

‘Son of man, can these bones become living people again?’

‘O Sovereign Lord,’ I replied, ‘you alone know the answer to that.’

Then he said to me, ‘Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, “Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” ’ Eze 37:3-6



# **TOGETHER AGAIN IN FLESH AND BLOOD**

**WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW YOU WILL MEET  
YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES AGAIN**

**GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL BEREAVED PEOPLE MADE PLAIN**

**JOSEPH CHERIAN**

# TOGETHER AGAIN IN FLESH AND BLOOD

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Bible Books Abbreviations: *Am* Amos, *Cor* Corinthians, *Dan* Daniel, *De* Deuteronomy, *Ecc* Ecclesiastes, *Eph* Ephesians, *Eze* Ezekiel, *Gen* Genesis, *Heb* Hebrews, *Hos* Hosea, *Is* Isaiah, *Jer* Jeremiah, *Jg* Judges, *Jo* Joel, *Jm* James, *Jn* John, *Ki* Kings, *Lk* Luke, *Mal* Malachi, *Mic* Micah, *Mk* Mark, *Mt* Matthew, *Pe* Peter, *Pr* Proverbs, *Ps* Psalms, *Rev* Revelation, *Rm* Romans, *Song* of Solomon, *Tb* Thessalonians, *Tm* Timothy, *Zec* Zechariah, *Zep* Zephaniah

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*Dedicated to*

*Everyone who has lost a loved one*

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.

There shall be no more pain, for the former  
things have passed away.’ Rev 21:4



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# Prologue

‘Comfort, yes comfort my people!’ says your God Is 40:1

This book is written for every woman and every man who is grieving for her or his departed husband or wife, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister, or other loved one. May the incredible promise revealed to you in the Bible – and made plain in this book – bring an explosion of joy and expectation into your life as you discover when, where, and how you will meet your beloved one and be together again – in flesh and blood, just as you both were in this life! May this hope be an anchor for your daily living from now on.

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 1 Th 4:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rm 15:13

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast Heb 6:19

To you, therefore, whose grief has never abated in your heart ever since the day your loved one was snatched away from your life and dreams, this awesomely joyful revelation is Heaven’s own supreme gift of comfort.

*Joseph Cherian*



# Introduction

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Cor 1:3-4

May the God of all comfort, the Father of compassion, comfort you with all comfort thru this book so that you will be able to live thru the years of your bereavement in the joy of the ecstatic reunion that awaits you.

The hope of widows and widowers, and all other bereaved people of God, is so great that no words can describe the joy that awaits them at the return of the Lord. Sadly, what should be made plain to all bereaved people around the world thruout history has been concealed from them by the veil of darkness that covers all the earth. This veil of the enemy is removed when God's people turn to his Word with all their heart for understanding.

While Bible believers in general have received much light in most other areas of their lives, when it comes to the comfort of the bereaved, the veil remains shrouded over them, except for patches of light that shine thru it. They remain content with these few bright patches, which often are not illuminating but are only further blinding.

One patch of light shows a nebulous reunion at the resurrection, and they are consoled to some extent by this hope. Another patch

shows them in the company of their departed loved ones again, but in a celestial environment devoid of the joys of family life in this physical world, and enraptured instead by some kind of genderless heavenly bliss.

But this servant of the Lord Jesus has sought from God, for more than 40 years, the understanding of what indeed is the great hope of widows, widowers, and all other bereaved people in every nation and in every generation. Bereaved child of God, this book is what your Comforter has granted me to pass on to you.

‘Together Again In Flesh and Blood’ does not deal with the subject of how to cope with the loss of your beloved spouse or another member of your family. There are other servants of God who have been endowed with the gift of ministering comfort that brings healing to your bleeding heart. What God has given me to pass on to you is a gift that will speed the healing of your heart, and that will abide in you as your greatest joy and motivation in this life.

This book reveals plainly what you can expect in your *physical* life concerning the departed member of your family. It shows when, where, and how you will meet him or her again – in flesh, blood, and bones.

Depending on what your spiritual teachers have taught you, you may think that your departed one is today either in a place of eternal bliss, or in some limbo world, walking around as a spirit or ‘ghost’ and waiting to attain beatitude. Perhaps you may even be living in a state of repressed fear regarding your precious one who has passed on, fearing that he or she may not have lived a good enough life to warrant es\* entry to heaven or whatever that place of unending bliss is called. Sadly, many religions, including most Christian denominations, teach that if a person is not saved in this life, e is condemned to be lost forever or, worse, to burn in hell forever.

I asked my widowed aunt, an Orthodox Christian, what she believed about her reunion with her husband.

## INTRODUCTION

‘At the resurrection, when everybody is raised to life, nobody will be able to recognize each other’, she said, echoing the general belief of her church. My aunt thinks that even if she does meet her husband again, she will never be able to recognize the man who lived and slept with her for decades in this life.

I asked my 86-year-old widowed mother when and where she expects to meet my father. She is a fervent Christian who spends most of her time praying and is a faithful member of her church, one of the largest Protestant denominations in India.

‘I don’t really know’, she replied.

‘But what has your church taught you?’ I asked.

‘From what I understand, I think he is in a state of bodiless existence.’ And then she added in a tone of dismay, ‘But how can I see him if he is just a soul?’

My mother paused, and then said, ‘But I am ready to believe what you tell me’.

So this book is also for my mother, for my aunt, and for many other widows and widowers and other bereaved people close to my heart with whom I share their profound grief. May God enable me to have this book translated into every language and in every country where there is a grieving widow or widower or other bereaved person so that they may all rejoice in anticipation of the indescribable joy that awaits them when they will be together again, this time forever, with their loved ones.

\*In this book, as in all my other books, I follow a modified form of the Spivak system of pronouns to indicate that the person may be of either sex. Instead of ‘he or she’, ‘his or her’, ‘his or hers’, ‘him or her’, ‘himself or herself’, I have used ‘e’ for the first usage, ‘es’ for the second and third, ‘em’ for the fourth, and ‘emself’ for the fifth. Often, however, I have reverted to the traditional method when I felt that such usage would emphasize the inclusion of both males and females in my statement.





## How To Use This Book

As you read each chapter, you may want to pause at certain quoted verses, take up the Bible, and check the referenced scriptures to ensure the revelations are scriptural. However, I recommend that such scrutiny be kept to a minimum initially. Read the whole book without much interruption to get into and sustain the momentum of your excitement and joy at the incredible promises. After you have read the entire book, you may at your leisure go thru the referred Scriptures in each chapter, meditate on them, and rejoice over them.

From the day that the truth of mankind's resurrection to physical life again is revealed to you, the surpassing joy of the hope of living together with your departed husband or wife, or another member of your family, will overflow in your heart and thoughts as each day passes...till your hope turns into tangible reality at that moment when you stand face to face again with your departed loved one in es new body, composed of flesh, blood, and bones.

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope thru the power of the Holy Spirit. Rm 15:13 NLT

Indeed, once you are willing to accept this revelation gifted from God's Word, the truth about your future with your departed loved

one will explode within you with a joyful impact like nothing else could in your bereaved state.

This book, by the grace of God, is not meant to be a one-time read. It may prove to be, after the Bible, the greatest comforter in your daily life of bereavement.

## CHAPTER 1

# The Departure of Your Loved One

God did not create Eve at the same time he created Adam for an awesome reason. He wanted Adam to experience his absolute *need* for a life companion. So he let Adam live alone for a while and observe how the other creatures enjoyed fulfilled lives with their mates, raising families after their kind.

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Gen 2:20

This is more than a statement about Adam's situation. It is a statement of Adam's state of mind in feeling incomplete and lonely. God saw Adam's acute loneliness and declared a truth for all men in every generation to heed.

Then the Lord God said, 'It is *not* good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.'

Gen 2:18 NLT [Emphasis in this and other verses is mine.]

The creation of Eve was not an afterthought of the Creator. It might seem that God originally intended to create human beings without a life companion, and then when he saw that the man was

lonely, he realized it was not good for Adam to be alone, so God brought a new element into his creation process. But not wanting to start all over again, he just pulled a rib from his first human and made Eve out of it.

God, who foreknew his chosen men and women long before the creation of the world, certainly knew when he first planned to create Adam that he was going to create Eve, too.

‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let *them* have dominion over...all the earth...’ So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Gen 1:26-27

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world Eph 1:4

Adam’s period of loneliness – his life as a single – is the forerunner of the situation both men and women would experience during their days as an adult single. This time of singlehood is when men and women experience a deep longing to be united with a life partner. A longing that is consummated when they get married and become one flesh.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh Mt 19:5 NIV

And so God presented Eve to Adam, and blessed their union.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply’ Gen 1:28

Starting with that first marriage, God has always considered it a good thing for a man to find a woman, and for a woman to be found by her man.

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord. Pr 18:22

And so, if you are a widow or widower reading this, you too had found your spouse. He or she gave you the completeness of life you

could never have found by any other means. You lived with em happily. Sure, there were periods of unhappiness, quarrels, fights – but they were all dissipated in the utter joy of living together as one flesh always.

But it was all over too soon. Perhaps it was sudden, with absolutely no forewarning that you were going to be left alone again. Perhaps the realization dawned gradually, and you had to endure a period of extreme tension and pain as you saw the life of your beloved ebbing away with cancer or some other terminal illness.

One minute my father was laughing and joking with his relatives. The next, my mother was to be alone for the rest of her life – for 46 years, at the time of writing this, far longer than she lived together with her husband.

No matter how long or how briefly you had lived together as one flesh, your life has returned to its first state of incompleteness, except that it is now with the excruciating pain of bereavement.

Heartaching questions come up in your mind whenever you recall your pleasant days when he or she was close beside you. Where is e now? Can I meet em again, and when? And if we do meet, will we have a life together again like we had before e was taken from me? Will we be together *forever* this time?

Perhaps it was not your spouse who was taken away from you prematurely. It may be your child, a parent, a sibling, a grandchild, or a grandparent. Whoever the departed person was, he or she has left you with a deep and inconsolable void in your heart for the rest of your life.

All the comfort that you have received from your living loved ones, from your reading of the Bible, from your church or other religious institutions, from the bereavement counselors, is scarcely effective in bringing you the kind of abiding comfort that will enable you to live with the same thrill and excitement as you did when your beloved was living with you. No matter how much joy you are given in the place of the one you lost, the piercing sorrow in your heart

never goes away, and the wound never stops bleeding.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a sword pierce her heart when her son was crucified. But even when her heart was being stabbed, she knew the agony was only for a very short time, for she was comforted with the absolute certainty she would see her son again in flesh and blood after a few days.

But the blade in your heart – the constant memory of your late husband or wife, or your little child, or your teenage son or daughter, or your brother or sister, or your father or mother, or your grandchild or grandparent, when they were living with you – unlike in Mary's case, remains in your heart all your life. Oh, you have somehow learned to go about your daily life with that constant agony. You have begun to smile and laugh again, and go thru your routines as you did in the days before your bereavement. But even the greatest joys you now experience can never remove the dagger lodged in your heart. The pain always remains, either in the background or in the foreground of your mind.

The story of Job's restoration of his wealth and family is often told as an inspiring example of how God comforts the one he afflicts with an extreme trial. But that story is almost always concluded with the wrong message. It is also a story that doesn't comfort the bereaved person with any assurance about the restoration of es departed loved one.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him...While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead...And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for

his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before...Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. Job 1: 1-18; 42:10-13

Now, try to put yourself in Job's place. Do you have sons and daughters, or at least one child? Or if you don't, you are likely to have a brother or a sister, or a father or a mother who is alive today. Now think, what if your child, or brother or sister, is taken away from you suddenly, but after a period of bereavement, you get another child, or another sibling, who is even better than the one you lost? No matter how much happier you are with the new loved one, will the anguish of the loss of your first son or daughter, or brother or sister, ever really go away from your heart? Even so, for all of Job's restoration with double blessings, and the birth of another houseful of sons and daughters, the agony of the loss of his first seven sons and three daughters will always remain fresh and bleeding in his heart.

But what if, as you go about your bereaved life, you have the same absolute conviction as Mary had, that you will see your departed loved one again in the very *same* state of body and mind he or she was in before e was taken from you – in flesh and blood? And what if you also know you are not going to meet em in heaven or some other nebulous place but down here on this solid earth in the same city or town where he or she was buried or cremated?

What if you had such an absolute conviction? Would it cause you to go about your daily life with the same sorrow and heartache as you are going thru now?

## CHAPTER 2

# What Happens Immediately After Death?

**W**here is your departed one today? Is he or she in heaven, or is es soul wandering around on earth as e awaits the Day of Judgment? The assured way to know the answers to these questions is to go on your knees and search the Scriptures in which are given all the revelation that God can gift man for es supreme happiness and peace of mind.

But don't most Bible-believing people already know what the Scriptures say about the dead? In my several decades of Christian fellowship and church attendance, I haven't heard this hope proclaimed in its full revelation to the bereaved people from the pulpit, or seen it in print – no, not once.

Will your late husband or wife, or your deceased father or mother, or son or daughter, or brother or sister, or any other of your departed loved ones, live again? That question was asked thousands of years ago by Job.

If a man dies, shall he live again? Job 14:14

Jesus answers that question directly in another passage.

But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in



the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. Mk 12:26-27

So the time is assuredly coming when your loved one who was so cruelly wrenched from you too soon, or whom you finally had to part from in deep anguish after he or she had lived a long life with you, *will* rise from the dead.

Surely all of God’s people have this hope – that their loved ones who have departed from them will live again someday in the future. But their hope would have been immeasurably more joyful if they knew what else the Bible says about the dead. There are many teachings about what happens after one dies. Some are based on the Scriptures; some are mere speculations in a sincere attempt by preachers to comfort the bereaved. But what does the Word of God actually say about the state and whereabouts of your departed one today? Let’s return to Job’s question.

If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service  
I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will  
answer you; you shall desire the work of your hands. Job 14:14-15

Job expects to wait till his Creator calls him. So he is not going immediately to heaven at the end of his physical life.

But waiting in what state? Conscious, and perhaps roaming over the earth in bodiless form? Or, perhaps in some soul-cleansing place such as purgatory? After Job finished his course on earth, and his body turned to dust again, did his soul separate from the body and begin another existence, unseen by mortals, roving in some ethereal environment waiting to be resurrected?

Let me now lay out the answers from the Bible to these fundamental questions as plainly as possible.

The human life consists of three components: the body (also

referred to as ‘the flesh’), the soul, and the spirit.

The body is the easiest to understand. It is the skin, the tissues, the organs, the bones, the blood, the brain, and the rest of what constitutes the human physical body. This body decays and turns back to dust when a person dies.

The soul is the life within the body. Adam had a lifeless body made of earthly materials. It was when the breath of life entered him that he became a ‘living soul’.

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. Gen 2:7 KJV

The word for ‘soul’ is ‘nephesh’ in the original language of the Bible. It means life, or living being, or the person itself, in the Hebrew language.

This soul, that is, this life, can continue eternally, or it can cease to exist. Those who have received the spirit of God in them have a soul that will live forever after their present physical bodies are dead. Those who reject the gift of eternal life will have both their physical bodies *and* their souls destroyed. God has repeatedly warned that the soul of the unrepentant sinner will perish forever.

Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the  
soul of the son is mine; the soul who sins shall die. Eze 18:4

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the  
soul. But rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and  
body in hell. Mt 10:28

The soul of a person is made up of his or her consciousness, personality traits, character qualities, memory, emotions, will, understanding, knowledge, loves and hates, dispositions, and preferences – everything that makes him or her a distinct individual different from all other people.

When a person’s body dies, es soul is preserved by God in

heaven, and restored to him or her when e is resurrected. He or she is resurrected with a new body, but es soul is the same that e had when e died.

The third component, the spirit, is what makes a man different from an android, a human-like robot. An android can do everything that a human can, and even better. It has life running in its system, it can think, make choices, and form its own personality. So we may say that an android has a soul. And this soul can be extended or extinguished any time by the robot's human creator. But an android can never become a spiritual being like a human, because then it would need the spirit of man within it, and this spirit is given only by God.

Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him Zec 12:1

It is the spirit that gives a person es conscience, es inherent sense of morality, es purpose, es usefulness, and es value to God. It is his or her umbilical cord to es Creator. Unlike the soul, which is a physical component and can be destroyed, the spirit is part of God's life, the very 'breath of the Almighty'. So it cannot be destroyed.

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4

The spirit of man that connects man to God is not to be confused with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God himself united wholly with man. But that's a subject that requires a whole book in itself.

The spirit of man elevates em from the level of super-intelligent androids and gives him or her Godlike qualities – mercy, compassion, justice, understanding, wisdom, patience, humor, and all the other qualities not found in the most advanced of animals or robots.

But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that

gives them understanding. Job 32:8 NIV

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart. Pr 20:27

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 1 Cor 2:11

When a person dies, es body perishes and returns to dust. His or her soul is preserved in heaven till es resurrection. But es spirit returns to the very person of God.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecc 12:7

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. Lk 23:46

Perhaps an analogy might help. Consider a computer. The shell, with all the physical components of the computer, is like the human body. The files stored in the computer and the electricity that makes the contents of the files accessible to a person are like the soul. These contents can be transferred to a new computer and the old one destroyed, but the files in the computer are exactly the same files that were in the old one. Of course, any time you wish, such as when a virus infects your hard disk and corrupts your files, you can permanently destroy all the saved matter in your computer. And if the computer itself is irreparably problematic, you may throw it in the recycling bin and get a new machine. Similarly, God can destroy both the human body and the soul together, if he chooses to.

As for the analogy of the spirit, what makes the files valuable to the owner of the computer is the *purpose* and *usefulness* of the contents in those files. An owner will not keep the computer if it can hold only useless stuff. A computer with all its components is precious to its owner only because of the value it has for em. Similarly, it is the spirit imparted by God to a human being in es soul and body that makes em precious to es Creator.

Having explained the three components that make a man, let me continue with what happens immediately after a person's death.

What is the state of your departed loved one today? Is his or her soul hovering close to you and watching everything you do? Or is e kept suspended in some state of limbo till his or her resurrection?

And what about the common belief of religious people that good people go to heaven when they die, and the bad to hell? This is too vast a subject for me to cover in this book, but let me answer that question in one statement. Nobody has gone to heaven to this day, not even the most righteous saints, such as David. This is the absolute truth *stated in the Bible*.

For David is not ascended into the heavens Acts 2:34 KJV

Whoever it is you have lost, that person is in a state of total *unconsciousness* now. Unlike the scenes depicted in movies such as 'Ghost', your departed one cannot witness or influence what's happening in the lives of the people bereaved of em, for he or she is aware of nothing in es present state.

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know *nothing*, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun [that is, in the life they had first lived]. Ecc 9:5-6 [Emphasis and comment mine]

The truth is that death is a long dreamless sleep because the person is going to wake again. Your departed one is surely going to open es eyes after es deep slumber, look around em in wonder, then stand up and start walking about in the same state of body and mind he or she was in before e was laid to sleep in the grave.

Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping. Lk 8:52

'Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.'

Then his disciples said, 'Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.' However, Jesus spoke of his death... Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, tho he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' Jn 11:11-25

Your beloved's soul is preserved in heaven, and es spirit has returned to God. Both es soul and spirit will be restored to your beloved when he or she is resurrected at the time of Christ's return, when he will judge both the living and the dead.

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom 2 Tm 4:1

Everyone who lived and died from the time of Adam to the day of Christ's return – both the righteous and the wicked – will be raised to life.

The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then he caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And he said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'

So I answered, 'O Lord God, You know.'

Again he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, "O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.' Eze 37:1-6

A person's physical appearance, his or her memories, es character, es genetic makeup, es acquired dispositions, will all be restored to em at the resurrection. And when the breath of life – that is, es soul and es spirit – enters es new body, he or she will become alive again.

And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God Job 19:26

Everything that a person had on es body in the previous life – including every single hair on es scalp – will be restored to em.

and they will put some of you to death...But not a hair of your head shall be lost. Lk 21:16-18

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Mt 10:30

I mentioned earlier that both the righteous and the wicked will be raised to life at the return of Christ. This includes the unsaved people of Sodom, Nineveh, Tyre, Sidon, and other ancient cities. And in the day that they rise again, the world will note that their wickedness had been less than that of the self-righteous Pharisees of Jesus' day (and of many professing Christians today).

But someday I will restore the fortunes of Sodom and Samaria, and I will restore you, too. Then you will be truly ashamed of everything you have done, for your sins make them feel good in comparison. Yes, your sisters, Sodom and Samaria, and all their people will be restored, and at that time you also will be restored. Eze 16:53-55 NLT

The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah Mt 12:41

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth

and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained till this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you. Mt 11:21-24

Someday in the future, all the people who have died, including those who drowned in the Deluge in Noah's generation, will rise from their graves. And these people to whom the gospel of Christ was never preached will be given the first chance they ever had for salvation.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jn 3:16

Those who accept salvation will be given eternal life. Those who wilfully reject it will perish forever.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Dan 12:2 NIV

Your loved one, whose temporary physical body has turned back to dust and whose spirit and soul are now in God's custody in heaven, will rise again with new flesh, a new skeletal system, and fresh blood flowing through veins. All his or her memories, every single trait of his personality, every quality in his character, even every strand of hair he or she had on his head in the earlier life, will be restored to him when his soul and spirit are returned to him at the resurrection.

So, remember, bereaved one, your departed beloved is sleeping peacefully in the care of God, aware of nothing happening in the world today. And you now have the specific Biblical revelation that



## WHAT HAPPENS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH?

he or she will wake up at the allotted time and be restored to you.

Please keep the above basic truths in mind, as we go on to more revelations about your departed one's resurrection and his or her restored life with you.

## CHAPTER 3

# The Two Categories of Resurrection

**T**he Bible speaks of two categories of people who will be raised to life in the resurrection at the return of Christ. The group of men and women who are raised to eternal life, and the group of people who are raised to life for judgment.

The resurrection of both categories of people will occur at the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet which announces the second coming of Christ.

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 Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever...The time has come for judging the dead' Rev 11:15,18 NIV

*Every* man, woman, and child, starting from Adam and Eve, who died before the return of Christ will rise from es grave.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1 Cor 15:22

The light of his appearing will shine on every person on earth, both those who had died and are now resurrected and those who

are still in their first physical lives.

Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Eph 5:14 NIV

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and *every* eye will see him, even those who pierced him. Rev 1:7

In the first category of resurrected people are 144,000 saints who are called the ‘firstfruits to God and to the Lamb’. This is the ‘little flock’ who, along with the twelve disciples, will sit with Christ on his throne and rule over all the nations. These relatively few people will be resurrected to immortality, and they are the ones who will descend with Christ on Mount Olives. Lk 12:32; Mt 19:28; Rev 2:26-27; 3:24

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father’s name written on their foreheads... These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. Rev 14:1,4

‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed Rev 7:3-4

This ‘sealed’ group of people will not be resurrected with a physical body. They will *not* have flesh and blood, or bones. They will be spirits, just as God is a spirit. When they awake to their new life in the spirit world, they will bear the same form and features of their Creator, and they will see him face to face.

Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Just as we are now like the earthly

man, we will someday be like the heavenly man. What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1 Cor 15:48-53 NLT

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied when I awake with Your likeness. Ps 17:15 MEV

When I awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied. NLT

Then I will awaken with your form and be fully satisfied, fulfilled in the revelation of your glory in me! TPT

The 144,000 saints, chosen to be kings and priests with Christ during the millennial rule, will be instantly changed to spirit Sons of God at the sound of the seventh trumpet heralding the return of Christ. Rev 1:6 The dead among the sealed servants of God will be raised first to join the Lord when he comes on clouds with great power and glory, followed immediately by the living saints among the sealed group.

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. 1 Cor 15:51-53 NLT

According to the Lord's 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. 1 Th 4:15

Then comes the second category of resurrection – the raising to life again of the rest of mankind, the billions of people who lived and died since the time of Adam to the day of Christ's return, including the soldiers who pierced Christ. Rev 1:7

These billions will be raised from their graves to physical life – with new flesh and blood, and new bones, in a body that looks and functions exactly like their bodies in their earlier lives.

In this second category of people who are resurrected to physical life are, again, two groups.

In the first group are people who knew Christ in their earlier life, and who had varying degrees of preparedness for the return of their Lord. If the percentages of the wise and foolish virgins in the parable are to be taken literally, then it seems that half of all faithful Christians today are unprepared to meet their Savior when he returns. Mt 25:1-13 What we can be certain of from the parable is that there would be a very large group – hundreds of millions – of Christ's followers, who will be denied entry to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

Those who have the Holy Spirit in them, and whose spiritual lights are shining when they rise from the dead, will be taken by angels to where the bridegroom is. This group is referred to as the 'elect' of God.

And then he will send his angels, and gather together his elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. Mk 13:27

In the second group of physical people, of those raised in the second category, are those who had not heard the gospel of Christ, or if they had, their lives did not bear the fruits of repentance. They

will all be caught unprepared to meet their Savior. It will happen to them exactly as Jesus warned.

Look, I come like a thief! Rev 16:15 NIV

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. Mat 25:13

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance Lk 3:7-8

Except for the elect, who will be dressed in white from the moment they are resurrected, all the dead will rise from their graves in their bare bodies, without clothes. Like newborn babies, they will initially be naked.

Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. Rev 3:4 NIV

Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed. Rev 16:15 NIV

When the people, in their new bodies, realize what has just happened, and as they see Christ coming in the clouds, their remorse over their past lives and fear of the impending wrath of God will be severe indeed. The sound of their mourning will be heard all over the earth.

And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him.

Rev 1:7 NIV

then they will look on me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zec 12:10

When the resurrected people realize they are about to face God's judgment, all those who immediately repent of their past sinful lives and cry out to God for mercy will receive immediate forgiveness

from their Savior. Lk 19:1-9 Thereupon, angels will minister to them. This repentant group of people – referred to as ‘the sheep’ – will be clothed, comforted, and separated from the unrepentant ones – referred to as ‘the goats’.

So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous Mt 13:49 AMP

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Mt 25:32

Difference between a sheep and a goat: A sheep follows the voice of its shepherd. A goat doesn't follow anyone. It goes where it wants, and the goatherd follows behind. Shepherds protect sheep from their environment, whereas goatherds protect the environment from their goats. 'If you leave goats in with your horse, they may chew off his tail.'

Jesus himself will personally wipe the tears from your face and from the face of your beloved one – the tears of the memories of the terrible pain of bereavement in the earlier life, and the tears of ecstasy at the incredible reunion.

for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes Rev 7:17

While Christ's return will bring salvation and comfort to the regenerated people who repent and receive him, it will be such a terrifying experience for the wicked who reject him that they will seek death to escape the terrors surrounding them. But death shall flee from them.

the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom 2 Tm 4:1

and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Th 1:7-8

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every

mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of his wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Rev 6:14-17

In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them Rev 9:6

This time the Lord is not going to leave them alone till they have made their wilful and permanent decision – eternal life or eternal death. I think that those who would knowingly reject salvation in order to live according to their own will in opposition to God’s would be a fraction of those who would immediately submit to the Great King as he comes in all glory with his saints.



## CHAPTER 4

# The Regeneration

Jesus used a unique word, not used anywhere else in the Bible, except in a figurative sense in one other place, to describe the second category of resurrection.

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Mt 19:28

The word ‘regeneration’ in the New King James Version and a few other versions such as New American Standard Bible and Young's Literal Translation, or ‘renewal’ in the NIV and other versions, is translated from a Greek word that literally means ‘rebirth’, that is, second birth. This word is a controversial term among Christian theologians, with everyone trying to give es own explanation of what it means in this passage, and very few, if any, explaining it in terms of an actual second physical birth. But there’s no need to try to interpret that word in any sense but in its original sense – a rebirth or a regeneration. A regeneration is a ‘generation again’.

The generation that witnessed the life of Jesus died about two

thousand years ago, but they had *not* seen all the events the Lord said they would surely witness before they passed away.

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Mt 24:34

The generation that was with Jesus, obviously, is going to have a regeneration – live one more lifetime – during which they *will* witness the endtime events described in Matthew 24.

The great multitude of regenerated people, including the Queen of Sheba, who had not been called to salvation before they died, will be given new hearts to replace their hearts of stone. Their hearts will now be receptive to God, and for the first time, these people will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it Mt 12:42

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my judgments and do them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Eze 11:19-20

With their natural disposition of hostility toward God removed, they will repent of the abominations committed in their past lives. They will throw away their idols – which, more than images of religious worship, are the material possessions, social status, power, lusts, and other cravings their hearts were set on – like a menstruous cloth and turn to the true God.

they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. Eze 6:9

You shall also defile the covering of your graven images of silver, and the ornament of your molten images of gold. You shall cast them away like a menstruous cloth. You shall say to

it, Get away. Is 30:22 MKJV

Waking up with the people of Sodom, Nineveh, Tyre, Sidon, and other ancient cities, will also be the scores of billions in India, China, Mongolia, Africa, and other regions, who had died without so much as once hearing the name of Jesus. They – like an earlier global multitude of repentant survivors of the endtime calamities Rev 7:9,17 – will know Christ for the first time, accept him with joy, and come under God's blessings and protection from then on. God will lead them to living fountains of waters and keenly watch over them forever thereafter.

There will be Lazarus the beggar too, who, being Abraham's son by direct descent, on rising from the grave, will be taken by angels to the bosom of Abraham to be personally comforted by the patriarch for all that he suffered as a beggar in his earlier life.

So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. Lk 16:22

He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap, that he may seat him with princes – with the princes of his people. Ps 113:7-8

Your departed loved one will surely be raised from the grave as a physical human with new flesh and blood. And also surely, no matter how great es sins were in the past life, as soon as he or she repents and accepts Christ, e will be placed among the global multitude who are now under the direct care of their Savior. Great will be the comfort that your wife or husband, or son or daughter, or father or mother, or whoever it was you were bereaved of, will personally receive from the Lord then.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the

Lamb...These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence...the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Rev 7:9-17

You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side. Ps 71:20-21

But what if your husband or wife, or other loved one, is resurrected as a spirit being – as one of the 144,000 elect people of God – and you as a physical being, or if you are raised with a spirit body and your loved one is regenerated in flesh and blood? I will lead you to that revelation later in this chapter. In the meantime, let's assume that both you and your departed loved one will be raised as physical humans.

How will your regenerated loved one look now with his or her new body? Will you be able to easily recognize em from among the billions waking up together?

Angels will be present to help the people in their reunions, as in the case of Lazarus, and they will either bring your spouse to you, or take you to es side. Perhaps, because he or she looks so perfect now, you may, at first sight of em, have doubts whether it is really the same person you had lived with – just as Mary Magdalene felt when she saw the resurrected Jesus for the first time. Jn 20:14-16 But as soon as God makes you recognize your departed spouse, you will run to your beloved and cling to him or her in indescribable ecstasy.

Your husband or wife, or whoever is the loved one you lost, will have in es basic physiognomy the same features as e did in his or her first life. But es body is perfect now, and so fresh and healthy

that your spouse, or your child, or your parent, or other loved one, may at first seem like another person to you, tho you now know for sure he or she is indeed your departed beloved. If you still can't believe your eyes, maybe you want to check es body for some identifying marks, such as moles, or even scars he had before e died, and no doubt you will recognize all the intimate details of es physique. Perhaps many people may be raised with some of their deformities or scars still apparent on their bodies. God may allow some of the physical defects from the previous body to persist for a short while after regeneration, helping to facilitate identification. Even Jesus carried the marks of his crucifixion on his hands and sides for a while so some of his doubting disciples could believe.

Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe...Then he said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at my hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into my side. Jn 20:25,27

Your spouse, or other family member who has been raised to physical life again, will have a body free from all infirmities and weaknesses. If he or she had some congenital defects in es earlier life, these wouldn't be there anymore, of course. His or her physique will be as perfect as Adam's before his fall.

You will yourself be radiant and in perfect beauty, retaining the same basic physiological features as in your past life. Your husband or wife will gaze upon you in stunned admiration of your flawless body. Just like the lovers did in the Song of Songs, the man will say to his wife on first beholding her new body,

You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you. Song 4:7 NIV

and the woman will say to her restored husband,

How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how charming!

Song 1:16 NIV

Among the regenerated multitude, those who had a missing limb or extra fingers (like Goliath, who also will be there, hopefully with a repentant heart), or an oversized nose, or cleft lip, or anything else that caused them much embarrassment and pain in their past lives, would now be free from all these deformities. Former dwarfs and cretins will be raised as athletic six-footers.

Lazarus's sore-infected body will be replaced with flesh that is as unblemished as that of a young child.

His flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth. Job 33:25

So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 2 Ki 5:14

Nevertheless, Lazarus's facial contours will remain the same, as evidenced by the fact that the rich man, who was also raised to life at the same time, was able to recognize him from afar. Lk 16:23

The original Siamese Twins can now move around freely, detached from each other, and live their individual lives with their separate wives. What joy these two will have in their own privacies, now that one doesn't have to struggle anymore to switch off his consciousness each time the other wanted some intimate moments with his own wife during the days they were cruelly conjoined.

Now, how long will your restored one, and all the other regenerated people, live in their new physical bodies?

The Bible unambiguously states that the life expectancy for every regenerated individual in the new world will be 100 years. This is equally true for those who accept salvation and eventually inherit eternal life, and for those who deliberately reject salvation and are condemned to everlasting destruction, from which there is no resurrection.

No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. Is 65:20

Where will your loved one be resurrected with regard to the geographical location? The Bible seems to indicate it will be where the departed one was laid to rest or died in some accident. This may be the reason why Joseph gave instructions to his people to bury his bones in his native land, tho he died in Egypt.

Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.' Gen 50:25

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah will come to life again in the *land* where they dwelt in their earlier lives.

Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city! Mt 10:15

If a person was buried in a grave, the ground where the body was laid shall open and he or she shall rise from there. If a person was laid to rest in the sea, or drowned there, e shall rise from around that spot.

Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.' Eze 37:12

The sea gave up the dead who were in it Rev 20:13

Angels will bring those who died at sea to a gathering place on land. Those who were, say, vaporized in the atomic explosions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be gathered probably from some point around where they were nuked.

What if a person was cremated and es ashes were dispersed over a wide area (as in the case of Nehru, the first prime minister of India, whose ashes were dropped from a plane over the entire country)? God knows best where to have em resurrected. Let us not boggle our minds with the technicalities. Many of the details we will know only when they happen, but many have already been revealed. What has been revealed belongs to us and our children so we can understand God's purpose for man; what has not been revealed belongs to God and it is not for man to try to pry open the sealed Word.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. De 29:29

Rejoice that God has revealed enough for you to know that your departed loved one will surely rise from the grave and be restored to you in flesh and blood just as he or she was in his appearance and constitution when e was living with you.

Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Is 26:19

Now let me show you what the situation would be in the case of a resurrected family where one or more members are transformed as spirit beings, and the others are regenerated in flesh and bones.

If one member of a resurrected family is a spirit being – one of the 144,000 firstfruits of God – es reunion with es physical spouse and other family members would not be diminished in the slightest in sensation and tangibility.

If, say, your husband or wife is a spirit being, then e would be able to appear to you at will and live with you in all the fulness and joy of marital life. But spirits are sexless, doesn't the Bible say that? Sure, it does. However, members of God's spirit family can transform



themselves into physical human beings whenever they choose, for as long as they wish.

The life of Jesus is the precursor of all that the people of God will experience in their own lives.

Just as the resurrected Jesus was able to appear at will in the physical form, be hugged and touched, and enjoy broiled fish with his friends, even so you and your spouse, if one of you is a spirit being and the other a physical human, will be able to experience all the bodily sensations that a human can enjoy.

Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Mt 28:9

He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Lk 24:41-43

Remember the incident when three men came to Abraham, on their way to Sodom, and stayed back to enjoy a meal? They were God and two angels, who ate the beef and the butter and drank the milk. Gen 18:1-8

So, even when your physical life has ended, and you have become an ever-living spirit being, you will be able to enjoy all the pleasures that a human can enjoy, including living with your physical spouse and other members of your family.

Now, let’s get deeper into the subject. If the husband is a spirit and the wife a physical human, or vice versa, will they have children? I don’t wish to speculate on this, but I will point out two instances in the Bible that seem to indicate reproduction is possible in a relationship between a spirit being and a human being.

In Genesis, we read of ‘sons of God’ marrying human wives, who bore them children. Some Bible commentators suggest that these are human sons of God, just as Christ’s followers, begotten of the Holy Spirit, are called sons of God. I think the possibility is

stronger that they were a special category of angels, who are mentioned again in Job. They were able to transform themselves into actual flesh and blood humans and have sexual union with women in the antediluvian age.

As human beings began to multiply and spread across the surface of the earth as God commanded, they had lovely daughters. The sons of God saw how beautiful the humans' daughters were, and they decided to take any daughters they wanted as their wives...Now at that time and for some time to come, a great warrior race lived on the earth. Whenever the sons of God would have sex with the humans' daughters, the women bore them children who became mighty warriors.

Gen 6:1-2,4 VOICE

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. Job 2:1

The second instance is the birth of Jesus himself. He was begotten of a human mother and a spirit Father. So, take the two passages, meditate over them, and prayerfully come to your own conclusion.

On the other hand, if both of you are resurrected to physical life, you will grow old together and complete your lifespan in perfect marital bliss. In the final days of your life as a human, you will look back and see that every single desire you and your spouse had asked of God in your earlier married life has been granted to a measure beyond your ability to have comprehended it in your earlier life.

God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! Eph 3:20 MSG

You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. Ps 21:2

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him Ps 145:19

## THE REGENERATION

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Ps 37:4

What happens after the worldwide regeneration?

Then comes the great Exodus II, far larger than the one that departed from ancient Egypt to go to the promised land.

## CHAPTER 5

# The Greatest Exodus In History

**W**hile the restoration of your life with your loved one is taking place, the global masses resurrected with new bodies, and those who physically survived the endtime tribulation, are having their own rapturous reunions...with their spouses, parents, children, siblings, close relatives, friends.

With your husband or wife, and any other departed member of your family, together with you again, the stunning awesomeness of God's plan for your earlier lives begins to unfold with crystal clarity to you and your restored one.

Now you will understand why, in spite of your most agonizing supplications, God did not grant your plea to heal a dying member of your family or save a loved one from a fatal accident. So great will be your realization that you will, like Job, put your hand on your mouth in shame for having doubted God's love and faithfulness toward you. <sup>Job 40:3-4</sup> You will break forth with the rest of the multitude in loud praises and thanksgiving to God for his tender mercies.

Initially, there will be much perplexity among the regenerated people. Obviously. Imagine, pre-Deluge people waking up amidst cars, planes, skyscrapers, and all the other appurtenances of modern

civilization. (This civilization doesn't end immediately at the coming of Christ. Many more events will take place after the resurrection before there is a new heaven and a new earth). God will assign angels to calm, reassure, and guide people into their new world.

the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels

Mt 13:39,49

Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. Mt 18:10

Your departed one's angel will be there to welcome em as soon as he or she opens es eyes in the resurrection. With the mighty but gentle angel always close to em to comfort em and explain everything, it will not take long for the regenerated person to get used to the new surroundings.

After the separation of the sheep and the goats from both the regenerated people and the survivors of the endtime calamities, the sheep – the contrite masses – will be gathered from all over the world and assembled in one place.

In the first Exodus, before Israel embarked on its journey to Canaan, they gathered at Rameses and departed from there in orderly divisions out of Egypt. Ex 12:51 Similarly, the repentant multitudes will be gathered according to their races and tribes from all over the earth.

He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Is 11:12

The terms 'Israel' and 'Judah' under the New Covenant refer to those God has called from every nation to receive salvation thru his son Jesus Christ.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision

avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. Gal 6:15-16

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh – who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands – that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Eph 2:11-13

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter Rm 2:28-29

When all the people have been called ‘from the four corners of the earth’ and assembled in one place, they will be directed toward the newly demarcated country called Zion, the land where God will permanently settle his chosen people.

‘In those days and in that time,’ says the Lord, ‘the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together; with continual weeping they shall come, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten’ Jer 50:4-5

The exodus of the people to their new country will take place in phases and in an orderly manner. There will be no confusion or rush.

For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Is 52:12

As they get ready to begin their long journey to their new country, God's comfort will start to pour out upon everyone of them. All the pains, heartaches, bitterness, and loneliness, all the terrible tribulations of the past, are now ended for them. Voices of rejoicing and thanksgiving will be heard thruout the great multitude as their Savior leads them to their homeland.

the voice of joy and the voice of gladness...For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first, says the Lord.

Jer 33:11

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes...Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, 'Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?'

And I said to him, 'Sir, you know.'

So he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Rev 7:9-17

Among the rejoicing crowds will be the millions of little children who were killed in the wars, or starved to death in the famines, or died in other tragic circumstances thruout history. Naturally, when they are resurrected, each one must receive personal attention, lest they be overwhelmed by the sudden change in their circumstances. God will gather every one of these traumatized children in his own

arms and bosom, before handing them over to the parents who had been bereaved of them. In the reassuring arms of their Creator, they will immediately get over the memory of the horrors of their previous lives.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom Is 40:11

Then there are the adults who had died in excruciatingly horrifying ways. As for Lazarus, who had a very wretched life, I suppose he is not going to get up from Abraham's bosom after just a few minutes of being comforted. He may want to continue lying there, enjoying his hair being affectionately stroked by his patriarch, all the time watching the prophecies relating personally to him unfolding before his very eyes. Lk 16:23-31

Husbands and wives reunited after the resurrection will begin the most joyous period of their married lives. Many conceptions will occur during the gathering in.

Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. Jer 31:8

If you are a widow now, you will conceive again, no matter how old you may be now. (Don't laugh, like Sarah did, and was rebuked by God for her doubt. Is anything too hard for the Eternal? Gen 18:10-15. For then you and your husband will be restored your youthful bodies.

They shall still bear fruit in old age ['virile still in old age' MSG].  
They shall be fresh [margin: 'full of oil or sap'] and flourishing.

Ps 92:14

I told an aged widow, while discussing her future in the Kingdom of God, that the Bible clearly indicates she will have children again, in addition to the two restored babies she had lost to disease in her young days. She, of course, looked bemused when I said this. I told



her God will give her and her resurrected husband perfect new bodies which will be far more robust than those of the healthiest young couples of today. She certainly wanted to believe this was going to happen, but it all sounded preposterous. Another widow, whom I met through my website and to whom I sent a preprint copy of this book, responded that this hope was too ‘fantastic’ for her and that she couldn’t believe it. What is ridiculous and foolish to the rest of the world can be an explosive revelation to you if you search the Holy Scriptures with a submissive and teachable attitude.

to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,  
but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the  
power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Cor 1:23-24

Let me interject a theological clarification. The question may arise in the reader’s mind as to the compatibility of the physical state of the body of the regenerated one and the body of the person who is still in the first physical body. If the wife lost her husband in her youth, and she is an octogenarian at the time of the restoration of her husband, how would they be suitable for each other physically?

The Bible clearly states that when Christ returns, which is the time when the first resurrection of mankind occurs, there will be a change in the state of all living things, including animals and plants. Lions will have their fangs modified to teeth that can masticate hay, bears will have their terrible claws trimmed so that no child petting it gets hurt, cobras and vipers will have their venom sacs removed, and so on Is 65:25; 11:7,8. Even plants will bear fruits that are several times larger than they are now. Num 13:23

Drastic transformations can be expected to take place in the human bodies as well, and I am referring to the bodies that remain alive till the return of Christ. So, if you are in your latter years, and it’s been decades since you lost a loved one, when the reunion occurs you can expect changes in your body as well. A small

foretaste of restored youth can be found in the stories of Abraham and Sarah, who received sexually active bodies in their old age, and of Naaman, whose hands became as smooth and flawless as those of a child. Gen 17:17; 2 Ki 5:14

## CHAPTER 6

# The Highway of Holiness

A global highway will be supernaturally paved for the assembled people to walk toward their new country.

A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness...the redeemed shall walk there Is 35:8-9

Set up signposts, make landmarks; set your heart toward the highway, the way in which you went. Turn back, O virgin of Israel, turn back to these your cities Jer 31:21

This highway will be created by raising valleys, flattening hills, and leveling mountains, transforming rivers into coastlands, and straightening crooked paths.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth Is 40:3-4

I will lay waste the mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, and I will dry up the pools. I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I

will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. Is 42:15-16

I will make each of My mountains a road, and my highways shall be elevated. Is 49:11

There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt. Is 11:16

The redeemed people will also have some part in trailblazing this highway.

Go thru, go thru the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! Is 62:10

Tho the highway you and your loved ones will be traveling on will cross various terrains, including deserts, valleys, and forests, you will encounter no robbers or assailants, or wild beasts that will harm you.

A highway shall be there, and a road...No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there Is 35:8-9

Now, who will manage the enormous logistics involved in transporting billions of people over thousands of miles to their destination? Again, angels, of course. Angels were created for the very purpose of helping and serving man Heb 1:14. They may not always appear with wings and flaming swords – unless such appearance is needed to confront any enemies who may want to obstruct the exodus – but more likely as ordinary human beings, as they appeared when they visited Abraham and Lot Gen 18:2;19:1,5.

God will lead his people once again by a pillar of cloud in the daytime and a pillar of fire by night, as he did with the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. He will provide a supernatural

tabernacle to shade the people from the hot sun and as a cover from storm and rain.

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. Ex 13:21

the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain. Is 4:5-6

He will supply all their needs during the journey, including showering manna on earth again.

Bread will be given him, his water will be sure. Is 33:16

They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water he will guide them. Is 49:9-10

The reunited family will now begin the long and slow, yet exhilarating, journey to God's own country. Among the great multitude of people traveling on the highway will be the resurrected or surviving wife, who may have conceived soon after her reunion with her husband. Being with child, she must be protected against a bumpy ride on the highway. God himself will gently lead her, as he will all his other daughters who are with young.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. Is 40:11

The wife, perhaps, would be riding in a wagon, or on a mule,

with her husband walking beside her – a scene reminiscent of the journey of another husband with his gravid wife to Bethlehem in an earlier era.

Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to my holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the Lord Is 66:20

Possibly, just possibly, as the couple ride on, they may, to their joyous amazement, chance to see someone intensely familiar riding alongside them. Someone whose face had etched itself permanently upon the retina of their memory when they witnessed the supernatural scenes in the receded sky some time ago. Rev 1:7 Someone who seems to have a penchant for donkey rides.

Behold, your King is coming to you; he is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zec 9:9

Many, just redeemed from the graves, and from their terrible handicaps in the past life, will not be merely walking to Zion – they, especially those who had been lame or dumb, will be leaping with joy on the highway.

Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. Is 35:6

People who had been blind all their previous lives will bask in the light of the day and gaze in unabating wonder at the sights around them.

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them. Is 42:16

Traveling on the highway are also overjoyed parents holding the

hands of their restored young children. Perhaps the children will be the survivors, while the parents will be the regenerated ones. Imagine their unbridled joy at seeing their departed children or parents alive and healthy again! Just like old times, except that the joy is a hundredfold now Mt 19:29.

The toddlers of God's people will be carried in the arms and on the shoulders of the gentiles who had never known Jesus before, or had initially rebelled against his rule, but who, on their enlightenment or punishment, submitted quickly to him.

Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.

Is 49:22 KJV

These gentile people will serve as the servants of the citizens of Zion.

Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet Is 60:14

Close your eyes, O bereaved one. Imagine what it will be like at the time of the regathering of God's people from every village, town, and city on earth.

Imagine being surrounded by exultant people, all praising God, excited beyond measure. Imagine Jesus coming personally to you and holding you closely to his chest.

Imagine seeing your husband or wife, or your child, or your parent, or other loved one, back to life, and knowing you will never be separated from him or her again. Imagine the first few minutes, the first few hours, the first few days of your reunion.

If you are a widow or widower now, imagine being wrapped in the passionate embrace of your lover, twined in the warmth of each other's bodies. Imagine being caressed again by your beloved. Just imagine.

Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. Is 54:4

Your resurrected husband or wife and you, holding each other's hands, will walk on the Lord's Highway to the land that God, from the beginning of his creation, has set aside as the special territory for his chosen people. It will comprise the land of present-day Israel and much more. Considering how you and your husband or wife, now forever reunited with you, will be feeling then, it is only natural that you may want to stop and embrace each other tightly again, and praise God once more for the incredible reunion. The ecstatic shock that you felt on first meeting your departed beloved still quavers in every cell of your body.

The journey on the highway will be exciting, fun-filled, and resounding with the voices of people praising God and comforting one another over all the tribulations they had gone thru in their previous lives.

'Comfort, yes, comfort My people!' says your God. 'Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.' Is 40:1-2

You will recognize many faces in the multitude that are walking alongside you on the highway – faces of friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues, and others who had died like your loved one. Many of these people had long since faded from your memories, and the sight of them again is another of the many excitements you will encounter daily. Your old friends, relatives, neighbors, classmates – some of whom died in very tragic circumstances – will be running up to you with a shrill of recognition.

The journey to the new Israel may take several months. All along,



wherever the redeemed multitude passes, the deserts blossom into gardens and pools spring up.

I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. Is 43:19-20

Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. Is 35:1-2 NLT

Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived. Is 35:6-7 NLT. See also Is 41:18,19

The mountains and hills seem to break into songs, and the trees in the valleys seem to clap their hands in accompaniment, at the sight of God's people passing by.

For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Is 55:12

Now that both of you are endowed with youthful bodies, you will frolic and leap in the dales and meadows, like calves released from their stall.

But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. Mal 4:2 NLT

Your eyes will behold your Savior, who has made all this possible for you and your beloved.

Your eyes will see the king in his beauty Is 33:17

At times, as you stop to take a drink of crystal-clear water from one of the newly formed brooks, you may chance to see Jesus close by as he too dips his hand in the water and cups up a drink. (Spirit beings do not need to eat and drink, or even breathe, to live, but they can partake of and enjoy everything that humans can.)

But he himself will be refreshed from brooks along the way.

Ps 110:7 NLT

And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. Lk 24:41-42 NIV

I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again till it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God...For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine till the kingdom of God comes. Lk 22:15-18 NIV

Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way Gen 18:5 NIV

There will be rivers and seas to cross on the way. Hand in hand, you and your loved one will step into the miraculously dried riverbed.

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path thru the mighty waters Is 43:16

Are You not the One who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; that made the depths of the sea a road for the redeemed to cross over? Is 51:10

The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over

dry-shod Is 11:15

As you walk on the sandy bed, you will see the waters upstream standing still and risen high as if against an invisible glass – held back by the command of God so that his redeemed people can cross over dryshod.

that the waters which came down from upstream stood still,  
and rose in a heap very far away Jos 3:16

Probably the last river to cross will be Jordan, beyond which lies the glorious destination of the largest exodus ever – the land where you and your beloved are going to live together for the rest of your physical lives.

Your eyes will see...the land that is very far off. Is 33:17

## CHAPTER 7

# Settling In The New Country

**T**he Bible does not indicate how long the journey of God's people from the point of their worldwide assembly to the land of their permanent residence would last. It could be a few months or a few years. But once they reach their new country, the citizens of modern Israel – also known as Zion – will begin their settlement there.

While the people in Zion will be preserved from every evil and will no longer shed any tears of pain or sorrow, the unrepentant people in the rest of the world will go thru the most intense period of trouble the world has ever known.

Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, till the indignation is past. For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain. Is 26:19-21

For the Lord will comfort Zion, he will comfort all her waste places; he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in

it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. Is 51:3

Finally, after months of traveling on the highway and living in tents, the people of God, both those redeemed from the grave and those who survived the great tribulation at the end of this age, shall at last reach Zion, the land chosen by God for his people's habitation, and for his own eternal dwelling.

So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Is 51:11

For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling, saying, "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it. Ps 132:13-14

Once you are in this most pleasant of lands, you will settle down to a secure life. You will negotiate land deals, buy fields, sign deeds, and build your own house.

It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure. Zec 14:11 NIV

My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Is 32:18 NIV

For thus says the Lord: "Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them. And fields will be bought in this land of which you say, "It is desolate, without man or beast...Men will buy fields for money, sign deeds and seal them, and take witnesses Jer 32:42-44

They shall build houses and inhabit them Is 65:21

All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive. Ps 22:29

Your new dwelling place will be incomparably more magnificent than the one you and your family lived in earlier.

And everyone who has left houses...or lands...shall receive a hundredfold Mt 19:29

After your house is built to your specific design, one of your first jobs will be planting a vineyard. I don't know why citizens of the new Israel should prefer vineyards over other fruit plantations. My personal choice would be orchards producing the several tropical fruits I relish most, especially mango. But God's Word explicitly mentions grapes as the new land's primary crop, probably because the fruit brings good cheer and merriment to the people like no other.

They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them Am 9:14

A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry Ecc 10:19

They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. Is 65:21

In addition to vineyards, people will plant magnificent orchards and gardens that produce a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables.

They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. Am 9:14

People from the nations that had persecuted God's people in the earlier age will be farmhands in your fields and shepherds of your flocks. Your maids and butlers will also be supplied from the nations that had previously oppressed the redeemed people.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. Is 61:5

The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Foreigners will join them and unite with the descendants of Jacob...And Israel will take possession of the nations and

make them male and female servants in the Lord's land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors. Is 14:1-2 NIV

The names 'Jacob, Israel, Jerusalem, Zion, Judah, in the Bible refer to the physical nations descended from Jacob, and also, in the spiritual sense, to the people who have been grafted into Israel – the Christians. The present identities of these nations are revealed in my book 'Gegonan' and in several of my messages relating to the endtime prophecies. The book and the messages can be accessed at my ministry website: [preparethewayofthelord.org](http://preparethewayofthelord.org).

Among the foreigners serving you in your homes and fields will be former kings and queens – those who once reigned over great nations and empires but who had not known Christ at that time. Imagine a king or queen, or a president or prime minister of some great country today, or one of the Caesars of ancient Rome, pouring feed into the trough for your cattle, or babysitting your little ones, or serving as your chauffeur.

Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Is 49:23

and their kings shall minister to you Is 60:10

The former cities will lie desolate as a result of the global cataclysmic events that preceded Christ's return, and people will begin to rebuild them in their original locations. Ruined streets will be restored to become habitable places again.

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In Is 58:12

And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Is 61:4

Interestingly, many of the magnificent palaces of the present age, all destroyed during the endtime wars, will be reconstructed according to their original plans on their very foundations.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt on her ruins. The palace will be reconstructed as it was before. Jer 30:18 NLT

Rebuilding of new cities will be quick because the labor, skills, and wealth of the gentile nations will flow continually into God's own country in tribute to the King of Kings, now ruling over the whole world from New Jerusalem.

And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance ...everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts Zec 14:14,16

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Is 2:2 NIV

The city of Tyre will come with a gift, people of wealth will seek your favor. Ps 45:12 NIV

the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you...They shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord...Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession. For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined. Is 60:5-6;11-12

Manual workers at construction and other industry sites will obviously be mostly the former enemies of God's people. The profane leaders of this age, along with their ungodly followers, will be carrying shovels and pushing wheelbarrows as they quietly go about their work in rebuilding metropolises and maintaining civic facilities for a people they once hated and wanted to exterminate. It certainly is not far-fetched to imagine a king rebuilding his palace



for one of his former slaves. His regal glory and all his magnificent possessions ended in his grave, and the wonderful lifestyle he had led is now far away from him, having passed on to a humble and contrite people redeemed by their Savior.

This is the way of those who are foolish, and of their posterity who approve their sayings. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me. Ps 49: 13-15

Ruling over Israel directly under the King of Kings will be the resurrected David.

David my servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments and observe my statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob my servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. Eze 37:24-25

I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them – my servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them. Eze 34:23-24

But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. Jer 30:9

There are desolations everywhere, but the land is quickly turning green and productive. Desert stretches are beginning to blossom and turn into Eden-like gardens.

For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste

places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord Is 51:3

One particular garden will be so beautiful it will be the talk of the whole world.

I will raise up for them a garden of renown Eze 34:29

With the curse on the ground forever removed, farming will become the most preferred occupation of the people. They will till the ground and their land shall overflow with an abundance of grains and fruits.

The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. Eze 36: 34

I will call for the grain and multiply it...I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields Eze 36:29-30

Even before one crop can be fully harvested, it will be time to furrow the land for the next – a situation where literally the harrow passes by the scythe on the same field.

‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. Am 9:13

Now, every plant will be bearing fruit in the manner it was originally intended to produce.

For the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Jl 2:22

The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. Zec 8:12 NIV

A cluster of grapes, for example, will have to be carried on a pole

between two of your workers – which means that each grape must be around the size of a tennis ball!

When they arrived at the Eshcol Valley they cut off a branch with a single cluster of grapes – it took two men to carry it – slung on a pole...They named the place Eshcol Valley (Grape-Cluster-Valley) because of the huge cluster of grapes they had cut down there. Num 13:23-24 MSG

Visualize your spouse and you sitting under a vine; your beloved takes a munch at one such orange-sized grape and then passes it to you for a bite.

Canaan, where the people of the original Exodus were settled, was then the most fertile and verdant of lands on earth.

On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of Egypt into a land I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands. Eze 20:6 NIV

The fruitfulness and beauty of the land where God first settled his people is a small forerunner of what the land will be when the final settlement occurs.

So they will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited. Eze 36:35

This chosen land will initially comprise the regions of present-day Israel and Lebanon. As more and more people of God come in from around the world, new Israel will keep burgeoning till once more pioneers with the ‘frontier spirit’ – Davy Crocketts of the new age – will go out in search of fresh territory to settle.

I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, till no more room is found for them. Zec 10:10

They will rediscover many lands that had been lying desolate for

a long time since the cataclysms of the endtime events. Jer 25:11; 29:10; Dan 9:2. The pleasant farms and meadows of today by then will have become thick forests full of briars and thorns; not suitable for hoeing, but excellent for hunting. Even some remote towns and settlements, now overgrown with creepers and serving as the lairs of wild animals, will be rediscovered and reinhabited.

In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels, there will be only briars and thorns. Hunters will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briars and thorns. As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briars and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run. Is 7:23-25 NIV

On the land of my people will come up thorns and briars...the palaces will be forsaken, the bustling city will be deserted. The forts and towers will become lairs forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks Is 32:13-14

A steady stream of redeemed people will be continually arriving in Zion by the highway. As each family arrives, they will be allotted their plot of land according to the tribe the Lord decides they are in. Land will be apportioned to even former pagans in the exodus who had not known the true God in their earlier lives, but who now follow the Redeemer who has rescued them from the power of the grave.

Divide the land within these boundaries among the tribes of Israel. Distribute the land as an allotment for yourselves and for the foreigners who have joined you and are raising their families among you. They will be like native-born Israelites to you and will receive an allotment among the tribes. These foreigners are to be given land within the territory of the tribe with whom they now live. Eze 47:21-23 NLT

## CHAPTER 8

# Enjoying Daily Life With Your Family

**I**f the reunited wife did not conceive during the long journey to the new Israel, it is only natural to expect she will be carrying a new life within her once she is settled in her permanent home. This time, it seems unlikely that any couple will want to restrict the number of children they have. Blessed with a robust and fertile body, the average wife in regathered Israel will likely be the proud mother of a houseful of kids of all ages. The contraceptive industry will be something unheard of and unthinkable among couples flourishing in God's boundless blessings.

Your wife will bear children as a vine bears grapes, your household lush as a vineyard, the children around your table as fresh and promising as young olive shoots...Oh, how he blesses the one who fears God! Ps 128:3-4 MSG

Pregnant women will not dread the prospect of excruciating delivery pains. Having been redeemed from the curse given to the first woman Gen 3:16, they will not be in travail even for a minute, or at least the pain will be so diminished that any woman can easily endure it. In fact, many couples will have so many children that even

their large farm will no longer be able to accommodate them. Their children will demand more room for themselves. So the father will buy new fields and sign new deeds for them.

I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.

This is what the Lord says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them. Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians.' Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the Lord. Jer 32:37-44

When a regenerated mother sees all these, she will ponder how miraculously God has blessed her with such beautiful offsprings – including even the child she might have been tragically bereaved of in her earlier life and whom she had thought she would never see again in flesh and blood.

'Lift up your eyes and look around; all your children gather

and come to you. As surely as I live,' declares the Lord, 'you will wear them all as ornaments; you will put them on, like a bride...The children born during your bereavement will yet say in your hearing, "This place is too small for us; give us more space to live in." Then you will say in your heart, "Who bore me these? I was bereaved and barren; I was exiled and rejected. Who brought these up? I was left all alone, but these – where have they come from?"' Is 49:18, 20-21 NIV

The barren wife of the previous age will have more children now than her overfertile contemporaries had in those days.

Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby. Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth! You're ending up with far more children than all those childbearing women. God says so! Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. You're going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family. Is 54:1-3 MSG

He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Ps 113:9 NIV

The agonizing memories of your widowhood will be replaced by the ecstasies of your new wifeness and motherhood.

The shame of your younger years and the sorrow of your widowhood are over. You'll forget those days as if they never happened. Is 54:4 VOICE

Eunuchs who longed for a family in their earlier lives will feel more fulfilled than any other blessed man as they become part of the special family of God living in close proximity to their Savior.

And no eunuch should ever say, 'I am all dried up, worthless and empty.' For this is what the Eternal has to say: The eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, make good choices, and

follow the terms of my covenant will blossom with my blessing. I will give them, within my house, an enduring memorial and a name better than if they had sons and daughters – A name that will never be forgotten and will continue to inspire and encourage forever. Is 56:3-5 VOICE

Even when you have a gratifying occupation away from your house, you will still have plenty of time to develop your ranch. In the evenings after a fruitful day of work, you and your restored family will sit under your vine or fig tree, and go over the events of the day, occasionally reminiscing about your past lives. There's a lot of catching up to do for the restored one...all that happened to you since the day of your bereavement and till the moment of your reunion with him or her.

But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid Mic 4:4

Here's another scenario based on a prophecy relating to the regeneration:

As you repose under the tree with your loved ones, two of your favorite pets, a bear and a wolf, with their cubs, come over and lie down close to you. They love human presence even more than cats and dogs did in the previous age. Some distance away, a lion is eating straw in the yard of your neighbor. Further across, you see a child leading a leopard and a calf out to the field to play with them.

A day will come when the wolf will live peacefully beside the wobbly-kneed lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and yearling, newborn and slow, will rest secure with the lion; and a little child will tend them all. Bears will graze with the cows they used to attack; even their young will rest together, and the lion will eat hay, like gentle oxen.

Is 11:6-7 VOICE

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat



straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain Is 65:25

On some days, you will invite your neighbor over to join you for an outdoor repast in your serene fruit grove.

'In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree. Zec 3:10

There will be banquets that Jesus will personally hold in honor of you and your family. Or he might just come in one night, get into your kitchen, prepare some dishes you have never seen before, spread them out on your table, and wait on you as you enjoy his quickly made but scrumptious light meal.

How fortunate those servants will be when the master knocks and they open the door immediately! You know what the master will do? He'll put on an apron, sit them down at the kitchen table, and he'll serve them a midnight snack. Lk 12:37 VOICE

Now, how will you speak to your neighbors who, like you, have been resettled in this new land from various nations of diverse races and tongues? In a few weeks, you will speed-learn a new language taught by spirit teachers (saints ruling with Christ). On some occasions, you will only hear their instructions; at other times, they will be visible to you. Not only the new language but also the way to success and happiness will be made plain to you by your spiritual guides on a one-to-one basis.

And tho the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. Is 30:20-21

A pure medium of communication – free from all the flaws and

limitations of the present world's languages – will be restored to the people. It will be the same language people spoke till the dispersion at the Tower of Babel.

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord. Zep 3:9

I heard an American preacher say that the new divinely gifted language would probably be an ultra-refined form of English. I am not sure if the French and the Chinese believers would be happy to consider such a likelihood. But what we can be sure of is that everyone will gladly adopt the new medium of universal communication, regardless of the vernacular speech they used in their previous lives.

I made a stopgap human attempt to bring an iota of logicity and sensibility to the English language thru a usage and spelling system I founded, which is elaborated in my book The REUS System (Reformed English Usage and Spelling System). The book is available for free on my mission website, [worlddailybread.org](http://worlddailybread.org).

As for your children, Jesus, who loved kids to excess during his physical life, will spend much time with them and other kids after he returns, and on such occasions, he will take it upon himself to teach the little ones personally. And your children will love his classes so much that they won't want to go for any other activity when Jesus is around.

But when Jesus saw it, he was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them' Mk 10:14

All your children will have God for their teacher – what a mentor for your children! Is 54:13 MSG

You will go for strolls with your restored spouse and children in the nearby woods, or in the lovely countryside. Safaris and exploration treks thru forests and deserts will be among the exciting family activities. Wherever you may choose to go, and in whichever season of the year, the weather will constantly be so invigorating

that your excursion will be thoroughly enjoyable.

But for you, the ones who tremble at the sound of my name, a warm sun of righteousness will come forth with healing in its rays, and you will go out, springing from the stalls like calves in open pasture. Mal 4:2 VOICE

the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat. Rev 7:16

They will not hunger or thirst, neither will mirage [mislead] or scorching wind or sun smite them; for he who has mercy on them will lead them, and by springs of water will he guide them. Is 49:10 AMP

Perhaps on one of your foot treks thru the bushland with your kids, you may come across a mud mound, probably a termite hill. One of your little ones, in es childish curiosity, runs forward and puts es hand into an opening. To your momentary horror, you see em pulling out a hooded cobra. But immediately you realize you are in God's protected territory, and that no creature, no matter how venomous in the earlier age, will ever hurt anyone. Your child now has a new slithery pet.

Neither will a baby who plays next to a cobra's hole nor a toddler who sticks his hand into a nest of vipers suffer harm. All my holy mountain will be free of anything hurtful or destructive. Is 11:8-9 VOICE

Maybe on a sparkling starlit night, you may, on a whim, take your sleeping bag and lead your beloved partner deep into the lovely woods and spend the rest of the night making love under the trees and the stars. You will not fear being attacked by any wild beast.

I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. Eze 34:25

On some other day, you may invite your sweetheart to spend

some romantic time with you in the scenic fields and vineyards of a quaint village.

Come out into the fields, my love, and there spend the night in the villages. Let's rise with the morning and go to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love. Song 7:11-12 VOICE

As you live thru each year with increasing blessedness and finally reach your senior years, one of your ultimate delights will be your grandchildren. Every time they visit you, your heart will thrill on seeing them scamper up the stairs to rush to your side and clamber up onto your lap.

Grandchildren are the crowning glory and ultimate delight of old age Pr 17:6 VOICE

Enjoy the good life in Jerusalem every day of your life. And enjoy your grandchildren. Ps 128:5-6 MSG

During your lifetime in the physical realm of God's Kingdom, you will attend many weddings. In every street you will hear the joyous voices of brides and bridegrooms.

Again there shall be heard in this place – of which you say, “It is desolate, without man and without beast” – in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride Jer 33:10-11

Some were already deeply in love in this life, but before they could be united in matrimony, they were wrested from each other by a sudden disaster. Have you heard of the Romeo and Juliet of Sarajevo\*, lovers from the opposing sides of the war? The warring parties both agreed to stop sniper-shooting each other for a brief while, enough to allow the couple to cross the street and flee the

city. As the young man and his fiancée got out into the street, a betrayer sniped them both to death. You will see several such reunited Romeos and Juliets in Zion, who will never again be torn asunder by any man.

The Siege of Sarajevo – 5 April 1992 to 29 February 1996 – during the Bosnian War, was the longest siege of a capital city in the history of modern warfare. After Bosnia and Herzegovina had declared independence from Yugoslavia, the Bosnian Serbs encircled Sarajevo with a siege force of 13,000 stationed in the surrounding hills. From there they blockaded the city and assaulted it with weapons, including sniper rifles. It is estimated that 11,000 civilians were killed or went missing in the city, including over 1,500 children.

Indeed, one of the glowing brides of New Jerusalem will be the young lady who, because of a foolish vow of her father, had to be sacrificed in her youth. She asked her father to give her just three months so that she could spend the last days of her life with her friends and be consoled because she was going to die at such a maiden age. <sup>Jg 11:30-40</sup> She will find her God-chosen charming prince among the eligible bachelors of Israel.

If you seek her out, you will also find among the jubilant teens of Jerusalem someone named Annie Frank. The memories of her horrifying days in a concentration camp, where she died at the age of 15, will have been long forgotten in the love and comfort of her Lord and King, who with his own fingers wiped her tears away forever and restored her to her parents, who were also resurrected.

Perhaps some pious teetotalers are not going to like knowing this. To the dismay of their abstinent souls, they are going to see that one of the heartwarming drinks that God's people will enjoy at festivities is wine in its various flavors, including wine on the lees (the stirring of the lees gives more body and flavor to the wine). The finest of full-bodied wines will be poured out at wedding feasts and other celebrations, all tasting as good as the wine that was brought into existence in the pitchers by Jesus when he attended the wedding in Cana.

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines...of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. <sup>Is 25:6 NIV; NKJV</sup>

Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion,  
streaming to the goodness of the Lord – for wheat and new  
wine and oil Jer 31:12

Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you  
will be satisfied by them Jl 2:19

Perhaps the Lord may be personally present to officiate at every  
wedding in Israel and enjoy the mellowed fruit of the vine himself.  
He had deliberately not tasted it for thousands of years so that he  
could enjoy it with you and the others in his Kingdom.

Know this: I will not drink another sip of wine till the  
kingdom of God has arrived in fullness...till that day when I  
drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom. Lk 22:18 VOICE Mt 26:29

Even young women will have the opportunity to enjoy the  
pleasure of a toast raised to their King, which was not advisable in  
many cultures in the previous era because of the risk of male  
predators waiting to pounce on tipsy females they mistake as easy  
prey. But even at banquets in the Kingdom of God, the ladies may  
prefer to refrain from the aged beverages and stick to new wine and  
light ale.

How wonderful and beautiful they will be! The young men  
will thrive on abundant grain, and the young women will  
flourish on new wine. Zec 9:17 NLT

The vats in your house will overflow with wine and oil. When  
something overflows, it means you have a surplus of that item, which  
you may sell or give away. In fact, the land will yield such a bumper  
crop that commodities like milk and wine can be obtained freely from  
the markets.

Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord  
your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and  
He will cause the rain to come down for you – the former  
rain, and the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors

shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. Jl 2:23-24

The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it...they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them Am 9:13-14

and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Is 55:1

At local festivities and nationwide celebrations, you and your regenerated family will enjoy beautiful music played by skilled musicians, and participate with the young and the old who will be dancing with tambourines in their hands.

Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow. Jer 31:13

Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. Jer 31:4

Among the most ardent dancers, you will observe, are those whom you knew in their earlier lives as lame people or paraplegics confined to a wheelchair. Rejoicing and leaping around even more ardently are those who had been blind.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. Is 35:5-6

Personally, I look forward to meeting one of my friends who began to lose vision in both his eyes when he was a young man. His father, after many years of active life, had become blind with the same ocular disease and had to depend on his wife and children to take him around. The son decided it was better to die young than to live for the rest of his life in a dark world dependent on others.

Imagine the scene when the father and the son meet each other again soon after their resurrection – now both with perfect eyesight.

I also earnestly look forward to meeting another of my friends, Britto, and joining him in the festive dances. Britto was one of the smallest men in the world – about two feet in height. But worse than that, he was a total paraplegic! He had to be carried around like a baby by caretakers and friends. I can already envision Britto as a handsome hunk doing the tango or an energetic salsa with his chosen lady. Oh, how much he had wanted, as he divulged to me once, to enjoy the pleasures of marriage as his friends did!

Once, during one of my visits to his nursing home, he asked me if the Bible mentioned any hope for people like him, that they too could have a family such as I was blessed with. I, being a young man and not having received this gift of understanding yet, could only utter some shallow words of consolation. Britto now sleeps peacefully, his spirit and soul waiting eagerly for the regeneration of his body.

Indeed, the shouts of joy of those who suffered severely in their past life are going to be much louder than those who hadn't been afflicted that much.

Those who walk the fields to sow, casting their seed in tears,  
will one day tread those same long rows, amazed by what's  
appeared. Those who weep as they walk and plant with sighs  
will return singing with joy, when they bring home the harvest.

Ps 126:5-6 VOICE

I am convinced that any suffering we endure is less than  
nothing compared to the magnitude of glory that is about to  
be unveiled within us. Rm 8:18 TPT

'My gracious Lord,' they would utter, who had thought their Savior had abandoned them in their previous life, 'how ignorant I was once to doubt your love and faithfulness!'



## CHAPTER 9

### A Hundred Times As Much

**I**t could be that a woman might have loved her husband with all her heart in the early years of their marriage in the past life. In those days, when they were newly married, the wife would thrill at the sight of her beloved man when he returned to her after a few hours or days of absence. When he touched her, goosebumps appeared all over her body. And when he kissed her in those passionate times...

Then, after twenty or thirty years of happy married life, it might have happened that things didn't seem to be all that scintillating anymore. Indeed, the couple still loved each other deeply. But marriage had become somewhat of a predictable daily routine. The couple accepted it as part of the aging process. There was nothing the wife could do as she watched her handsome lover degenerate over the decades into a potbellied, flatulent couch potato. Perhaps the wife herself, whom her husband found irresistibly attractive in her younger days, might have slowly evolved into a rotund matriarch.

In the case of such couples, how would their relationship be in the new world?

If both of them were old and survived into the new age, they, basking in the rejuvenating environment of the Kingdom, would finish the balance of their life course with renewed passion for each other. If the husband died prematurely and is regenerated to his wife who is now much older than him, God will restore the aged woman's body to a youthful state that corresponds with the vigor of her chronologically younger husband's body. Is anything too hard for God?

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me? Jer 32:27

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mk 10:27

God strengthens the weary and gives vitality to those worn down by age and care. Young people will get tired; strapping young men will stumble and fall. But those who trust in the Eternal One will regain their strength. They will soar on wings as eagles. They will run – never winded, never weary. They will walk – never tired, never faint. Is 40: 29-31 VOICE

After their youthfulness is restored, the couple will naturally grow old as the years pass by. But even till their last year as physical humans, they will enjoy each other's bodies as there will be no disease, no causes that contribute to a decline in bodily functions.

And nobody who lives in God's city will say he doesn't feel well. Is 33:24 VOICE

I read of a marriage where the septuagenarian wife felt a tingle going thru her body whenever her old hubby touched her. I know of another aged man who, on waking up every morning, as his first activity of the day, would get the hairbrush and tidy his hair so that when his wife rose from bed, he could appear ever attractive to her. Oh, how rare are such passionate relationships at older ages today! But in the restored Israel, every couple will thrill and rejoice over

each other *all* the days of their lives. If you are the wife, your husband will often say to you, verbally or vibely,

How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful!...You have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes...Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Song 4:1 NIV; 4:9; 6:5 NIV

And if you are the husband, your wife will coo softly in your ears, I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine...My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand...[you are] altogether lovely. This is my beloved, this is my friend

Song 6:3; 5:10,16 NIV

Jesus has promised a hundredfold restoration of every joy and pleasure you have had to give up in this life and have continued to cling to him in faithfulness, even after you lost your husband or wife.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife [or husband, for God is no respecter of persons Acts 10:34] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Mt 19:29 NIV

Every husband and wife who has been left alone in life by bereavement will receive a hundredfold if he or she continues to trust es God. Now if a man lost his wife in this life, will he receive a hundred times as many in the next? I wonder if some Bible readers – fresh out from their old nature – interpret the passage in that sense. In some religions, a harem of carnal pleasures, a hundred times more than what the men enjoyed in this life, is the most alluring promise given to them. Of course, any mature Bible believer would know that the passage means that the joy a widowed person had with es spouse will be restored a *hundredfold* – with the very *same* husband or wife e had lost. For those familiar with the finer aspects of English usage, there is a wide world of difference between ‘hundred times as many’ and ‘hundred times as *much*’. ‘Much’ is a

mass noun, used of subjects and objects that are not numerical, that is, countable.

With a hundredfold as much, the sensual emanations from your spouse that you had felt when you were both young and hale will become intense beyond description when you are together again. And that intensity of your body's responses to your husband or wife will not diminish with age, as erotic feelings do in our present age.

Whatever is mentioned in the Holy Scriptures is given for our comfort, encouragement, and hope. Every promise in the Bible will have its ultimate and consummate fulfilment in the Kingdom of God.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that thru the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Rm

15:4 NIV

What dreams and desires you had once entertained about your husband or wife...and then, he or she was cruelly plucked away from you! Since your life partner was gone, all your dreams have been lying in smithereens. But now, you have the absolute assurance from God that you will receive your departed one back into your arms, in flesh, blood, and bones. So build your hopes anew, and hold on to them, for every shattered dream will be put together again into a union that will be a hundredfold more intimate and more blissful than it was when your loved one was living with you in this life.

Perhaps in your earlier life, your family lived in an insecure place – maybe a crime-infested neighborhood, possibly a war zone, or an area prone to terrorist attacks. Oh, how many were suddenly made widows or widowers, or childless, or parentless, or siblingless, when someone in the family was fatally shot or stabbed while e was walking in some street. But now, you will not be afraid to go

anywhere at any time of the day or night. No one will make you afraid. Mugging and assault are words not found in the dictionaries published in the Kingdom.

So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel, declares the Lord...Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. I am with you and will save you,' declares the Lord. Jer 30:10-11. See also Jer 46:27; Eze 34:28; Mic 4:4.

In many, perhaps most, countries today, it is not safe for a woman, even with a male escort, to move around in some parts of a city. Recently, in my country's capital, a woman was mortally gangraped in daylight in a public transport bus, after the attackers incapacitated her male companion. She, too, will awake in the regeneration, her tears and screams totally forgotten as she is personally comforted by Jesus. He will restore her every dream, many times over, that was brutally snatched away in this life. I lived in one of the countries on the Arabian Gulf for many years. One particular fact that tour operators tout in their travel brochures about this country is that it is probably the only place in the world where women can walk thru any street in the middle of the night without fear of being assaulted. No matter how unattractive the other aspects of life are for the expatriates in this country, this one factor alone is enough reason for them to live here with their families. And yet, even in this supposedly family-safe country I did hear of a few cases of murder and rape during my residence there. But in the coming reign of Christ over the nations, there will not be a single place that is not safe for all. You and your beloved companion can go anywhere, anytime, with absolute assurance of God's protection over you. For your heavenly guardian will always be close behind you, sometimes seen, sometimes only heard.

For the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Is 52:12

You, Lord, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever  
from the wicked Ps 12:7 NIV

No need to worry that you might get lost, for your spirit escort will come to lead you back home safely. No need to sit up late nights praying and anxiously waiting for your husband to return from some distant assignment. No need to worry about your teen kids returning home safely after a night party. Their angelic chaperons are ever with them.

You realize, don't you, that their personal angels are constantly in touch with my Father in heaven? Mt 18:10 MSG

Perhaps you may wonder, would such perfect peace and security become somewhat humdrum after many years? No wars, no terrorists, no thefts, no conflicts, no diseases, no divorces, no pains...just absolute peace and serenity and unending fun. Some people conjure their own mental scenarios of the blissful afterlife. In their imaginations, paradise is full of good people who just float around in a state of constant beatitude amidst babies flitting about on cute little wings playing miniature harps – or some other scene similar to that, depending on what one has assumed from the teachings of es particular faith. But many people, who know their Bible well, aren't that naive about life in the Kingdom of God. Still, many, even among them, haven't the faintest clue what they are going to do with so much neverending time on their hands.

Those who have a deeper understanding of the Scriptures know that after Jesus returns, that's when the real work begins for God's people. God the Father and Jesus Christ are presently the busiest beings in the universe. Jesus said,

My Father has been working till now, and I have been working. Jn 5:17

In the new world ruled by Christ, all of God's people will be busily engaged in various occupations. Initially, they will be fully

occupied with transforming the wastelands into a paradise.

On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it.” Eze 36:33-36

That alone will take a thousand years. Thru the work of renewing the land and maintaining the new order of life, the citizens of Zion will be trained to become spirit kings and priests like the 144,000 saints who will already be ruling over the earth with Christ.

For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. Rev 5:9-10

And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.  
Rev 20:4

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father’s name written on their foreheads. Rev 14:1

O bereaved one, put your hope in your heavenly Father, and he will grant you all the desires of your heart. I mean, absolutely *all* your desires – big ones, little ones, and in-between ones.

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart. Ps 37:4 AMP

So start visualizing in your mind the day of your reunion with

your departed loved one. Have a mental foretaste of all the surpassingly joyful moments you will have with him or her. If you are a widow or a widower reading this, draw up in your imagination the kind of home you want to live in when you are together again with your spouse. If you wish, include envisaging even the new members of your family you may desire to have. I have three wonderful grownup kids and that is the perfect number I desired in this life. But in the new age, when family life will be far more meaningful and exciting than it can ever be on earth today, I think it is probable I may then want to have several more lovely offsprings.

Perhaps you are aware of most of the promises that God has given us in the Bible. You may have read of his assurance of a long life, and the promise of a good husband or a good wife for you.

With long life I will satisfy him Ps 91:16

For length of days and years of a life [worth living] and tranquility [inward and outward and continuing thru old age till death], these shall they add to you. Pr 3:2 AMP

House and riches are the inheritance from fathers, but a wise, understanding, and prudent wife is from the Lord. Pr 19:14 AMP

You may be familiar with the verse where Jesus promises abundant life for each one of God's people and the verse that speaks of God answering you as soon as you call on him.

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. Jn 10:10

How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Is 30:19 NIV

And yet...and yet he didn't answer when you called on him to save your precious one from being spirited away from you. And so you thought the promises did not apply to you for some reason or other.



Child of God, it is then, as you begin to enjoy life with your reunited husband or wife, or another member of your family, that you realize that *every* promise applies to you. God made you wait a little before giving you what you earnestly desired of him, and he did it only because he wants you to enjoy the promised blessings immeasurably more than you could in this age.

The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what he promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but he is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. 2 Pe 3:9 AMP

Even Abraham knew that what God promised him was temporarily suspended, and he eagerly awaited the fulfilment of his every desire in the City of God.

Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God...All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Heb 11:10,13 NLT

Revive your dreams. Revive all the wishes and plans you once cherished for your life with your departed loved one. Make new ones. And get ready to receive them in full measure, a hundredfold, without end...forever and ever.

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. Ps 37:4-5

May he grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill *all* your purpose. Ps 20:4

## CHAPTER 10

# Beyond The 100 Years

**Y**our descendants have now become a multitude, for in the 100 years of your second life you have begotten scores of descendants, down to the fourth or fifth generation.

They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever...I will establish them and increase their numbers Eze 37:25,26

The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. Is 60:22

May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you live to see your children's children Ps 128:5-6

At the end of your days as a regenerated human on earth, you will die in peace and in the joy of knowing that your eyes will open again at the very next moment of your consciousness, when you will be resurrected as a spirit citizen of God's Kingdom. This will occur at the end of the millennium, when another universal resurrection – of all people who lived during the 1,000 years of Christ's reign – will

take place.

But the rest of the dead did not live again till the thousand years were finished...And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. Rev 20:5,12-13

God's people will inherit eternal life and join the initial 144,000 saints. The new resurrected Sons of God will now be given rulership over the earth. All of them will have specific responsibilities with their own glories, some greater, some lesser, according to the positions that God the Father had been preparing for them while they were in the flesh.

She said to him, 'Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and the other on the left, in your kingdom...So he said to them...to sit on my right hand and on my left is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by my Father...whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave Mt 20:21-27

Tragically, there will be some who will have deliberately chosen to reject eternal life and to continue living the same wicked lives as they did in their earlier lives. Instead of allowing them to continue to live in their terrible wretchedness, God will mercifully put them to the second death, from which there is no more resurrection.

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:14-15

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone,

which is the second death. Rev 21:8

But those raised to eternal life will inherit everything that God can grant them in his omnipotence: a neverending existence and an endless expanse of kingship over the galaxies in a renewed universe.

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. Rev 21:7

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth Is 65:17

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea...Then he who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Rev 21:1,5

The spirit Sons of God will have a glory so awesomely radiant that for the human mind it can be described only as something akin to the brightness of the skies and the stars.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. Dan 12:3

Just as the 144,000 saints ruled over you and other humans during the 100 years of your physical life, so now you too, with the other newly resurrected saints, will rule over the physical children of God, raising them to the full stature of Jesus.

And he who overcomes, and keeps my works till the end, to him I will give power over the nations Rev 2:26

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. Rev 3:21

And have made us kings and priest to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. Rev 5:10

And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,

some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Eph 4:11-13

Humans will now be living in a perfect world, just as it was before Adam's fall. The difference is that there is no more Satan around anywhere, and so there's no possibility of sin ever entering human life again, and hence there will be no more death.

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:9,14

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Rev 21:4

Even in a perfect and sinless world, all newborn humans will have to grow in experience and maturity, just as baby Jesus did, learning obedience as he grew to manhood.

tho he was a Son, yet he learned obedience by the things which he suffered. Heb 5:8

Jesus was perfect even from the moment he was conceived in the womb, but he was not complete till he reached adulthood. Even so, human babies born after the millennium will grow like normal babies develop today but without an inherited sinful nature. They will be as perfect as baby Jesus was, and God will bless them and their children.

their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the Lord, and their children, too, will be blessed. Is 65:23 NLT

Relationships will be on a one-to-one basis. God and you will have a personal relationship at the highest level of intimacy. Jesus will give you a new name that, among all the countless billions of saints, only he and you will ever know. Just as in the case of lovers who coo to each other names of endearment which they don't want anybody else to hear, you don't want anybody else to know that bosom name by which the Lord calls you and nobody else.

And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. Rev 2:17

Between the spirit children of God there will be different levels of companionship. Tho everyone in the Kingdom will love you as their own lives, there will be saints who will have a greater closeness with you than the others, just as some disciples had a more affectionate relationship with Jesus.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Jn 13:23

After God the Father and Jesus, the people you will spend the most time with will, obviously, be the people who were the closest to you during your earlier life.

Jesus clearly stated there will be no anatomical difference among the saints, nor will there be marriages or procreations in the spirit world.

The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage Lk 20:34-35

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. Mt 22:30

But there will always be masculine and feminine spirits in the

Kingdom. Your feminine or masculine traits, as they may be in your case, will continue forever, and may even be enhanced with time. Your amorous delight in your beloved's body and in his masculinity, or in her femininity, will reach the pinnacle of passion and pleasure forever. The yearning of the bride and bridegroom in Song of Songs is meant to show God's people the kind of intense longing spirit couples will have for each other. You will enjoy your spouse's difference in temperament, in personality, in tastes, in outlook, so much that you will praise God for his or her unique qualities. There will be a popular exclamation uttered by couples fascinated with the wonder of their partner's differences – similar to what French-speaking lovers use to express appreciation of male and female diversity: 'Vive la difference!'

There wouldn't be coital relations between a spirit couple in the same way as physical couples have (spirit beings don't have sexual organs), but they will be able to enjoy pleasures in each other that infinitely *exceed* the physical pleasures of the human marital life. The spirit couple will have a level of intimacy between them that the human mind cannot conceive.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Cor 2:9

In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Ps 16:11

Can you somehow convey to your pet dog or cat that a human couple experiences a much higher level of union than it can ever have with its mate? By comparison, it is more possible for your pet to perceive pleasures from a human perspective than for a human being to fathom the intimate details of what goes on in the spirit dimension. The comprehension gap between you and your pet is awesomely wide, yet finite. But the difference between spirits and humans is literally infinite. Nevertheless, we can get an infinitesimal

glimpse of what awaits us in our next existence if we submit to God in a childlike attitude and let his Spirit teach us.

But God has revealed them to us thru his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Cor 2:10

Bible readers know that in the Kingdom there will be mansions – palatial dwelling places – for God’s people.

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. Jn 14:2

Ever wondered who the people will be who will be staying with you in your large celestial home? Or did you assume you probably will be staying mostly alone, with angelic visitors popping in now and then? Is it logical to think that the two people closest to each other in their physical lives, who lived together under one roof, will now live in separate mansions in the Kingdom?

You and your beloved will be gifted with a palatial home designed to your specific tastes by God himself. The foundation and walls of your new home will be constructed of precious stones. Perhaps you may choose to have the gates of your mansion made of crystal, and your garden paths paved with your favorite gems.

Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones. Is 54:11-12

Perhaps instead of gold and gems, you may prefer to have your palatial home decorated with ivory. There will even be an entertainment hall where human and angelic musicians will play enthralling melodies on harps for you.

In palaces decorated with ivory, you are entertained by the music of harps. Ps 45:8 NLT



And to your glorious mansion, guess who will be coming once in a while to dine with you both? The same person who desires even now, in our present lives, to come and dine with us.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. Rev 3:20

On the occasions that Jesus visits you in your home, you will adorn yourself with a gold-embroidered gown to signify your honor of him – for he is your Lord and Savior.

Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord...All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. In embroidered garments she is led to the king Ps 45:11,13-14 NIV

You will apply perfume on your body and robe that effuses a heavenly fragrance.

All your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia  
Ps 45:8

Seeing you both standing together and looking so beautiful and radiant in such exquisite garments, and being enraptured by your scent as well, his pleasure will be so great he will want to express it by pouring upon your heads the most precious and the most fragrant oil in the universe.

You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else. Ps 45:7

As the celestial scent fills the entire mansion and your senses succumb to the euphoric atmosphere, you may recall reading about a similar incident when Jesus was overwhelmed by both the outpouring of love and the fragrance of the very expensive spikenard oil that a woman had poured on his head.

a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on his head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor. And they criticized her sharply. But Jesus said... Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. Mk 14:3-9

There in your mansion you and your beloved will live together, never for a moment tiring of each other’s company thruout eternity. In the physical life you were brought together to be ‘one flesh’, never to be separated except by death. Now that there is no more death, you and your former spouse – now your eternal partner – are forever to be even more than one flesh – now the two of you will live as one spirit.

For ‘the two,’ he says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. 1 Cor 6:16-17

Now the question may arise in your mind about the eternal partnerships of those who remarried, who, in the regeneration, will have more than one former spouse. This situation is discussed in the final chapter, which addresses all such questions.

There is no end to the pleasures you will find in each other. As your minds are now like God’s, it means they are now infinite.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when he is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 Jn 3:2

And that means you will get to know your eternal lover more and more intimately with the passage of time, never reaching a point where you stop being amazed at new discoveries in your spirit partner, and he or she in you. A million years after living together as a divine couple, you will suddenly realize that your beloved likes something that you never knew of before, and you will thrill in the

discovery of it. Similarly, your partner may discover an attractive trait in your personality that they were previously unaware of, having been overlooked for billions of years. Can your mind envision such ever-growing intimacy? In other words, the joy and pleasures you have in each other will be greater in one year than the previous, but never as much as it is going to be in the next.

You direct me on the path that leads to a beautiful life. As I walk with you, the pleasures are never-ending, and I know true joy and contentment. Ps 16:11 VOICE

Jesus enjoyed banquets when he first came on earth. In fact, he attended so many of them – where he did full justice to his stomach with wines and meats – that he got a negative reputation for it among the outwardly righteous but inwardly vermin-infested Pharisees and Sadducees who labeled him ‘a glutton and a drunkard’ Mt 11:19. Obviously, Jesus is going to enjoy it even more with his perfected Bride, and his beloved saints can expect a lot of eating and drinking in the Kingdom.

And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one upon me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom Lk 22:29-30

This man is the vanguard of many outsiders who will soon be coming from all directions – streaming in from the east, pouring in from the west, sitting down at God’s kingdom banquet alongside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Mt 8:11 MSG

But here on this mountain, God-of-the-Angel-Armies will throw a feast for all the people of the world, a feast of the finest foods, a feast with vintage wines, a feast of seven courses, a feast lavish with gourmet desserts. Is 25:6 MSG

It is only natural to expect that the Lord, who loves you and your eternal partner to the utmost, will delight in hosting banquets in honor of you both. And there will be grand dinners you will hold in

honor of your Savior, parties you will host for fellow saints in Zion, and feasts to celebrate the creation or renewal of yet another new planet in the ever-expanding Kingdom of God.

With Jerusalem as your chief city of residence, you will rule over other cities and countries in the Kingdom. Your spirit partner and you will rule together as kings, under the King of Kings. You will make your children princes over human cities, till they too finish their human life course and join you as rulers in the Kingdom. After you have ruled together for hundreds or thousands of years on earth, and the earth is fully populated, you are now ready to move on to another planet and begin anew.

For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem Is 30:19

At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem. Jer 3:17

Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. Ps 45:16 KJV

then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, accompanied by the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall remain forever.

Jer 17:25

You will never again leave each other's side for even a moment. Just as Jesus said he will never leave us for a moment, so your eternal companion will never leave you alone, nor be left alone by you. Just as God promised that he will cause his people to cling to him intimately, so too you and your spirit partner will cleave to each other forever.

For he himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' Heb 13:5

Just as the undergarment clings to a person's waist, so did I, the Eternal One, make Israel and Judah to cling tightly to me.

Jer 13:11 VOICE

And after the earth is perfected? Then the children of God will begin work on the next planet, which has been lying barren since creation, 'waiting for the revelation of the sons of God' <sup>Rm 8:19</sup> to transform it into paradise, like earth. There is no end to the worlds that will be created and ruled. There is no end to the expansion program of God's Kingdom.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end <sup>Is 9:7</sup>

Please read that again. It's not just that there will be no end of his government and peace, but that there will be no end of *'the increase'* – the expansion – of his government and peace. God's Kingdom will not only last forever, but it keeps stretching out forever too! This means it keeps getting bigger and better in every sense; the universe is more broadened, there are more people, more planets, and more experiences to enjoy in one year than in the previous year. Works, joys, pleasures, relationships, discoveries, creations, knowledge, capacity to enjoy...all neverending *and* ever-expanding – physically, materially, geographically, and demographically! Your joy in God and in all he has created for you will keep increasing thruout eternity!!

The humble will have joy after joy in the Lord <sup>Is 29:19 HCSB</sup>

## CHAPTER 11

# Together Forever

**R**elationships are meant to last forever. It is unscriptural to think that an intimate relationship between a husband and a wife is meant to last only during their physical lives, and that in the next, and infinitely higher, dimension of existence your spouse would relate to you only insofar as any other person in the Kingdom of God.

The marital union symbolizes the eternal bond of the Church with Christ. Christ will always be the loving husband of the Church, and the Church, as his eternal wife, will always be joyfully yielded to him. Even so the husband and the wife now and forever.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Eph 5:22-25,32

Man and woman were never intended by their Creator to live single lives.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Eph 5:31

It is not good that man should be alone. Gen 2:18

They need each other in this age and more so in the age to come. At the resurrection, the widowed wife will cling to her restored husband, and the bereaved husband will cleave to his reunited wife, this time never to part from each other again.

Some years ago, I visited an aged relative in her village in India. She had been a widow for almost half a century. As we talked, she gazed at her husband's photo framed on the wall of her bedroom. I told her, 'You will meet him again'.

'Will we be able to live again as husband and wife?' she asked, her eyes still on her husband's photo. When I assured her that's what the Bible has promised, her eyes lit up.

'And we will never die?'

'Never, that's what the Bible says too', I said.

Today you may be recently widowed, or you may have endured the agony of bereavement for decades. Perhaps you remarried, but you still cannot get over the grief of losing your first spouse.

Perhaps a couple may have lost their child in very tragic circumstances. Among the first people I want to give this book to are the parents bereaved of their son and daughter – their only children, both in their teens. The kids fell, at separate times, from the balcony of their high-storied apartment – the second accident happening a few years after the first. May God, thru his revelation made plain in this book, give them an explosion of hope and joy on knowing that they will have their children handed back to them just as they were before they were taken away.

Perhaps you may have lost a parent when you were very young. I lost my father when I was thirteen. Or you may still be missing

your departed parents very much, in spite of having had them with you till their advanced age. Oh, how I daily miss my mother, who was alive and walking about when I began to write this book but passed away before I could publish it, at the full age of ninety-four. I take comfort in knowing that I was able to share this hope with her several times while this book was in preparation.

Maybe a brother or a sister might have died by illness or accident. I haven't seen two of my older sisters, one who died at the age of six months, and the other when only a few days old.

Perhaps you have lost a dear old friend and there is a big emptiness in your life now without his friendship.

Bereavement is the second greatest pain in the universe, after betrayal. Death, no matter when and how it occurs, is the end of everything that comprises the life of a person. Gone are his or her dreams, es plans, es laughter, es tears. Gone is his or her smiling face from before your eyes for the rest of your life. No more the tender touch of your loved one lying beside you on the bed, no more the warmth of his or her body, no more the scent of your beloved...the things you took for granted. Indeed, no human consolation can fill the emptiness of your bereaved existence. And yet, oftentimes a man or a woman of God is used as a messenger to convey the comfort and hope that our Father has laid up for every grieving person willing to believe his promises in the Bible.

The comfort and hope of every human being who has lost a loved one is the regeneration – the resurrection to physical life again of his or her departed beloved.

I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. Acts 24:15

When this hope is turned from a vague idea of the afterlife into a concrete vision based on the revelation of God, then the hope becomes a bubbling wellspring of motivation and drive for



purposeful living that no adversity, no tragedy, can dampen.

The pain is still there, but now superseding the grief is the joy of anticipation. Every year of your widowhood, or other state of bereavement, that passes, you know you are that much closer to meeting your departed loved one again.

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Rm 13:11

With such sure hope, the departure of your loved one seems more like his or her having left for a far country without telling you when e will be back. But you know with absolute certainty he or she will come back to you one day. You have been waiting for em for years, and e hasn't returned yet, but Somebody who has seen em has assured you e is still alive, and so you continue to wait in expectation, daily looking forward to the day when you will embrace him or her in your arms again.

I had a gracious old lady as my neighbor many years ago, whose husband was in an advanced state of Alzheimer's. He was virtually a breathing corpse. No perception, no movement, no speech. Yet the wife cared for him tenderly, daily moving him around in a wheelchair and keeping up a one-way conversation with him. She did this for several years, and then one day her husband stopped breathing. She felt all alone for the first time in her life. My wife visited her a short time after her husband died, and she told my wife in deep grief, 'Even tho he was only a vegetable, there was purpose and happiness for me when he was around. Now it's all gone.'

This devoted woman too is gone at the time of writing, but if this book had been available at the time she was grieving for her husband, at least she could have lived the rest of her days with a very confident expectation of meeting her husband and living with him again as she did when they were newly married. But with a religious indoctrination that gave her only a nebulous hope of an

afterlife, the best she might have hoped for was to meet her beloved in some ethereal body, perhaps with a couple of wings attached. The hope given by her church was of no comfort to her.

May this book be the starting point of your new walk in the expectant joy of the incredible reunion that awaits you. May this book lead you closer to the bosom of the ‘God of All Comfort’ who has given you this explosive revelation of being together again – together forever – with your beloved husband or wife, or another member of your family. May the Bible continually bring you even more revelations than what you have received in a nutshell thru the pages here. And may you go daily to your Comforter in heaven so he can fill your heart with overflowing anticipation of the day you will be reunited in flesh and bones with your departed one. On that day, your Savior will wipe every tear you shed during the years of your sorrow.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation 2 Cor 1:3-4

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. Rev 21:4 NIV

And He will destroy on this mountain the covering of the face that is cast over the heads of all peoples [in mourning], and the veil [of profound wretchedness] that is woven and spread over all nations. He will swallow up death [in victory; He will abolish death forever]. And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces Is 25:7-8 AMP

All the long years of your bereavement will look like a mere moment when you are again in the tight embrace of your regenerated loved one.

You see, the short-lived pains of this life are creating for us

an eternal glory that does not compare to anything we know here. So we do not set our sights on the things we can see with our eyes. All of that is fleeting; it will eventually fade away. Instead, we focus on the things we cannot see, which live on and on. 2 Cor 4:17-18 VOICE

For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer. Is 54:7-8

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Ps 30:5

A friend of mine, a senior pastor, who reviewed this book gave further insight about those who have died – in the perspective of humans and in the perspective of God:

‘Whenever people ask me about what happens when we die, I always ask them, “From whose perspective?” We humans have been set in time and space by our Creator – a playpen, with Einstein’s Relativity giving us the sides of our cot, so to speak. The speed of light is the bounds of our universe at the moment, and as we know, time changes with acceleration and mass increases, so we have physical limitations no matter how advanced our technology becomes.

‘When we die, our next waking moment is in Glory. We will be removed from the space-time continuum and from this physical universe (except for our bodies). “The spirit goes back to God who gave it” Ecc 12:7. So from our perspective we won’t have missed a beat. “The dead know not anything” Ecc 9:5

So far as God is concerned, he has not lost the dead – “He is the God of the living, not the dead” as Christ said. Lk 20:38

So to whom are the dead ‘lost’? To us, because we are still ‘stuck’ in time and space with the arrow of time pointing forward. To us it

all lies in the future and to us the dead surely are ‘sleeping’ – but not to them, and not to God because of the change in dimensions.’

Close your eyes and envision this actual scene that awaits you:

Your beloved who died – who is sleeping, in God’s perspective – has woken. The days of your mourning have ended. The pain of your previous life does not come to mind anymore. All the sufferings you went thru cannot even begin to compare with the inexpressible thrill and glory you are now having with your reunited loved one.

Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. Is 60:20

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. Is 65: 17

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Rm 8:18

## CHAPTER 12

# Your Physical Life Comprises Two Phases

Here is the conclusion of the whole subject of regeneration.

The first phase of your life – and of the lives of everyone born before the Seventh Trump is blown at the return of Christ – lasts from the moment of conception to the moment of death. This first phase may not last even a second for some – such as stillborn children and aborted fetuses. Some may live a few years and die prematurely, while others live a whole lifespan of 70 to 100 or more years.

The second phase lasts *exactly* 100 years, and in this phase are those who have been regenerated and those who are born after the regeneration event has occurred.

The two phases exist only for people who lived before the Seventh Trump is blown, as well as for those who continue to live in their physical bodies after the Seventh Trump is blown. The two phases also exist for people born after Christ returns but who have not received the Holy Spirit before they die. The two phases do *not* exist for the people who are among the firstborn 144,000 saints who will be converted to spirits at the return of Christ.

A proper understanding of life after death is not possible for a Bible believer unless e accepts the revelation of the two phases of human life in the flesh and blood state. This pivotal truth about the two phases of a person's physical existence is also indispensable for a believer to understand all the other promises in the Bible correctly.

The thousands of promises in the various books of the Bible (according to some estimates, the Bible contains over 3000 promises of God) will all be fulfilled in the lives of God's people. Not one promise will fail. But this is where many preachers get it wrong. Some preach that these promises are not intended for every person but only for those whom God chooses to grant them. Some others, especially prosperity preachers, proclaim enthusiastically that any believing person can indeed claim these promises if e meets certain conditions, such as having the required measure of faith and obedience. Both of these teachings will ultimately only cause bitter disappointment with God.

Now consider a few of the promises given in the Bible:

When you pass thru the waters, I will be with you; and thru the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk thru the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. Is 43:2

This promise certainly did not apply to the innumerable Christians who were burnt at the stake for their faith in the past 2000 years. It certainly did not apply to the martyrs in our present generation, such as Graham Staines and his two little children, who were burnt alive in their vehicle by a mob of Hindu fanatics in India.

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. Mal 3:10

There are many devoted Christians whom I know personally who could not claim this promise. Despite their faithful tithing habit, they live in financial difficulty.

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Mk 11:24

Certainly not a promise that any sincere Bible believer in this age can truthfully state has been fulfilled in es life. In fact, if even half of es requests to God have been granted, e is a most unusual person.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. Ps 34:17

This is not at all true in the case of many, perhaps most believers, including me. There are serious troubles that I, and countless many of my brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, have been suffering for decades without the slightest intervention of God, our persevering prayers for deliverance notwithstanding.

Delight yourself also in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart. Ps 37:4

A few desires, yes, but all the desires? Surely not in this age.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Jm 5:14-15

Oh, how many earnest children of God have died without receiving the promised healing, even when they were prayed over in unwavering faith by church elders!

And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Jn 14:13

I can personally attest that this promise has *not* been granted in the majority of the requests I made to God in Christ's name. Yet God can never lie. If he has promised something, then if he is a faithful God, he *must* fulfill that promise.

The answer to the mystery of God's not fulfilling many or most of his promises to his faithful people who claim them is that *all* the presently ungranted promises will be absolutely granted when they awake in the regeneration. That was the situation with Abraham and many other great prophets of God. They did *not* receive God's promise in the first phase of their physical lives.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised Heb 11:13, 39

O bereaved child of God, *every* promise relating to your beloved one who has departed from you will be granted beyond your most fantastic imagination when he or she is regenerated and restored to you. The first phase is a short, introductory phase. The second phase is where the abundant life begins for God's people.

For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11 NLT

You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side. Ps 71:20-21



## CHAPTER 13

# Questions That May Arise In Your Mind

**T**he revelation of when, where, and how you will meet your departed husband or wife, or other loved one, as made plain in this book, is probably unlike any you may have read or heard on this subject.

The hope conveyed thru this book is so transcendently joyful that it is only natural for some, or most, bereaved people to be incredulous of what I have passed on to them in plain language from the Bible. It is my earnest prayer that such people will take a little time to ponder over the referred Scriptures, and to ask God to open their eyes to behold the life-transforming truth of their reunion with their departed loved one. I am only a conduit for God's comfort to his precious people who are grieving over the loss of their beloved one.

Even in the minds of those who know their Bible well, there may be doubts about certain verses I have referred to that seem to conflict with other verses in the Bible. So in this chapter, I will resolve what I think are the most likely questions that may come up in your mind about the referred scriptures.

Let's start with the most obvious one.

The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection, nor in angels or spirits. And they had, so they thought, at least one excellent reason not to believe that the dead will be raised again – an insoluble conundrum that even the learned Pharisees couldn't answer. They were sure they could trap Jesus in an embarrassing quandary with this enigma.

The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."

Mt 22:23-28

Knowing that the Sadducees were ignorant of the Scriptural teachings about the two resurrections, he knew they were referring to the ultimate destiny of the woman and her husbands. Jesus answered,

The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Lk 20:34-36

The passage is talking about the people who are 'considered worthy' of the resurrection and who can 'no longer die'. Since the Bible also mentions elsewhere the resurrection of the wicked, this passage is obviously referring to the *first* resurrection – of the 144,000 saints – and to the final resurrection at the end of Christ's thousand-year reign, when all who are saved will be transformed to

spirit children of God. This is when the woman and her former husbands will neither marry nor be given in marriage but are like the angels.

But prior to this transformation to spirit life, there is a raising again to physical life of all those who need to be refined as pure gold before they can be counted worthy to enter the Kingdom. They will be raised in a resurrection to judgment. A judgment that will span 100 years, after which time they will die a righteous death or an accursed death, depending on how they lived during their second lifetime. See again Isaiah 65:20

Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and they shall come out – those who have practiced doing good [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence]. Jn 5:28-29 AMP

Obviously, Jesus did not engage in a detailed discourse with the argumentative and skeptical Sadducees regarding the two kinds of resurrection. So that still leaves us with the question: assuming the woman and her husbands are not immediately inducted into the spirit world, what would their relationship be as resurrected physical human beings? The answer is contained in the earlier part of Jesus' reply:

Jesus answered and said to them, 'You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. Mt 22:29

The Sadducees knew neither about the resurrections as revealed in the Scriptures nor about what the power of God can do.

So, assuming a person had more than one wife during his first lifetime, which one would be his wife during the 100 years? The answer: *God knows which one.*

In the case of the mentioned woman, of her several husbands,

God will know which one will make the best partner for her and then reunite them. The choice will be so perfect, so fulfilling, that any possible grief for the woman at not being reunited with any of her other earlier husbands will be quickly gone in the rapture of her divinely granted marital joy. As for the other husbands, God, again, knows whom to choose as a new wife for each one of them. Everyone will have his or her perfect eternal partner chosen personally by God.

But what if the woman and all her husbands, or a man and all his wives, inherited the Kingdom without going thru a regenerated physical life of 100 years?

Again, the omnipotent God will know which person will serve best as the eternal partner of another, and unite them accordingly.

All these may sound too farfetched for some bereaved people. They may wish they could believe what is revealed to them in this book, but it appears so fantastic, so dreamlike, that it all seems like a wonderful fairy tale. There's only one way to prove the truth of what is written here. Go to your Comforter in heaven on your knees and earnestly ask him to make it plain to you about his promises relating to your reunion with your departed husband or wife, or another member of your family. Then seek out his promises in his Word and study them with an attitude of childlike receptiveness. God gives understanding of his Word to babes, but withholds it from theologians who try to seek the profound truths thru diligent human scholarship.

Another apparently problematic verse is Hebrews 9:27.

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment NIV

I wrote in Chapter 9, 'At the end of your days as a regenerated human on earth, you will die in peace...'

We already saw in Ezekiel 37 that the dry bones will be revived

as living bodies. So if these once-dead people are going to be physically alive again, surely they are also going to die once more.

What the verse in Hebrews 9 means is that man is appointed to die only once *before* they ‘face judgment’. The sense here is that most of humanity have just one life to live and one death to die before they are given the chance to repent and receive salvation. But as for the 144,000 saints, they are already being judged now. When they die, their judgment will also be complete, and they will be resurrected to eternal life when Christ returns.

For it is the time [destined] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not respect or believe or obey the gospel of God? 1 Pe 4:17 AMP

All the other people are *not* under judgment now; they will be under judgment during the 100-year period at the end of which they will receive eternal life or be condemned, based on how they lived during their regeneration.

For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. Is 65:20



# Epilogue

May the God of all comfort begin to comfort you in your deep pain. He tells you in his Word that his promises will never fail.

In Jesus we hear a resounding ‘yes’ to all of God’s many promises. This is the reason we say ‘Amen’ to and thru Jesus when giving glory to God. 2 Cor 1:20 VOICE

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.

2 Pe 1:3-4 NLT

Therefore, trust in his promise of the regeneration of your departed loved one. When that moment arrives, and you, in a state of ecstasy, embrace the one who has been away from you for a long time, your Comforter will rejoice at your reunion and speak words that will dispel any fears and doubts you may still have.

He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. Zep 3:17 NLT

So thrilled will God be at seeing you reunited with your loved one that he can’t help but burst out with a joyous song.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs. Zep 3:17 NLT

If you have lost your husband, or son, or father, or brother, the Lord is telling you now, as he told the mother who lost her only son,

Do not weep. Lk 7:13

For soon he will say to your loved one what he said to a dead young man,

‘I say to you, arise.’ So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. Lk 7:14

And if you have lost your wife, or daughter, or mother, or sister, the Lord says to you,

Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping. Lk 8:52



## Prayer For Your Comfort

O God of all comfort, let your comfort begin to overflow in the heart of the one who is reading this book from this day forth. Let him or her not grieve like the bereaved people of this world who do not have this hope, but let em rejoice in anticipation of meeting again his or her departed loved one. Let your words of promise, which we state below, bring an explosive hope to the grieving one who reads them. Amen.

Now we don't want you, my brothers, to be in any doubt about those who 'fall asleep' in death, or to grieve over them like men who have no hope. After all, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again from death, then we can believe that God will just as surely bring with Jesus all who are 'asleep' in him. Here we have a definite message from the Lord. It is that those who are still living when he comes will not in any way precede those who have previously fallen asleep. One word of command, one shout from the archangel, one blast from the trumpet of God and the Lord himself will come down from Heaven! Those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then we who are still living on the earth will be swept up with them into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And after that we shall be with him forever.

God has given me this message on the matter, so by all means

use it to encourage one another. 1 Th 4:13-18 PHILLIPS

This is a good life – my heart is glad, my soul is full of joy, and my body is at rest. Who could want for more? You will not abandon me to experience death and the grave or leave me to rot alone. Instead, you direct me on the path that leads to a beautiful life. As I walk with you, the pleasures are never-ending, and I know true joy and contentment. Ps 16:9-11 VOICE

I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? Hos 13:14 NIV

## About The Author

Joseph Cherian is a Bible exponent and a parenting and marriage counselor. The precious revelation he brings you in this book is the fruit of a half-century of fervent Bible study, meditation, and persevering prayer for the understanding of God's purpose for man as revealed in his written Word.

During those decades, God prepared him for his ministry by allowing him to go thru experiences so intense, often deadly, and so peculiar it is probable his Christian journey has few parallels in this generation: near-deaths, extreme profligacy, cultism, near-suicide, rejection of Christ and attempts to prevent the proclamation of the Gospel with the help of anti-Christian government authorities, imprisonments, living obscurely as a fugitive from the law, alcoholism, and fearful battles with depression.

When the author was at the deepest mire in his life, Christ personally revealed himself to him in a dramatic manifestation. With this transformational encounter, God won him over and set him on a new path.

It is the extremely intense experiences in the author's life that have enabled him to perceive God's dealings with man more keenly and to deeply understand his incredibly awesome purpose for those who love him and receive his salvation thru Jesus Christ.





