the temple at Jerusalem, Jesus Christ will return to earth to usher in the Kingdom of God. Jesus will then reign on this earth for 1,000 years. And all of God's faithful people throughout the ages will then be resurrected from their graves at Christ's return (along with those faithful servants who are alive at that time)—to reign with Jesus during this millennium period (please see section below titled “*Kingdom of God*”).

## PROTECTION

About 3½ years before Christ's return, God will allow His people that are *zealously* following Him (and NOT *lukewarm*) to ESCAPE from the Great Tribulation (Revelation 3:10; Luke 21:36; Isaiah 16:3-4). God will protect them from harm during this 3½-year period—though the Devil will try his best to destroy them as they *flee* to a place somewhere ON EARTH where they will be protected and nourished by God (Revelation 12:13-16).

**Rev 3:10** — “Because you kept My command to persevere, *I also will keep you from the hour of trial [the Great Tribulation]* which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

**Rev 12:13-16** — Now when the dragon [Satan the Devil] saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman... *But the woman [the true Church of God] was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [3½ years], from the presence of the serpent.* So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood, which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

**Luke 21:36** — “Watch therefore, and pray always that *you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass*, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Matthew 24:20** — “And pray that your FLIGHT may not be in winter or on the *Sabbath*. For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

**Isa 16:3-4** — “Take counsel, execute judgment; Make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; *hide the outcasts, do not betray him who escapes. Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler (devastator)....*”

**Zeph 2:3** — Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. *It may be that you will be hidden* in the day of the Lord's anger.

**Isa 26:20-21** — *Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors*

*behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.* For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood (or bloodshed), and will no more cover her slain.

**Ezek 5:2-3** — “You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city [which represents famine and pestilence (see verse 12)]... then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them. You shall also *take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your garment [so that they can be protected].*”

**Ezek 9:4-6** — and the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and *put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.*” To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill... BUT DO NOT COME NEAR ANYONE ON WHOM IS THE MARK...”

**Rev 7:3-4** — “...Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed [marked] the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of those who were sealed. ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND...

**Rev 9:3-4** — Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. *They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal [mark] of God on their foreheads.*

**Ps 91:7-10** — A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward [punishment] of the wicked. *Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.*

## KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God will begin in its earliest stages with the return of Jesus Christ to this earth in full glory and power (Revelation 11:15, 12:10). At Christ's return the dead in Christ (all converted individuals from the time of Adam until that particular point in time) will rise up out of their graves and meet Jesus in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Then all of those faithful Christians who are living at that time will also meet Christ in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This is called the *first resurrection* (Revelation 20:6). But they will no longer be flesh and blood human beings but will instead be immortal, incorruptible, glorious spirit beings (1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Romans 8:18, Daniel 12:2-3)—the *literal* sons and daughters of God!

At this point they (those resurrected in the 1st resurrection) will descend with Jesus and rule with Him as priests and kings for 1,000 years from Jerusalem (Revelation 20:6; 2:26-29; 3:21; 5:9-10). This 1,000-year period is commonly referred to as the "Millennium." It will be an absolutely magnificent and wonderful world. Satan will no longer be able to deceive and pervert mankind—as he will be locked up and put away during this time period (Revelation 20:1-3).

Christ and the resurrected saints will rule on this earth with justice and equity for all. God's laws will be taught and enforced. No longer will mankind learn warfare but will instead learn God's way of life—the way of life that focuses on giving and not on getting—the way of life that leads to incredible joy, peace, and prosperity. (Isaiah 2:2-4)

Animals will no longer kill and eat each other. *All* animals will instead eat vegetation (just as cows and many other animals do today). Animals will be at peace with each other and with human beings. The whole world will flourish and be magnificent. The deserts will even blossom like the rose and be beautiful. The blind shall see, the deaf shall hear, the dumb shall speak, and the lame shall leap. Everyone shall be healed and have a wonderful, healthy body. There will be no more murders, rapes, robberies, drugs, violence, poverty, slums, corruption, nor greed. In other words, the whole world will be just like the Garden of Eden, when God first created Adam and Eve (nearly six thousand years ago)! (Isaiah 11:6-10, 35:5-10, 60:1, 60:17-22; Zechariah 8:3-5)

*But this will just be the beginning! Afterwards...*