

Heaven: Everlasting Life

The Rapture

The rapture is when Jesus (the bridegroom) comes back for his the church (his bride).

1 Corinthians 11:25 - In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant between me and you. An agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.'

1 Corinthians 1:2 - Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, set apart unto him, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

John 14:2-3 - In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

As His bride we are the guest of honor at the wedding feast.

Revelation 19:7-9 - Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 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. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 - And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 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.

Rapture (Harpadzo) - taken suddenly, caught up

Our bodies are translated from one form to another during the rapture.

Philippians 3:20-21 - But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly awaiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

We'll have the same type of body that Jesus had when he was resurrected.

Luke 24:39-43 - Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost. Because ghosts don't have flesh and bones, as you see that I do. As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked him, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.

We're going to eat in heaven.

Verse 31 - Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

In heaven we'll be able to be recognized and recognize everyone else.
Our resurrected bodies will not be subject to the normal laws of time and space.

Verse 36 - And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

John 20:19 - That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! Peace be with you, he said.

Verse 26 - Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. Peace be with you, he said.

We need physical bodies because we're coming back to this physical earth.

What is the Millennium?

Revelation 20:2-7 - And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and, Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, And cast him 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 Satan must be loosed for a little season. 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, nor had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and they reigned with Christ a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead, lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be let loose out of his prison.

Ephesians 1:10 - That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

Dispensation (Greek word oikonomia) - {house rules} the way a man deals with those in his household.

A dispensation refers to a period of time in which God deals with the human race in a distinct way.

- 1. From Adam to the fall - the dispensation of innocence.**
- 2. From the fall to Noah - the dispensation of conscience.**
- 3. From Noah to Moses - the dispensation of promise.**
- 4. From Moses to Christ - the dispensation of law.**
- 5. From Christ to the millennium - the dispensation of grace.**

Fullness (Greek word pleroma) - complete in the sense of coming to an end. (This references the final dispensation of this earth.)

Together in one - The compound Greek word Anah-kephal-Ahyamahi

kephal-ahyamma - to bring everyone and everything under the submission of one person and to gather around him.

Jesus is going to be the focal point of this dispensation.

Anah - again

At the final dispensation of this earth called the millennium, everyone and everything is going to be brought back into submission to Jesus and gathered around him again.

The Earth will go back to the way it was before the fall, with two exceptions:

- 1. Satan is going to be bound for a thousand years.**
- 2. There's going to be mortals that still have the Adamic nature.**

What it's going to be like during millennium:

1. The curse that was placed upon this earth is going to be removed.

Isaiah 11:6-9 - In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put his hand in the nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.

2. There will be no sickness or disease.

Isaiah 65:20 - No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at 100. Only the cursed will die that young.

3. Every deformity will be healed.

Isaiah 29:18 - In that day, the deaf will hear the words read from a book, and the blind will see through the gloom and the darkness.

Isaiah 35:4-6 - Say to those with fearful hearts, Be strong and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. Be strong and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you. And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot see will speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness and streams will water the wasteland.

4. There will be no oppression.

Isaiah 14:3-7 - On the day the LORD gives you relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended! The Lord has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers, which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression. All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing.

5. Parents will produce children.

Jeremiah 31:29 - The people will no longer quote this proverb: The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste.

6. We'll all speak the same language.

Zephaniah 3:9 - For at that time, I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech. That all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.

7. There will be global economic prosperity.

Isaiah 65:20-25 - No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at 100. Only the curse will die that young. In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards. Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the LORD, and their children, too, will be blessed. I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snake will eat dust. In those days, no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel 48:18 - Outside the city there will be a farming area that stretches 3 1/3 miles to the east and 3 1/3 miles to the west along the borders of the sacred area. This farmland will produce food for the people working in the city.

The End of the Millennium

Revelation 20:3 - And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and he shut him up, and he set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, til the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Must be - (Greek word dei) - it is necessary

Why is it necessary for Satan to be let loose at the end of the millennium?

To prove beyond a shadow doubt that sin is evil and powerful and that eternal punishment is a necessity.

Satan and his followers cannot be given a second chance because they will never submit to God.

What is the purpose of the millennium?

The purpose of the millennium is to fulfill the promises and the covenants that God made.