

The Questions That People Ask About Death

Do we have an immortal soul?

Do the dead know what the living are doing?

Will we ever see departed loved ones again?

Do those who die go to either heaven or hell?

This article seeks to answer these and similar questions!

If you ask a Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or Jew what happens after physical death, you would get different answers.

Numerous educated but non-religious people believe that all life, including human life, evolved naturally and is without purpose, there is nothing beyond this life.

That the only future is some of our genes will continue to exist in our children and grandchildren.

Once the body quits functioning, the brain dies and we no longer exist.

Why all this confusion about what must be the most important of questions?

The truth is no human being of himself or herself can know what lies on the other side of death.

We are all limited to information that comes to our brain through the five senses.

Only a supernatural, eternal person such as God could fill in the exact outlines of whatever life after death might exist.

In the western world we have a book, the Christian Bible, that claims to be written by men who were inspired by the Creator God. [2 Timothy 3:16]

In the Christian Bible, One quoted as the Creator God makes some astonishing claims.

Isaiah 43:11 [King James] *“I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”*

Claims only He can save us from eternal death.

Isaiah 44:6, 9 [King James] *“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” ... “They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.”*

Claims He is the only true Creator God.

Deuteronomy 32:39 [King James] *“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”*

Claims He can kill but also make alive, life and death are within His power.

Acts 4:8-12 [NIV] *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

Jesus Christ is the only foundation on which we can have of salvation.

What is meant by salvation?

Stripped of all theological baggage, salvation merely means a saving out of death. It means being empowered by Jesus Christ with another existence after our own physical death.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This eternal life is a gift from the Creator God.

Romans 3:23 [NIV] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

Since every human being has sinned then we are all on “*death row*” awaiting eternal death unless we are saved from this situation over which we have **no** control. [**Ecclesiastes 8:8**]

So the Christian Bible reveals that human beings have **no** existence apart from this physical life. Unless the Creator God intervenes in a mysterious and miraculous way after death, a human being will simply cease to exist.

1 Corinthians 2:7-9 [King James] *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which **God hath prepared** for them that love him.”*

According to the God-inspired Christian Bible, the real meaning of salvation has been shrouded in darkness and confusion, this applies today as much as it did in the day of the apostle Paul who was inspired by the Creator God to write this to the Christian Church in Corinth. A gentile [non-Jewish] church who were surrounded by pagan idols and immoralities.

Yet the life after death that “God has prepared” is precisely the subject we want to understand.

The Christian Bible does explain this mystery but the explanation is like a jigsaw puzzle.

Isaiah 28:9-11 [King James] *“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:** For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.”*

We have to assemble references that are scattered throughout its pages.

Let us start to put the jigsaw puzzle together.

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 [King James] *“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; **neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.**”*

When a person dies they truly are dead, **no** active part of the world.

Psalms 6:5 [King James] *“For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?”*

Unable to pray to or thank the Creator God.

Psalms 146:2-4 [King James] *“While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”*

Now, before the day of our death is the time to develop a relationship.

Where are the dead men and women who God used in the past?

Until the New Testament Church began, only a handful of individuals were called by God to fulfil a certain task and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to enable them. [**1 Peter 1:10-12**]

Enoch [**Hebrews 11:5**], Elijah [**James 5:17**], Abraham [**Romans 4:16**], David [**Acts 13:22**], etc.

These spiritual giants did not go to heaven, Jesus Christ the very Son of God confirmed this.

John 3:13 [King James] *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*

When Jesus made the statement David had been dead for almost 1,000 years, Abraham much longer.

The Jews of Jesus' day understood that those who had died were still dead. This is why they challenged Jesus Christ when He said *“most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”* [**John 8:51**] **Jesus was, of course, saying that such a person would not experience the eternal death or second death.** [**Revelation 2:11; Revelation 20:6; Revelation 21:8**]

John 8:52-53 [King James] *“Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?”*

This is why the Jews considered Jesus Christ was mad, they knew that Abraham and the prophets were still dead.

The writer of Hebrews confirmed this fact by writing about all these great people.

Hebrews 11:13 [King James] *“**These all died in faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

All these great men and women of God were still dead and buried, their minds are unconscious and their bodies have disintegrated, they had not received their reward for faithfulness from their Creator God and Saviour.

Matthew 22:31-32 [King James] *“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”*

All were still dead, yet they are as good as alive because the Almighty God is able to resurrect them back to life. [**Deuteronomy 32:39**]

Did King David have any hope of being alive again after his physical death?

Jeremiah 30:9 [King James] *“But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.”*

“Them” was the family of Jacob. This would happen in “the latter days” [verse 24] referring to the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Ezekiel 37:24 [King James] *“And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.”*

The “one shepherd” refers to Jesus Christ [John 10:11-16] but we see that King David shall be ruling with Jesus Christ, again this is in the context of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming, and King David then having eternal life. [verse 25]

John 5:28-29 [King James] *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

The Greek word translated “damnation” is “krisis” meaning a tribunal, for or against, a time of judgement. [This will be expanded on later in this article]

What about all the ordinary people who have died not even hearing of the name of Jesus Christ?

Every human being from Adam to this present generation are dying with a greater or lesser degree of spiritual ignorance, even those who thought they were Christians, disciples of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [King James] *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

God has allowed Satan to do this, who is at this present time the “god” controlling human thought and action.

Matthew 4:8-9 [King James] *“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”*

Jesus Christ did **not** tell Satan that the world was **not** his to offer to Jesus Christ in exchange for worship!

John 9:39-41 [King James] *“And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.”*

The Jews as a whole and their religious leaders were blind to whom Jesus Christ was, their looked-for Messiah [Saviour]. Since the very first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned, all human beings have followed their example, giving in to personal pride being prompted by Satan who lost his elevated position at God’s throne because of his pride. [Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:12-17]

Genesis 6:5-8 [King James] *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”*

This evil peaked in the days of Noah.

Matthew 24:37-39 [NIV] *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”*

Jesus Christ predicted a similar peak of evil just before His Second Coming.

Romans 5:12 [King James] *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”*

Paul summarised the spread of sin.

Romans 3:23 [King James] *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

All we can earn from “good works” is death [Romans 6:23] and can only be freed from its penalty and be offered the gift of eternal life through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. [Romans 3:24-26]

Why is this justification needed? Don't we have an “immortal soul” that remains alive and conscious after death?

The simple answer is no.

First of all, the two words “immortal soul” are a contradiction of terms.

The human “soul” is mortal and perishable.

Genesis 2:7 [King James] *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

The human being is a soul, the Hebrew word translated “soul” is “nephesh.” It simply means a living, breathing being or creature.

This same Hebrew word is used frequently in Genesis and elsewhere in reference to animals [Genesis 1:24 “living creature”] and even a dead body [Leviticus 21:11 “dead body”].

Ezekiel 18:4 [King James] *“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”*

This is repeated in verse 20 just in case we didn't get the message the first time. **The soul is merely a living and breathing being, human or otherwise, that can die.**

According to the Christian Bible, death is simply death, the absence of life.

The dead will stay dead until God brings them back to life.

If God chose **not** to resurrect those who die, they will remain permanently dead.

What about this “spirit of man”?

Job 32:8 [King James] *“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”*

It is this “human spirit” that separates human beings from other animals. [“souls”]

Zechariah 12:1 [King James] *“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”*

This “*human spirit*” formed in us by the Creator God.

1 Corinthians 2:11 [King James] *“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”*

This spirit essence coupled with the human brain allows a human being to think, reason and be aware of their existence.

Note this spirit is in the human it is not the human.

This spiritual essence must see through human eyes, hear through human ears, think through the human brain. It has no consciousness apart from the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 [Amplified Bible] *“Then shall the dust of which God made man’s body, returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.”*

I liken this “*human spirit*” to a computer disk which is recording all we are, memory, actions and character.

A computer disk is functionless without the computer hardware and computer.

The “*human spirit*” is exactly the same without its “*hardware*”, the body and brain, it has no function [consciousness].

By themselves both a computer disk and the human spirit are merely a store of information.

Again using the analogy of a spiritual database, God can construct either a physical or spiritual body, providing the individual human with consciousness once again.

This process is referred to in the Christian Bible as a resurrection.

Philippians 3:20-21 [NIV] *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

Our future is at this time being “*stored*” by the Creator God in heaven and Jesus Christ will bring our “*spiritual computer disk*” with Him at His Second Coming and give us a new glorious, eternal body in which our “*human spirit*” can function and have a new life.

We have this resurrection explained in two passages of scripture by the apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:35 [NIV] *“But someone may ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?’”*

Paul first addresses the “*body*” question.

1 Corinthians 15:36-38 [NIV] *“How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.”*

Paul uses this example of a seed of grain, it dies and the new grain is not the same as what died in the earth.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 [NIV] *“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. **If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**”*

Paul then tells us of the difference there will be with the new body compared to the body that our “human spirit” dwells in at this time.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 [NIV] *“The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.”*

The first body we have is made out of the elements that are found in the dirt, but our new body will be formed in heaven, with recognisable features of our earthly body, as well as our character.

John 20:19-20 [NIV] *“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.”*

Jesus, the Son of Man, with His new resurrected body was able to enter locked rooms and was still recognised by His disciples.

1 Corinthians 15:50 [NIV] *“I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”*

In our present body we can never enter into God’s Kingdom, His created family, for it is within the spirit realm.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 [NIV] *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”*

Only through this resurrection and change of body can we enter into our eternal spiritual life.

Notice this change occurs with *“the blowing of the last trumpet,”* showing it will happen at the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming, a yet future event.

This will be more fully explained later in this article.

Before we progress any further in this article let us consider the goal of God’s master plan for humanity.

Genesis 1:26-27 [King James] *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

The Hebrew word translated *“image”* is *“tselem”* meaning resemblance, shadow of real thing, an outward form.

The Hebrew word translated *“likeness”* is *“demûwth”* meaning manner, attributes, model, character.

Note at the creation of Adam and Eve **only part** of this goal was accomplished, *“image”* found in both Adam and Eve, but the likeness, character needs time and contact with the One whose likeness we want to develop, that is the Holy and Righteous God.

This is the very reason that the Creator God has given us life.

Ephesians 1:4 [King James] *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”*

This plan for humanity was developed before the creation of the earth and universe.

Included within this plan was the essential sacrifice of the Son of God, one Person within the Triune God, to be a substitute sacrifice for the inevitable sins that a human, without the active indwelling Holy Spirit, would commit.

This covering of human sin by a blood sacrifice is indicated in the action of the Creator God recorded in **Genesis 3:21**. The animal skin used was most likely that of a sacrificed lamb, symbolic of the future sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. [**John 1:29, 36**]

Our salvation from deserved death because of our sins can **only** be through this personal sacrifice of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. [**Acts 4:10-12**]

Another part of this master plan of the Creator God was to choose a select few individuals during the first four thousand years of human existence for specific responsibilities.

All of these men and women were empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfil these duties.

Noah had to build an ark by faith to save the only family on earth who had remained faithful to God, along with all the created animals that were for human beings to use. [**Genesis 6:5-8, 14-22**]

Abraham through faith in the Creator God left his homeland and became the father of the faithful, an example for all of us to follow. [**Romans 4:16**]

Joseph had to be sold into slavery to show us that if we remain faithful God will turn what seems defeat into victory, and the saving of the royal line from which Jesus Christ was to be born. [**Matthew 1:1-16**, Joseph son of Jacob.]

Moses was given the task of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, a type of sin, and giving them God’s law and statutes, with ceremonial laws concerning sacrifices that pointed towards the ultimate sacrifice of the Son of God, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Deborah was one of the judges of Israel [**Judges 4:4, 9**] and an example of good, wise leadership demonstrating what a person can accomplish when God is in control of their life.

David learnt how to become a king.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel all used by the Creator to prophesy future events while living in a period of national stress

Ephesians 2:20 [King James] *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”*

All of these men and women lived and recorded their experience which would become part of the foundation of truth, which all humanity would one day need to understand.

1 Peter 1:10-12 [NIV] *“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”*

Their lives were lived for us to learn from, what to follow and what to avoid in our own lives. All part of our seeking to live holy lives. [1 Peter 1:13-16]

Finally, Jesus came to pay the penalty for human sins as a perfect sacrifice. Now the sins that separated humans from their Creator God could be wiped clean. [Isaiah 59:1-2]

John 6:44 [King James] *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Salvation, or eternal life after death, could be made available to all people according to God’s time and purpose.

God not humans, plays the most active role in our salvation. Any person who chooses to believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour, does so only in response to the urging of the Holy Spirit. God does the urging, then we decide whether or not to believe. Thus no-one can believe in Jesus Christ without God’s help.

Colossians 1:20-21 [NIV] *“and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour.”*

After His crucifixion, Jesus the Son of Man was resurrected from the dead as the “first born” of those who would in their proper time also be resurrected to eternal life. [Romans 8:29]

Hebrews 4:14-16 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Jesus Christ has been in heaven for more than twenty centuries, seated at the right hand of God the Father [Hebrews 1:2-3] fulfilling the duties of a High Priest, a mediator between humans and God the Father. [1 Timothy 2:5]

John 14:1-3 [NIV] *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are **many rooms**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a **place** for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

When Jesus referred to His Father’s house the mind of His listeners would go to the temple at Jerusalem and the rooms would be the side chambers used by the temple officers and priests on duty all around the court of the priests.

The Greek word translated “**place**” was “*tōpōs*” meaning a **position or space of occupancy, opportunity.**

Jesus Christ said He was going to prepare these positions which would include living at the location identical to where Jesus Christ would be at His Second Coming. **These rewards are not yet dispensed. [Matthew 5:12]**

Revelation 22:12 [NIV] *“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”*

The reward of each Christian is now held in trust by Jesus Christ in heaven and He will bring it with Him on His return, a yet future event.

Matthew 25:31-32, 34 [NIV] *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will*

separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” ... “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

The time element begins with Christ’s Second Coming in glory.

This Kingdom of God is also called Kingdom of Heaven because that is where it originates, and will supersede the Kingdom of Man.

John 18:36 [NIV] *“Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.’”*

Jesus Christ specified the great difference when He was questioned by Pilate.

1 Peter 1:4 [King James] *“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”*

What does this mean? Think of the following analogy.

You want to buy your friend a dinner at a fine restaurant as a gift, so you reserve a table for two in your name for a certain day and hour.

Your friend cannot receive this gift until the time of the reservation and also location.

This is what is meant by our reward being reserved in heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21 [NIV] *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

Our citizenship of the Kingdom of God is awaiting for us as yet in heaven with our Saviour Jesus Christ who will bring it with Him, this is why Paul said we eagerly await for Him to return to this earth.

The prophet Daniel describes Jesus Christ’s return. [Daniel 12:1-4]

The book of Revelation chronicles in much detail the final events on earth as Jesus Christ returns to this earth.

Revelation 11:15, 17-18 [NIV] *“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.’” ... “saying: ‘We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great, and for destroying those who destroy the earth.’”*

The time and place are clear.

The Kingdom of Heaven literally comes to earth, and the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of Jesus Christ.

This is also the time of rewarding of the prophets and Christians. [**2 Timothy 4:6-8**]

Now let us consider the events of the resurrection day, the same day as Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Acts 1:6 [NIV] *“So when they met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’”*

The disciples were really asking when Jesus would return.

Acts 1:7-9 [NIV] *“He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.”*

These were the final words of Jesus Christ to His disciples. He was telling them He would return but until then get on with the job I have left you to do. [**Matthew 28:18-20**]

Acts 1:10-11 [NIV] *“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”*

Two angels then confirmed exactly how they would see the return of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever.”*

Note that both groups of Christians will ascend together no higher than the clouds while Jesus Christ descends from His present heavenly location to be with Jesus Christ wherever His location will be, is this heaven?

We have already seen that at this moment the kingdoms of the world become Jesus Christ’s.

Jesus Christ is coming to rule the world and He will do it with His disciples, all true Christians.

Zechariah 14:4-5 [NIV] *“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.”*

“On that day” refers to the day of Jesus Christ’s return, and tells us where He will return to, the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem.

Immediately Jesus Christ will begin the job of instituting His world ruling government. His first act will be to obliterate the opposing armies of the heathen.

The now-immortal Christians will remain with Jesus Christ in the formation of new government of peace and happiness for humanity which has failed to fulfil by its own wisdom and administration. [**Romans 3:10-18**]

There are many prophecies of this wonderful time to come, beginning with a 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ, referred to as the millennium.

Isaiah 9:6-7 [NIV] *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”*

All of this passage of scripture refers directly to Jesus Christ.

Micah 4:1-2 [NIV] *“In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*

The word “mountain” refers symbolically to the government, that will teach the people God’s way of life.

Isaiah 11:9 [NIV] *“They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

All people will have their minds open to an understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 [NIV] *“‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ‘This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’”*

During this 1,000 year period God will bring salvation to millions of people as He makes the Holy Spirit available to them. [**John 16:8**]

Revelation 5:9-10 [NIV] *“And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’”*

The resurrected and immortal Christians will be part of this new world government. Priests were the teachers of the people in Christ’s day, when He came the first time to be our Saviour.

Isaiah 30:20-21 [NIV] *“Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”*

A very personal one-to-one teaching.

What about the rest of the dead?

Throughout human history only a small number of people have heard of Jesus Christ and of salvation from eternal death through Him. [**Acts 4:12**]

1 Timothy 2:4 [NIV] *“who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

It is God’s desire that all human beings will have the opportunity to know God’s truth and be saved from eternal death.

Ezekiel 37:1-3 [NIV] *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I said, ‘O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.’”*

The prophet knew that only God had the answer to this question He asked.

Ezekiel 37:5-6 [NIV] *“This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”*

This would be proof of the greatness of the Creator God.

Ezekiel 37:7-10 [NIV] *“So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.”’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet, a vast army.”*

Here we have a picture of a resurrection to physical life.

Once these people of past ages live again they will really understand Who is the One and only true God.

Ezekiel 37:13-14 [NIV] *“Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”*

For the first time these people will have access to the Holy Spirit Who will open up God’s Word, the Christian Bible, to them.

Revelation gives us a precise chronological order of the “end time” events.

Revelation 20:4 [NIV] *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

Two groups of people are mentioned here who are to rule with Jesus Christ, priests and kings of [Revelation 5:10] and those killed for their faith in Jesus Christ, [Revelation 6:9-10].

Revelation 20:6 [NIV] *“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”*

All these freed, by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, from the second and eternal death.

The people whom Jesus Christ and these Christians will teach and serve will be all those who lived through the tribulations that are listed in earlier verses of Revelation and taught by Jesus Christ in **Matthew 24:1-34** also any born during this 1,000 year period.

Revelation 20:5 [NIV] *“The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.”*

At the end of the 1,000 years the rest of the dead, that is all who have never had the chance of salvation, **not** knowing Jesus Christ, will be resurrected back to physical life.

Revelation 20:11-13 [King James] *“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. 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. 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.”*

The “books” by which they are to be judged are the books of the Christian Bible. These people will **not** be judged on their past works but on how they respond to the teaching of God’s Word in their new resurrected life.

All who accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, repent and seek to live a godly life, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will receive eternal life and join those already in the created family of God.

What then happens to all the incorrigibly wicked who refuse the rule of our Saviour Jesus Christ in their lives?

Revelation 20:14-15 [NIV] *“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

This is the second or eternal death from which there is no resurrection.

Malachi 4:1, 3 [King James] *“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” ... “And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

These will be completely burnt up.

This is also mentioned in Daniel.

Daniel 12:1-4 [King James] *“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 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. 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. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”*

This time of this “sealed knowledge” being revealed is now, when secular knowledge will increase and many will travel around the earth, on vocation or doing international trading.

The apostle Peter spoke of this time, and the fate of all those who will **not** repent of their wicked ways.

2 Peter 3:2-13 [King James] *“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 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. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should*

come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 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? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

People suffering the second death in this earth-wide inferno are the incorrigible wicked who refuse to yield to God and overcome their sinful nature.

Note these people are burned up – dead forever, **not** “*burn for ever*” in some eternal hell fire.

What happens after the work of salvation is finished?

The period of the White Throne judgement has come to a close?

Will Jesus Christ then return to heaven with all the Christians?

No, He will not.

God will then start His plan for the eternity of His created family.

Revelation 21:1 [King James] “*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.”*

The replacement of the earth’s surface that Peter tells us was purified by fire.

Revelation 21:2-4 [NIV] “*I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’”*

Did you see the enormous implication of these verses?

Jesus Christ is **not** going back to heaven.

Christians are **not** going to heaven.

God the Father is coming to this earth.

A new earth made pure and inhabited by spiritually clean created children of God.

The rest of Revelation enlarges on this dramatic change.

The earth is destined to become the centre of all activity in every spiritual and physical dimension of the universe.

Finally, when God has completed the creation of His family of thousands of millions spirit of beings, the work that God has in mind can begin and is **only** hinted on in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

It is, however, enough to get every Christian excited about their future.

Hebrews 2:7-8 [King James] “*Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put **all things** in*

subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.”

What does the term “*all things*” embrace?

A new earth and a new heavens?

Isaiah 51:16 [King James] *“And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, **that I may plant the heavens**, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.”*

“*Plant the heavens*” – what does this mean?

When you plant something you expect some sort of growth!

Isaiah 9:6-7 [King James] *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

“*No end*” to the rule of Jesus Christ and all who rule with Him.

Is this why the billions of stars and all the possible planets that are associated with them were created?

The Creator God has never created anything without there being some purpose behind that creation!

I leave you with such speculation, that I admit is personal, but I find it both logical and exciting enough to want to be part of such a future.