

REDEEMING THE TIME

“Life in the Age”

Introduction

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV¹

We examined at length the security of our redemption in the teaching “Concerning Them which Are Asleep.” To be absent of the body is to be present with the Lord. We are His; we will not die; we will live forever. As we go forward, remember these truths. What follows is not a contradiction of them. On the contrary, it is built upon their foundation.

In this study, we are going to make an overview of our salvation in light of the present age and the ages to come. To do so, we must look at the believer’s resurrection, judgment, and reward. Of primary importance will be the subject of the salvation of the soul and the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Inheritance in the kingdom of the Son is not a milk doctrine. It is one of the meat courses in the word of righteousness (Heb. 5:14).

Before I continue, though, I need to render honor to whom honor is due (Rom. 13:7). I was first introduced to this doctrine through the teaching ministry of Dr. Dale M. Sides. I am profoundly thankful to God for having placed Dale in the ministry. I consider myself to be part of the fruit of his ministry. Were it not for the Lord’s working in him and Dale’s obedience to His call, I doubt that I would be standing in the faith today. I would have been lost long ago.

Dr. Sides has two major resources that deal with the subjects of the salvation of the soul and the Millennial Kingdom. One is “The Salvations of Man” and the other is “The Gospel of the Kingdom.” They are both available through his ministry, Liberating Ministries for Christ International. You can find them on the web at www.lmci.org. This teaching will borrow extensively from those works.²

Another resource that I have found very helpful is Chuck Misler. He has two briefing packs that deal directly with the resurrection of the dead and the Millennial Kingdom. One is “From Here to Eternity” the other is “Thy Kingdom Come.” Koinonia House is the name of his ministry. You can find them on the web at www.khouse.org.

Most of all though, I give glory and thanks to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who revealed the Mystery to His holy apostles and prophets for them to write down that we might strive for the masteries and receive our full reward!

I. The Salvations of Man

¹ All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. The reader should note that when it comes to the study of spirit, soul, and body the New International Version is not very helpful. It tends to muddy the water because it often translates the Greek word *psuche* (soul) as a personal pronoun.

² Do to their nature (insights versus direct quotes) and volume, I will not be documenting each and everyone. If the information presented here is wrong, assume the error to be mine and let it not impute the work of Dr. Sides.

➤ *The Dilemma of Salvation*

A division exists within the body of Christ over the very nature of salvation. In general terms, some believe in eternal security or “once saved, always saved.” There are others who are equally sure that one can lose their salvation. The one believes in a salvation by grace alone, the other of works. Both camps have equally compelling proof texts. Following is just a short sample.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

The only way out of this dilemma of apparent contradiction is to widen our scope of the truth. To understand the nature of salvation, we need to understand the nature of man.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have said it before, I'll say it again. Not understanding the tripartite nature of man causes no end of misunderstanding what the Scripture tells us. When we accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, He redeemed us: spirit, soul, and body. But the promises and processes of that salvation are different for each part of man.

1. Salvation of the Spirit

A. Faith in the Heart

i. “Believe in thine heart”

Romans 10:9-10

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The salvation of the spirit is not of works, but of grace by faith. This faith springs from the heart of man, which is his spirit.

ii. Heart = spirit of man

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

The heart is the inmost part. In much of Scripture, it is synonymous with the spirit of man.

iii. Treasures in earthen vessels

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

This is the salvation of the spirit. God shined the light of His glory in our hearts. But He deposited this treasure in earthen vessels. That vessel is our corrupt body, which also houses our soul.

B. Incorruptible Seed

i. Born of the Spirit

John 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

It is our spirit which is born again. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. The Spirit does not give birth to flesh.

ii. By the Word of God

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This seed that He deposited in us is incorruptible for it was born from the word of God and kept by. He will not allow our spirits to be lost.³

iii. Sealed from sin

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

1 John 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. "Signed, sealed, and delivered," we say. In this spirit, we cannot sin. The nature of God's Only Son has been placed inside us and our old man has been put to death.

³ He will cause our flesh to perish if necessary before He allows us to defile our hearts irrevocably – 2 Cor. 5:5.

C. An Inheritance by Birth

i. From the Father

Ephesians 1:3, 11

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Following the context of Ephesians, we find that the Father has granted us an inheritance. This inheritance is reserved in heaven for us.

ii. Reserved in Heaven

1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

The inheritance of the Father was given to us by grace. It is reserved in heaven and does not fade away. It is incorruptible. Nothing you can do in this life after salvation can tarnish it.

iii. Received in the New Heaven and New Earth

Revelation 21:1-2

1 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.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The believer will receive the inheritance of the Father after the Son has handed the kingdom over to the Father. This is in the new heaven and new earth, which happens after the Millennial Kingdom.

2. Salvation of the Soul

The salvation of our soul is the goal of our faith.

1 Peter 1:6-9

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, **even the salvation of your souls.**

Simple life experience teaches that much of how we were, thought, and acted didn't change the moment we were saved. This indicates an ongoing work, the subjugation of the soul of man to the spirit of man, which is to be led by the Spirit of God. This process is the salvation of the soul. The Lord gives us the opportunity to overcome and accomplish it in this life through His power.⁴ If we opt not to stand righteous before Him in this life, He will yet cause us to stand⁵. But the process will not so sweet.

To gain the salvation of the soul in this life, it is required that we obey the Word, purify our souls, and offer them to Him as our ultimate sacrifice.

A. Requires Obedience to the Word

i. Renewed mind

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

This transformation is not like the one we received at the new birth. This requires active participation on our part to cast down the thoughts and methods of the world and put on the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

ii. Purified soul

1 Peter 1:22

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Seeing and hearing is not enough. We need to do to be purified. Actually walking out on the truth is what causes the washing water of the Word to cleanse our lives. All this is possible because He has given us His Spirit by grace to accomplish it.

iii. Saved soul

James 1:21-22

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

*The engrafted word is able to save our souls **if we do it!***

B. Requires Death to Self

If we are to live to Him, we must die to ourselves. Whatever we keep for ourselves, we will lose at the judgment.

⁴ 2 Cor. 10:4-5

⁵ Rom. 14:4

i. Deny self

Mark 8:34-38

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Our soul is our most precious possession because it is the only real thing that we can give Him. He has redeemed our spirits and He will raise our bodies. But He has left our souls on deposit with us to see what we shall do with them. If we expend them in His service, denying our own desires and following His commands, He will reward us greatly. If we waste our souls in the pursuit of the world, we will lose even that which we have.

ii. Do not deny Him!

2 Timothy 2:10-13

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Not living in Lordship is denying the One who bought us. He will stay true to His word. If we deny Him and not ourselves, He will deny us.

C. An Inheritance by Reward

i. So great a salvation

Hebrews 2:1-3

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

The salvation of the soul is a great salvation. To gain it and retain it, we must give more earnest heed to all that which we have heard.

ii. Reward from the Lord

Colossians 3:24-25

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

This inheritance is a reward. A reward is earned, not simply given as a gift.⁶

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

The salvation of the spirit made us righteous and just for the judgment of the Father. This is the judgment seat of Christ. He will judge those that are His and reward them according to what they have done, whether it is good or bad. The ultimate reward will be to be part of the chosen, the Bride of Christ.

iii. The Bride of Christ

Revelation 19:7-8

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The bride and body are not the same. As the bride of Adam came from his body, so the bride of Christ will come from His body. The body was made clean by the blood of the Lamb. The bride kept herself clean and covered herself in righteous acts that were empowered by the Holy Spirit.⁷ If we show up to the wedding feast improperly clothed, we will be cast out.

Matthew 22:11-14

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

3. Salvation of the Body

A. The Promise of Resurrection

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

⁶ Rom. 4:4-5

⁷ Rev. 7:14-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

In a sense, we have a promise that the rest of the world has as well: resurrection from the dead. The major comfort of the hope laid out here is that we have not lost our loved ones who are asleep in the Lord. But we need to understand that our resurrection does not lead straight to glory. It leads to judgment as we read in 2 Cor. 5:10.

B. The Promise of Judgment

i. The body judged

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

There is a baptism of fire we must yet go through. All that we have done in this life that is not built on the foundation of Jesus Christ will burn. This fire is a purifying fire. The Lord's aim in His people is not destruction but holiness. A man's work may be lost. But the man himself will be saved.

ii. Few and many stripes

Luke 12:46-48

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The Lord is a just judge. We are responsible for what we know. If a man knows what to do and does it not, this is a sin of omission. If a man knows what not to do and doest it, this is a sin of commission. We will be punished in our resurrected bodies for any of these sins that are not washed in the blood prior to our physical death or His return, whichever comes first.

iii. Cut and cast

Matthew 24:44-51

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some postulate that this “cut him asunder” refers to the Lord’s ability to divide soul and spirit.⁸ It is possible that the Lord may separate the spirit of the saved who has walked in iniquity and unrighteousness out to Himself and cast their soul and body into the outer darkness.

Matthew 25:29-30

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

C. The Promise of Glory

i. The Universe in the balance

Romans 8:21-23

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The order of the Universe is in continual decay until the sons of God are delivered from corruption. This is an astounding truth. Our destiny is to rule the Creation.

Hebrews 2:5

For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

⁸ Heb. 4:12

The current cosmos is under the control of angelic beings. God does actively manage His creation. This is why scientists will always come short in figuring out the physics of the Universe. Are they really going to believe that it is angels that help regulate planetary and galactic motion? But such is our destiny in the world to come, if we suffer with Him now.

ii. A better resurrection

Hebrews 11:35

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Not all resurrections are the same. They all have in common that they raise one from death. But they are different in what the dead are raised to.

Philippians 3:10-12

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Paul strove to be counted worthy of the “out resurrection” from among the dead. This is nothing less than the choosing of the Bride of Christ out of His body. To miss it and be cast out to the outer darkness would be like a second death. We are promised not to be hurt by such a calamity if we overcome.⁹

iii. Bodies terrestrial and bodies celestial

1 Corinthians 15:35-44

35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

⁹ Rev. 2:10-11

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Though one may argue that all believers will receive a body celestial, verse 41 tells us that star differs from star in glory. What makes some stars shine better than others?

Daniel 12:2-3

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Those who turn sinners to righteousness. That would include us in our own lives. The more sin we turn away from and the more righteousness we pursue, the more glory will our resurrected bodies have.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

If we purge ourselves, we will be found useful for the Master's hand and ready for every good work, in this life and also in the life to come..

II. The Kingdom of Christ

1. Translated by the Father

A. A Change of Allegiance

Colossians 1:12-14

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

When we were saved, we were placed into the Kingdom of the Son. Our old man was crucified with Him and the life of our new man was hidden in Him.

B. Hid in Christ

Colossians 3:3 “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

The Greek term translated “hid” is the same word we get cryptic from. We are encrypted in Christ. It is a true and glorious mystery that we are with Him even now.

C. Seated in the Heavenlies

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Not only were we translated into His kingdom, we are actually seated in heavenly places with Him. We received a complete salvation. But we need to keep it.

2. We Need to Continue

A. IF We Continue

Colossians 1:21-23

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:
23 **If ye continue** in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

We will only be found beyond reproach if we continue in the faith and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel. If we begin to doubt His coming, we will start behaving like the unjust servant who abused the other servants. The holiness of our walk is a real indicator of the fervor of our hope.¹⁰

B. Don't Turn Back!

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

If we draw back from Him, we will suffer loss. He has no pleasure in reprobates.

¹⁰ 1 John 3:1-3

3. Reigning with Him

A. A Literal Kingdom

Luke 1:31-34

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a literal kingdom on earth. To disbelieve in it is to denounce the authority of the word of God and attacks the very character of Father God as a covenant keeping God. There are at least 1,845 references in the Old Testament and 17 books that give prominence to it. There are at least 318 references in 216 chapters of the New Testament and 23 of its 27 books give prominence to the event.¹¹ It's a big deal in the Word of God.

Matthew 19:28

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus promised to His apostles literal thrones on earth as part of His administration in the Kingdom of heaven.

Revelation 20:1-4

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Those who take part in the resurrection of the just will reign with the Lord during the thousand years. The teaching of this resurrection is what got Paul in such hot water with the Jews.¹²

¹¹ Chuck Misler, *Supplemental Notes: Thy Kingdom Come*, © Koinonia House Inc., p.2-3.

¹² Acts 24:15-16, 21

B. A Perfect Environment

This kingdom will take place on a renovated planet. It will be a perfect environment as described by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

For all of that, man will still show himself to be rebellious. The kingdom will not be a democracy or even a representative constitutional federation. It will be a monarchy and the Monarch will rule with a rod of iron.

C. A Rod of Iron

Revelation 12:5

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron¹³: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation 2:27

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 19:15

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹³ See also Psalm 2:8-9

Zechariah 14:16-19

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

As these verses indicate, all is not perfect in the kingdom. The King is perfect, and much of the “dom.” But man’s heart is still wicked. At the first opportunity, they rise up in full fledged (and final) rebellion.

III. The Kingdom of the Father

1. Man’s Last Rebellion

Revelation 20:7-10

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In this battle, the Father becomes directly involved, for the fire comes out of heaven. It is at the end of this battle that all enemies are destroyed and death is soon to be destroyed itself.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

The Son hands over direct reigns of rulership back to the Father, who now moves in final judgment.

2. The Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-15

- 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

All the dead are raised and judged justly. Death is cast into the lake of fire to be with the unrighteous for it has served its purpose and is needed no longer.

3. The New Heaven and the New Earth

A. Our House in Heaven

Revelation 21:1-4

- 1 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.
- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
- 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

In the New Heaven and New Earth, New Jerusalem comes out of heaven. This is the house that is eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1-3

- 1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
- 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

B. Purged by Fire

2 Peter 3:7, 11-13

- 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

- 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

This universe will be purged by fire and remade. The setting of New Jerusalem on earth seems to indicate a restoration of earth being folded into the dimension of heaven; the breach caused in the garden being permanently repaired.

C. Be Diligent!

2 Peter 3:14-18

- 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;
16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.
18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Since we know of these things before they occur, we need to be diligent to be found without spot and blameless in Him.

Revelation 22:11-14

- 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.
12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Be not deceived, the Lord is coming and His reward is in His hand. Let us be holy and be found worthy of rewards from Him.

Conclusion

The good news in all of this is that He has given it all to us.

Luke 12:32 “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

As Hebrews 6:5 says, we are tasting the powers of the world to come. In other words, we are experiencing in this life the joys of a saved spirit (“hath quickened us together with Christ” Eph. 2:5), soul (“we have the mind of Christ” 1 Cor. 2:16), and body (“by His stripes we were healed” 1 Pet. 2:24). What is required of us is to throw none of it away, but to grow in grace and occupy until He comes.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Hebrews 6:10-12

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

We want to make sure that through faith and patience, we inherit the promises and have life in all the ages to come.