

up together with them in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

Come My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shout thy doors about thee: hide thyself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation (anger) be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place (down from His throne) to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain (Isaiah 26:20,21). The righteous dead will be resurrected to receive their resurrected bodies, and the righteous living will be Raptured in response to the voice of their Beloved who will come personally to receive them unto Himself. After the joy filled reunion with departed loved ones, and our meeting with Christ *face to face* (I Corinthians 13:12); the saints will be married to the Lamb of God, our Savior, and will experience the marriage supper of the Lamb. We will sit down at the table, as Christ serves us.

The saints will also appear before the judgment seat of Christ. This is known as the Bema Seat of Christ. There we will be judged by our Lord concerning the things we have done in the body (II Corinthians 5:10). Our works will be tried as by fire.

1. From I Corinthians 15:52,53 we will be changed from *mortality* to _____ *The dead shall be raised* _____.

2. The Coming of Christ in Vengeance

Following the Rapture of the saints, the Great Tribulation will take place on this earth (II Thessa-

at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: He hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.

This is a prayer we can also pray for ourselves and others. This is a prayer for spiritual growth which is connected with Christ and His redemption; and declares Him as the Head of the Church who is seated at the Father's right hand in the heavenly places. He is the Kingly Authority over all the principalities and powers, evil and good, in two worlds; for not only is He far above all these, but God has put *all things under His feet*. He had Himself declared immediately before His ascension, *All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth* (Matthew 28:18). There is nothing that will not be His footstool. The brow that was once crowned with thorns, wears the crown of universal dominion. The pierced hand now holds the scepter of the universe. In this lies our guarantee for the preservation and completion of His Church on earth. He will ultimately triumph over all His enemies (Hebrews 10:13).

He has entered heaven, now to appear in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24). It is this presence of our High Priest which is so helpful to us in our many infirmities, and is the guarantee

of our daily pardon . Therefore, we are reconciled to God by His death, and He brought us life. *He came that we might have life* (John 10:10; 14:6) There-in is the power which is continuously passing forth from the Head to the members (Romans 5:10). In this connection, we are continuously receiving peace, sanctification, security, and hope.

This is where the rest Christ gives to each of us for our souls comes in (Matthew 11:28-30). We pray, He answers, and takes charge of all the battles as we bring Him to remembrance of His Word, His promises. It is not a struggle for us, if we leave all our burdens to Him (I Peter 5:7). *His yoke is easy and His burden is light*. The other *rest* that causes *the weary to rest* is our praying in tongues (Isaiah 28:12). THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM (Hebrews 12:1,2)

1. In Hebrews 12:2, what do you think Paul is talking about when he said, *Jesus who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God?* _____

Jesus, in all His sufferings, knew there was the joy greater than His suffering, waiting for Him in His place at the right hand of the Father. His greatest joy, was He had accomplished His Father's will: the Redemption of creation (Psalm 40:6-8).

This writer believes— included in that *joy that was set before Him*, is His expectation of the resurrection of the bodies of the New Testament saints into heaven, and the looking forward to the Rapture of His Church. His bride is composed of all believers who become members of the body of Christ from the Day of Pentecost until the Rapture (Revelation 19:7,8). At some point after the Rapture there will be a Marriage Supper of the Lamb: a wedding feast.

2. In Hebrews 12:1, what are we instructed to do?

3. What is Jesus called in Hebrews 12:2? _____

We as Christians, sometimes think we just can't endure any longer. But when we look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith and get a revelation of the glory that awaited Him—we can then *stand* (Ephesians 6:13) with patience, and finish our course knowing a prize awaits us (Philippians 3:14).

THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST (I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:51-58)

Christ's Second Coming will be in two phases:

1. The Rapture of the Church

He will first *descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ, shall rise first:*

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught