

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

LifeShape: Prayer & Discipleship

Module 4: The Future

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WELCOME TO LIFESHape

Welcome to Module 4 of the LifeShape Prayer and Discipleship program. The twelve lessons contained in this module deal with the future and what we can expect after we are born again and are living for Christ. Have you ever wondered what will take place in the future and how the scriptures concerning the rapture, the tribulation period, the millennium, and the new heavens and earth fit together? The following lessons will put these things into a broad perspective so that you can better understand the future.

Module 4 is designed as the last in a series of four groups of lessons. The first twelve in the series cover the subject of redemption; the second twelve lessons teach us our new creation realities; the third module's twelve lessons contain the responsibilities each believer in Jesus Christ has concerning the Kingdom of God. It is my hope that you complete each module lesson by lesson. This will give God the greatest opportunity to speak into your life and build His tabernacle in you one block at a time.

God is a God of purpose. The plans He has for our lives cannot be accomplished as intended unless we are willing to yield ourselves to His Spirit, submit ourselves to His Word, enjoin ourselves to other believers, and give Him the time it takes to check, challenge, and change our lives forever. Now ... enjoy the future.





INTRO TO REVELATION

BLOCK ONE

REVELATION

1:1

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John.

INTRO TO REVELATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 1

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. God is both the beginning and the end of all creation.
2. God has a meticulous plan for our future and every world event is subject to His timetable.
3. John received a special message from heaven while he was worshipping on Sunday.
4. Do not be afraid of the future – Jesus is Lord over death and the grave.
5. Jesus has time for everyone ... including you and your future.

By this time in your spiritual walk, you should know that you are Born Again, that you are right with God, that you have a responsibility to serve Him and that you will live forever. Forever is a really long time ... we are immortal and we will live for eternity – a life that will never, never, ever end.

The next 12 LifeShape lessons will teach us truths concerning the future and what we can expect to happen both in our lifetime on planet earth and in times beyond that time. The topics we will discuss include: Heaven; Hell; Death; the Rapture; the Tribulation; the Millennial Reign of Christ; Armageddon; the Great White Throne Judgment; and a New Heaven and New Earth, to name a few. You see:

- God has planned a future for you on planet earth before you die.
- God has planned a future for you beyond earth after you die.
- God has also planned a future for you after earth, as we know it, has vanished away.

Let's begin to discover our future together by first taking a serious look at John's introduction to the last book in the Bible – The Book of Revelation.

INTRO TO REVELATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 1

By the way, the Greek Word translated "Revelation" is where we get our common English word "Apocalypse" = The Coming; The Appearing; The Making Naked; The Laying Bare; The Disclosure; The Manifestation; The Revelation.

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John.

REVELATION

1:1

Let's pause here for just a moment to review doctrine. Although not every scholar might agree, many understand this as do I, to make a clear distinction between God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. Study of this scripture will reveal that it means just what it says at face value. Let's look at it again with these chosen words in mind. Follow along:

"This is the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave Him ..."

What follows in the Book of Revelation is a disclosure of future events which God has made manifest, or revealed, to Jesus His Son, with a purpose in mind. The Revelation is not John's Revelation but rather it is Jesus' Revelation. The Revelation is not a Revelation of Jesus but rather a Revelation to Jesus. Jesus is going to share the Revelation He has been shown by His Father God with His friend and Apostle, John.

It is important to realize that in John's time, God the Father and Jesus the Son are two separate entities, two separate beings, One in the sense of unity and purpose but two in the sense of being separated as a Father and Son. As a Son, Jesus had already revealed to His followers that He did not know everything but was limited in knowledge according

INTRO TO REVELATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 1

to what His Father had given Him to know. For example: When asked about his second coming Jesus replied:

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

MARK
13:32

It is certain that at one point Jesus did not know everything the Father knew. We can easily understand this from reading the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. However, to assume that Jesus does not now know things pertinent to His coming or does not know everything the Father knows would perhaps be a poor assumption.

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

REVELATION
1:1-2

Jesus sent an angel, a heavenly messenger, to present this revelation to John. The Book of Revelation is the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.

God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.

REVELATION
1:3

It is important that we understand how meticulously God has planned the future. The Book of Revelation stands to represent just how forethoughtful and just how detailed God is

INTRO TO REVELATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 1

concerning His plans for the future. God the Father has laid out each step and has a specific timetable already set in motion for each step to be taken. The unfolding of the future is in no way a surprise to God. Not only has God already seen it, He planned it, and is orchestrating each day and every event to complete His calculated outcome.

No other book gives us such comfort and blesses us so much to know God is in ultimate control of world events and even the whole interaction of every atom in the universe than does the book of Revelation. I do not claim to understand the as yet hidden mysteries of this apocalypse but I do understand its implication. God, not mere coincidence or happenstance or demonic powers or world governments, but God and God alone is in control! And He knows the future ...

Verse 3 gives an added blessing to those who read and listen and follow the disclosures written in this apocalyptic book. Let's read on with limited commentary:

This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! “I am the Alpha and the Omega— the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am

INTRO TO REVELATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 1

the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

REVELATION

1:4-8

It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. It said, “Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

REVELATION

1:10-11

John describes seeing Jesus wearing a long robe with eyes like flames of fire and hair white as snow. Jesus holds the Churches and the strength of their purpose firmly in His hands. I am fully convinced that the fate of the Church is completely determined by the will of God. And, God is so good as to speak directly to each need of every Church with encouraging words and a hope for the future. In every situation the Holy Spirit gives promises and speaks victory to those who overcome. John continued:

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

REVELATION

1:17-18

I love the personal touch of Jesus ... “He laid His right hand on me.” Though He is busy with so many important things, like holding up those seven stars with His right hand, He also takes time for one – each one – everyone ...



DREAMS & VISIONS

BLOCK TWO

JOEL
2:28

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. God is a Spirit and He interacts with us on a spiritual plane.
2. God knows the future and often desires to make us aware of it.
3. Dreams and visions are the language of the Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit will never violate the Word of God.
5. Ask God to speak to you about the future and what you should pray and do to accomplish His will.

Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea, which by the way holds the distinction of being the largest Church in the history of Christendom thus far at one time boasting an active membership near 1,000,000 people, says that “dreams and visions are the language of the Spirit.”

After years of pastoring, Dr. Cho set new goals for his Church, which included a decade committed to the establishment of 5,000 satellite churches and 500 houses of prayer. Dr. Cho is an example of what God can do with the future through those who believe in dreams and visions they see which others cannot yet see.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was also a man of dreams and visions.

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

GENESIS
37:5

At this point in Joseph’s life, he was 17 years old and near last in a long line of brothers. Joseph had no claim to the inheritance or the covenant of his father. Yet Joseph dreamed a dream that encouraged him to believe that one day he would lead his whole family. At the time, this seemed impossible, yet the Holy Spirit bore witness to Joseph in a dream.

When Joseph was 17 years old he spoke about his dream, later in his life, Joseph's dream spoke about him.

The scriptures tell us God knows the end from the beginning. His way of communicating with us concerning the future is often done through dreams and visions. The prophet Joel spoke of a time when God would interact with His children by pouring His Spirit out upon all flesh.

And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

JOEL
2:28

This began to be fulfilled at Pentecost, just seven weeks after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When bystanders questioned what they were hearing, the Apostle Peter responded:

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy."

ACTS
2:16-18

The Holy Spirit's interaction with us often produces dreams and visions to aid us in our understanding and our approach to what God wants in our future. Even Job, in his pain filled dilemma of life, was encouraged by a friend to hear

DREAMS & VISIONS

MOD 4 BLOCK 2

that God opens our ears and seals our instruction while we sleep at night, having dreams and visions (Job 33:14-15).

Every dream is not given by God as Solomon revealed when he said that some dreams come because we have been so busy minded. However, many dreams are given to us by God so that we can:

- Know how to pray
- Know what to do
- Understand what will happen in the future

Not every dream comes to us at nighttime nor do visions always open spiritual portals into future events. Some do, however, many can merely be spiritual impressions which speak to our heart, strengthen our faith, and lead us forward.

When we receive some strong spiritual impression, a dream in the night, or a vision we feel is connected to our future, we must always do our due diligence to make sure it bears witness to the Word of God before using it as a cause for pursuit. The Holy Spirit will never violate the Word, the will, or the way of God. Make sure your dreams and your visions line up with God's Word, His purpose, and His ways before you act.

NOTES



DEATH & THE GRAVE

BLOCK THREE

1 CORINTHIANS

15:55

Where, O death, is your victory?, Where, O death, is your sting?

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. When we die our soul does not simply go to sleep and await the resurrection.
2. Death separates the soul from the body.
3. When separated from the body, a believer's soul is immediately present with the Lord.
4. The grave holds a believer's body until the resurrection.
5. Death has no victory and the grave loses its sting in Christ.

The apostle Paul made it clear that to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord. He longed to be in heaven but understood that it was more needful in his present to remain working for the Lord on earth until he had completed his race.

Jesus said that those who believe in Him would never die ... what did He mean? The writer of Hebrews clearly teaches that every person has an appointment with death and afterwards to be judged. These two scriptures are not in conflict but rather paint a complimentary picture of what happens in death. The writer of Hebrews is describing the physical death a person experiences, wherein this mortal body shuts down and no longer functions as the earthly tabernacle for the soul and spirit of man. Jesus, however, was referring to the eternal existence of man's soul which, when given life by the spirit of God, will live eternally.

When Jesus gave the account of the deaths of the rich man and Lazarus, He was revealing truth concerning the immediate disposition of the souls of men. This account shows one entering a heavenly reward, while another sits in torment, awaiting eternal judgment. However, neither ceased to be conscious but rather continued with awareness

DEATH & THE GRAVE

MOD 4 BLOCK 3

of their surroundings, remembrance of their families, feelings of comfort, or the lack thereof, and with the ability to communicate desire. This example was meant by Jesus to ensure we realize that the souls of men will continue to exist after the death of the body and will be conscious throughout eternity. The question is not will you exist after death, rather the question is where will you be?

The apostle Paul likens our body to a piece of grain. He said the body is placed in the grave like grain planted in the earth ... it is planted in one fashion and it is raised in a different fashion. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the apostle continues to explain how our bodies are corrupt, mere earth suits, destined to be held by the grave until the resurrection when this mortal shall put on immortality so that death is swallowed up by victory. Only after a piece of corn is put into the ground and dies can it bring forth new life in a new way with multiplied fruit. The body that shall be will be raised incorruptible, immortal, and eternal.

God has the final word on death. Just as Jesus was victorious over death and the grave, so shall every believer be. For the last trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible while those who remain are changed in the twinkling of an eye.

NOTES



HEAVEN

BLOCK FOUR

1 THESSALONIANS

4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.



IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Our citizenship is in heaven. - **PHILIPPIANS 3:20**
2. We have a family in heaven. - **EPHESIANS 3:14-15**
3. Heaven is a temporary place of man's residence. Not because it will pass away but because we will one day live again upon the earth.
4. Heaven is not a reward but a welcomed entrance into our Father's house.
5. Your eternity depends on heaven.

This life block is designed to be an initial and very simple introduction to heaven. We could spend the rest of our lives learning all that has been revealed about this wonderful place and still not exhaust its comprehensive expanse and glory. Thankfully we will have a whole lot more time than merely our earthly life to explore heaven's grandeur. However, in the time we have together now, allow me to begin our study on the adventure called heaven.

The word "heaven" is used 551 times in the KJV of the Bible. On top of that, the place and purposes of heaven are mentioned hundreds of more times and referenced from Genesis to Revelation with great expectations for the future.

What we most often intend when we talk about heaven is the place where God lives and where we want to go when we die. This is totally the right definition of heaven.

Heaven is where God lives and carries on the operation of the universe.

Heaven is where God has established His throne and where He speaks from, receives prayers into, dispatches angels from, and welcomes His children into when they die and leave planet earth. That is the heaven we all know and look forward to enjoying.

However, when we read the word “heaven” in the Bible, it is not always referring to that place where Jesus is presently seated at the right hand of God’s throne. In fact, there are 3 distinct heavens spoken of in the Bible.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished ...

GENESIS
2:1

We can clearly see the scriptures referring to heavens as being plural in the creation. But, how do we arrive at the understanding of 3 heavens?

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

2 CORINTHIANS
12:2

The first heaven is the air we breathe - the atmosphere of earth held under the canopy of our sky. This heaven is separated from the expanse of the universe that we know as space or the heavens.

And God called the firmament Heaven.

GENESIS
1:8a

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

LUKE
21:33

This first heaven is the heaven that will pass away when the earth melts with a fervent heat.

The second heaven is what we see when we look up at the heavenly bodies of planets, stars, and galaxies in outer space.

In Psalms 8 David considered the sun and moon and all the heavenly handiworks of God. In Genesis 15 God told Abraham to number the stars of heaven – the heaven he could view from earth which stretches beyond our understanding and contains the stars we see at night.

God is the creator of those heavens and they praise Him. I have no idea what was or is intended for them. (We hear that the universe is continually expanding at the speed of light. Perhaps one of the reasons is because, as far as we were told, God said let there be light and He did not tell it where to stop. I suppose Light has continued to spread in all directions from that time creating that heaven.)

The third heaven is God's abode. It is where God's Angels and saints who have passed on reside and prepare for the end of this world and the beginning of the next.

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool.

ISAIAH
66:1a

This is where Jesus lived with God before He became flesh and blood as the incarnate Son of Almighty God. And it is where He ascended to so that He could spend time preparing a house for us so that we could live with Him eternally as His bride. (Acts 1:11; John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:2,9ff)

For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

JOHN
6:33

Jesus came down from heaven to be born of a virgin and save souls.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 THESSALONIANS
4:16

Jesus ascended back into heaven and is coming again from heaven soon.

Heaven is more real than our temporary existence on earth.

Heaven is eternal but we are not meant to live there forever.

Heaven is a temporary residence for the souls of God's children until He cleanses the earth of sin and begins a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness.

God gave us a picture of His will for man on earth from the first two chapters of Genesis. One day we the redeemed will begin that world once again. In the mean time, between Genesis 3 and Revelation 21, we are in a parenthetical moment of God dealing with rebellion in heaven and sin on earth. During this time God welcomes and rewards His children in His eternal abode until all things have been made ready, the marriage supper of the Lamb enjoyed, all rebellion abolished and every rebel banished.

Our earthly hope is heaven - our heavenly hope is a new earth.

Heaven will one day be the place where the judgment will occur before God's throne. The devil and his angels along with the souls of every man and woman who refused the blood of the Lamb of God will be cast out from God's presence forever. Only those who are covered by the blood of Christ will be given entrance into the eternal Messianic Kingdom and live with Jesus

in the city of New Jerusalem on a new earth without sin, sickness, poverty, pain, worry, or fear forever and forever.

Heaven is also the place where our thoughts, intents, and actions will be revealed and rewarded. Great rewards will be given by some and others will have nothing to offer God and the Lamb who saved them and redeemed them from eternal destruction. There will be so many sorrows and tears that God will give special time for them to dry before continuing with His plan.

Some may say: I don't want or need rewards ... just getting into heaven will be reward enough. To quote a dear friend and scholar:

"To place little value on what heaven says has great value insults the very Lord who offers these rewards." (David Shibley, Living as if Heaven Matters)

A casual attitude toward the prized rewards of heaven could be considered an insult and an offense to God. You see,

Heaven is not a reward - heaven is our Father's home and we are welcomed there, not by reward but by grace.

No works can grant one entrance into God's presence or His palace - it is by grace and grace alone. We are given sanctuary in His presence because we are family. Rewards, however, are earned. It seems they are very important to God and they should therefore be to us.

How can we consciously be on our way to God's home and take Him no gift.

NOTES

NOTES

SUPPORT SCRIPTURES

COLOSSIANS 1:16
COLOSSIANS 3:1-3
GENESIS 22:11
DEUTERONOMY 10:14
2 CHRONICLES 18:18
JEREMIAH 23:24
PSALMS 119:89
REVELATION 21:1



THE DEVIL & HELL

BLOCK FIVE

REVELATION

1:18

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. There is a devil and he does not like you. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." - **1 PETER 5:8** (deceive & divide)
2. There is a hell but it was not designed for you.
3. Upon death, the soul of a person goes immediately to heaven or to hell.
4. Once in hell, a person cannot get out.
5. Good News, people don't have to go to hell!

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language while the New Testament was primarily written in Greek. A serious study of the scriptures will at some point necessitate a reference be made to the original meaning of some word as it was spoken and meant to be understood in its mother language.

The Bible you know and read is a translation of the best manuscripts available at the time that particular version was translated. As languages evolve with time and words take on different meanings, translations of the scriptures, although closely guarded by both God and man, can offer the comparative reader with shades of meanings and at times a studious challenge to understand the Holy Spirit's original intent.

Thankfully, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth as we read the Word of God. Whether reading the King James Version, the New King James Version, the English Standard Version, the New International Version, the Amplified Bible, or the New Living Translation, or one of the many other versions translated into a different language, we can still gain a consistently accurate rendering of the scriptures from simply reading each verse as it fits into context with the one message the Bible is telling.

THE DEVIL & HELL

MOD 4 BLOCK 5

Anyone who has access to a commonly approved version of either the Old or New Testaments can come to know and be skilled in God's Word. Although some versions may use one word in a scripture and a different version use another, the choice of those differing words are current day attempts to best convey the truth and the original meaning to its readers.

Tonight we are going to survey the scriptures and discuss both the devil and hell. Some of the verses we will cover may use differing words to describe our topics. Whether your Bible chooses to use the word "hell" or "Hades" or "Gehenna" or "Sheol" or simply "the Pit" – these are all references to the same place and the same predicament – separation from God in a place of torment after death, reserved to, and awaiting the final judgment of the soul. Hades is a place of thick darkness where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. That's hell ...

Jesus gives us a glimpse of both heaven and hell prior to His death, burial, and resurrection in the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. A simple reading of this passage reveals that the souls of men are received into either heaven or hell immediately after death and there will be no changing places after that point.

Eternal decisions are only made on earth.

Hell is the place you do not want to go. It is real! God would not have crucified His only Son to save you from a place that did not exist!

Hell was not created nor intended to be occupied by the souls of mankind. Eternal torment in darkness forever was created for the devil and his angels. Jesus spoke concerning the final judgment of the souls of man:

THE DEVIL & HELL

MOD 4 BLOCK 5

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

MATTHEW
25:41

The devil, satan, that old serpent, the enemy of your soul, is a rebellious, pride-filled fallen angel who was once a trusted servant of God. The devil no longer wanted to serve and support God and decided that he had rather do things his way. The devil sowed discord among the angel servants of God and drew many by deception to follow his mutiny. God cast the devil out of heaven along with those angels who supported the rebellion. This divided heaven and a war has ensued ever since.

As if it was not bad enough to have rebelled against the One who had loved him and cared and provided for him, the devil further brought division to the family of God in the earth. This sneaky serpent began to talk directly to God's children in the Garden of Eden and succeeded in deceiving Eve. She stopped trusting God and His Word and rather decided to do her own thing and she rebelled. She further divided Adam and others from the loving and caring relationship they could have had with their Father.

God hates rebellion and all rebellion is of the devil. God decided that the penalty for causing this division in His family was eternal damnation in a lake of fire and brimstone that would burn forever and ever. One day the devil and his angels will be cast into that lake that was prepared for them and unfortunately, so will all the souls of mankind who have refused to trust God and accept the forgiveness and salvation that only comes through Jesus the Messiah. Until then, the souls of these men wait in hell.

Today the devil is still deceiving people. He hates God and he hates God's human creation. The greatest deceptions he can master is to lead people to believe there is no God, or

THE DEVIL & HELL

MOD 4 BLOCK 5

no devil, or no hell, or no penalty for sin – especially for the sin of simply doing things your own way – rebellion!

One day there will be a final judgment – we will talk about that in a few weeks – but until the final judgment ... there is hell. Hell is a temporary holding place where the lost souls of man and hordes of demons reside awaiting the final judgment. Hell is a place of great torment.

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, **to be reserved for judgment**; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) – then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to **reserve the unjust under punishment** for the day of judgment.

2 PETER
2:4-9

Jesus admonishes us:

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.

MATTHEW
10:28

THE DEVIL & HELL

MOD 4 BLOCK 5

Sad to say, hell has enlarged herself and the pit which has gotten bigger will never be satisfied. It will burn but will never be consumed.

Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

ISAIAH
5:14

At the final judgment hell itself will have fulfilled its purpose and it will be cast into the lake of fire forever. That's what the book of Revelation says:

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

REVELATION
20:13-14

There is "Good News" however! God has not left you without a Savior.

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

REVELATION
1:18

NOTES



THE RAPTURE

BLOCK SIX

REVELATION

22:20-21

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. There is an Indisputable Promise.
2. There is an Undeniable Expectation.
3. There is an Irrefutable Confirmation.
4. There is an Unquestionable Explanation.
5. There are Venerable Interpretations.
6. There is an Unquenchable Anticipation.

The word "Rapture" is not found in the Bible. However, the concept is clearly taught throughout the scriptures and embraced by Believers in every generation of the Church, beginning with the Apostles. Rapture is that future moment when suddenly and without warning, Believers are gathered from the earth to make way for the judgment of God.

The rapture is often spoken of as a "catching away" or a "gathering together" or a "harvest" of the souls of Believers from the earth. The fact that a future rapture of the Church will occur is not the question which most often divides people along doctrinal lines. Rather it is "when" or at which scriptural juncture the rapture will take place that is in dispute.

The intent of this Life Block is to discover the facts and leave the disputes to those who are better given to debate those things which God has evidently hidden in plain view. Let's stick to the indisputable facts & future:

In some of His last words during the last week of His earthly life, Jesus told His disciples that He was going away but that He would come again for a very specific reason. Jesus clearly and finitely stated what He would do and why He would do it. This is what we will call:

The Indisputable Promise.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

JOHN
14:1-3

No one disputes the fact that Jesus went away with a purpose and is coming again with a purpose – to gather His followers unto Himself and take them away to the place He has prepared especially for them.

The Undeniable Expectation.

The early Church possessed an undeniable expectation that Jesus would return soon, any day, at any time. Many imagine the reason it seemed easy for those Believers to sell their possessions and give all the proceeds to be distributed was because they expected the imminent return of the Lord and felt they would soon have no need for worldly possessions.

The Apostle Peter even spread a rumor which caused the brethren to believe Jesus would return within the natural lifetime of the Apostle John.

Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

JOHN
21:21-23

The Apostle Paul clearly expected to be present and living on earth when the Lord returned. He included himself in that number who would be caught up in the rapture of the Church from the earth.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS
4:15

The Irrefutable Confirmation.

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

ACTS
1:9-11

What better confirmation can you get than angels suddenly appearing and repeating the same words Jesus had spoken to you just a few days earlier!

The Unquestionable Explanation.

How is the rapture going to happen? We have been given the details ...

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

1 THESSALONIANS

5:1-2

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 CORINTHIANS

15:51-53

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 THESSALONIANS

4:16-18

The Venerable Interpretations.

There are so many diverse and yet well respected interpretations of scripture concerning the timing of the rapture. Some believe in a:

- Pre-Tribulation Rapture
 - o Either for all Saints

- Or only for a select few saints deemed worthy, holy and pure
- The Bride versus The Saved
- Mid-Tribulation Rapture
 - 3 ½ years after a peace treaty is offered to Israel
 - Just before the great tribulation period
 - Opening the way for the anti-christ to be revealed
- Pre-Wrath Rapture
 - Saints will be kept from the tribulation which shall come upon all the earth
- Post-Tribulation Gathering
 - Some believe the gathering will be on the earth
 - Others believe it will be in heaven

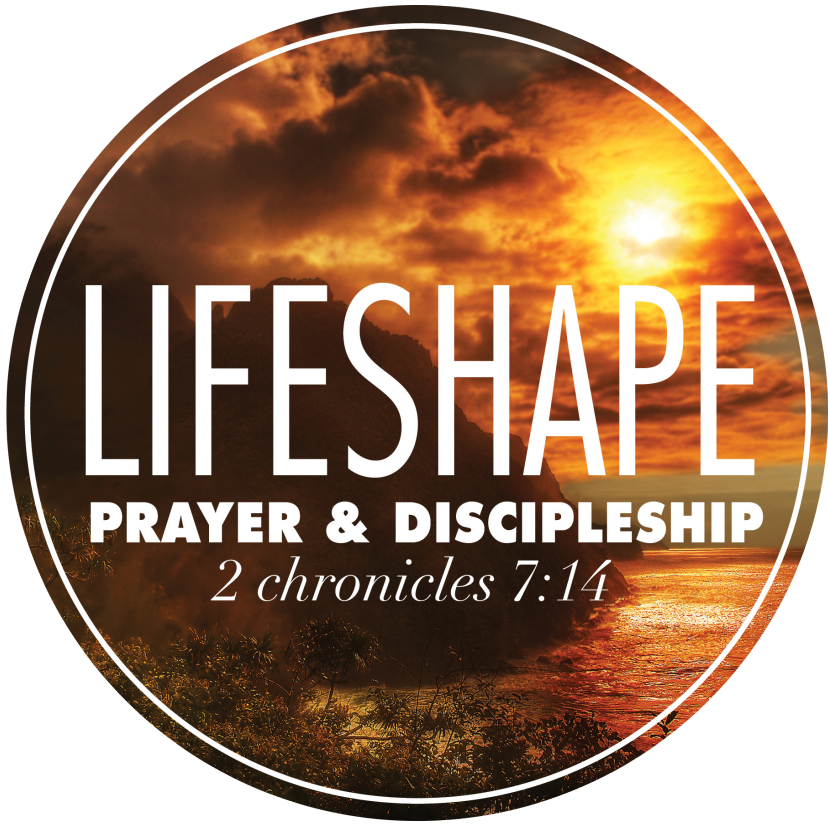
I believe Jesus is coming sooner rather than later and I hope it is tonight. As well, I believe He is coming to get me in my lifetime. Will it be pre-trib, mid-trib, or post-trib? I don't know! I am what many people before me have called a pan-trib kind of guy. I believe Jesus is coming and when He does, it will all pan out. Until then, all we can do is work and wait.

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

JAMES
5:7-8

The Unquenchable Anticipation.

There is a longing for to be with Christ that nothing else can satisfy ...



THE TRIBULATION

BLOCK SEVEN

MATTHEW

24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. The Tribulation is a seven year period in which God will pour His wrath out upon the earth.
2. The Tribulation period is not a "Protestant Purgatory" in which Believers or the Church pays for their sins and are cleansed.
3. Many people will be saved, martyred, and taken to heaven during the Tribulation.
4. The beginning of the Tribulation will be marked by a false peace treaty offered to Israel which allows for the rebuilding of the Temple.
5. The mid-point of the Tribulation will be known when the antichrist breaks that treaty and enters into the Temple and declares himself to be God. This begins the Great Tribulation period.
6. God will bring conclusion to the Tribulation when Jesus returns with His saints in white raiment to defeat the antichrist and his armies at the Battle of Armageddon.
7. The end of the Tribulation Period will give way for the Millennial Reign of Christ upon the earth.

The Tribulation is a period of seven years predetermined by God at the end of this age when He will pour out the wrath of His indignation on the earth directly against the nations and the peoples on the earth who have rejected and despised Him. Romans 12:19 declares vengeance belongs to the Lord and He will repay ... this is the Tribulation.

Isaiah 2 says all nations will be brought to judgment while men desperately seek a place to hide in fear from the wrath of God. Many of the prophets from Daniel to King David speak of that day as the day of reckoning for all men. The entire book of Zephaniah is devoted to this Tribulation.

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

“Therefore wait for Me,” says the LORD, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All my fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

ZEPHANIAH

3:8

When shall these things be? This was the question asked by the disciples of Jesus and we find His answer in our key scripture:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

MATTHEW

24:14

Jesus continues to explain what will happen in the midst of that time ...

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand).

MATTHEW

24:15

The Tribulation is divided into two 3½ year periods. Daniel sees, and Revelation confirms, the dividing point between the first 3½ years of Tribulation and the last 3½ years of Great Tribulation is determined when the antichrist reveals his identity by entering into the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, stopping the sacrifices and declaring himself to be god. This is that abomination of desolation spoken of by Jesus (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; and Revelation 13).

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

REVELATION
11:3

These two periods will also be marked by the two witnesses who shall stand and prophesy with power to shut up the heavens and breathe a fire which consumes their enemies. These two candlesticks of the Lord will give testimony for 1,260 days, equaling and ending the first 3 ½ years.

The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

REVELATION
11:14

At that 3 ½ year mark the beast from the bottomless pit will arise with power and will kill the two witnesses. Israel's peace treaty will be broken, the antichrist will perform miracles and cause his followers to take the mark of the beast, 666, or die. He will enter the Temple declaring himself to be god and all hell will break loose upon the earth (Revelation 11:7;13).

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

MATTHEW
24:21-22

Many people will be saved during the Tribulation. Some will turn to Jesus as a result of the horrible catastrophes and terrible judgments, others from the testimonies of the two witnesses and their miraculous resurrections after lying dead

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

in the streets for 3 ½ days in view of the whole earth; still others will hear the message of the special angel sent by God near the end of the Tribulation period to proclaim the Good News.

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people —

REVELATION
14:6

Even with all of the forewarnings and the march we now see towards Armageddon, the nations of this world still fail to surrender themselves to God.

We have not begun the Tribulation period yet – believe me, you will know when we do ... there will be no missing that event for anyone on the earth. When the seals begin to be opened, devastation and destruction, war, famine and death will be on a mass scale throughout the earth. Israel will be at peace, they will possess Jerusalem without question and begin to rebuild the Temple, however the rest of the world will be in turmoil.

So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

REVELATION
6:8

The fourth horseman of the Apocalypse will ride his pale horse and bring death and devastation to one fourth of all humanity living on earth. That's almost 2 billion people today ... these are only the beginning of sorrows.

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

Some argue the Church is as yet unclean and therefore must go through the Tribulation in order to be purged and purified. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Church and every Believer has already been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Jesus is not going to give His Bride a good beating just before the marriage so she will enter into the marriage in fear and trembling, anxiously tip-toeing on pins and needles, fearfully and nervously avoiding to ever cross Him again. The Tribulation is not aimed at the saint. It is not a “Protestant Purgatory.” The Tribulation is a cleansing opportunity for the sinner, not the saint. On another note:

Have you ever noticed the themes that run through the Bible – especially all of the “Sevens” in the Book of Revelation?

There are: Seven Churches; Seven Spirits of God; Seven Golden Lamp Stands; Seven Stars; Seven Flaming Torches; Seven Seals; Seven Horns & Seven Eyes on the Lamb; Seven Trumpets; Seven Thunders; Seven Heads & Seven Diadems on the dragon; Seven Heads on the Sea Beast; Seven Plagues; Seven Bowls; Seven Mountains & Seven Kings

The 7 Seals make way for the 7 Trumpets and finally the 7 Bowls of Wrath. From painful sores to heat waves, from water turning to blood to the thick darkness which will cover the earth, from demons working miracles to the last great global earthquake which collapses the cities of the world – Tribulation is to come upon the earth and yet men will not repent. In all of this the wicked will intensify their hatred towards God and blaspheme His Holy name. With the 7th bowl heaven declares “it is done” and Jesus returns with His saints to win the Battle of Armageddon. God is so good!

THE TRIBULATION

MOD 4 BLOCK 7

There are yet Seven Blessings in the midst of all this Tribulation and woe:

- Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy ...
- Blessed are the dead who, from now on, die in the Lord.
- Blessed is the one who stays awake and is clothed ...
- Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper ... Lamb.
- Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection ...
- Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.
- Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

NOTES



THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

BLOCK EIGHT

MATTHEW

19:28

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."



IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Although we do not know everything, we understand some things, and those things are powerful and precious.
2. God has commanded His blessings on those who read and hear the prophecies of this book.
3. Satan will be defeated at the end of the Great Tribulation and will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit.
4. Jesus will set up His Kingdom on the earth and will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years.
5. During this time all who have accepted Jesus as Messiah will rule and reign as kings and priests on the earth with Christ for 1000 years.
6. Then Satan will be released for a short season and he will deceive the nations once again and gather them to battle against King Jesus.
7. God will finally put an end to all rebellion and destroy the earth with a fervent heat ... then will come the Great White Throne Judgment.

Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture!

1 CORINTHIANS
13:9

Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 CORINTHIANS
13:12

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

MOD 4 BLOCK 8

The Apostle Paul was the first to admit that he did not know everything concerning the last days. I must echo that sentiment and attest to the fact that God has not made the future completely clear to us at this point in time. We catch dimly lit glimpses of things to come, we hear prophecies, and gain revelation but as of now we still see an imperfect picture as though we are looking through a haze. Yet, the glimpses we catch are amazing and wonderful sights which give us a framework for the days ahead. For example:

- We know Jesus has gone away to prepare a place for us in heaven.
- We know Jesus is coming in the clouds to receive us unto Himself, we don't know when ...
- We know the Church is both the Body and the Bride of Christ and that there will one day be a wedding in heaven to which all saints will be invited.
- We know there will be a tribulation period and a great tribulation period on the earth.
- We know Jesus will return to earth with His armies to defeat the antichrist but we don't know how we will fight or what weapons we will use.
- We know Jesus will rule and reign on the earth for a thousand years.
- We know satan will be released after the millennial reign of Christ and will deceive the nations but we don't understand how anyone on earth could be deceived at that point.
- We know God is going to completely destroy the earth and reestablish a new heaven and a new earth but we don't fully know what we will be doing or how we will be living thereafter.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

MOD 4 BLOCK 8

Suffice it to say we know a whole lot but understand very little. However, what we do understand is powerful. Let's take another cloudy look into the dimly lit future and describe the images which are reasonably visible from the many descriptions of both the Old and New Testament writers concerning this 1,000 year period called the Millennial Reign of Christ.

We may note that one concern of the Jews in accepting Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah is that they were taught to expect a Reigning Savior who, when He came, would deliver and forever protect Israel from her enemies and rule the nations from His throne in Jerusalem with a rod of iron.

This conflicted with the persecution, death, and seemingly defeat of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. The picture of Jesus on the cross is not the picture of a ruling and reigning King of the Jews. However, the prophets clearly established that Messiah should first suffer and pay for the sins, sicknesses, and pains of the world and then return as a ruling King. This prophetic picture of the ruling Messiah is a picture of Jesus during His Millennial Reign.

The last time Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was meek and mild, riding on the colt of a donkey, humble and without defense. The next time He enters that city, He will be riding on a great white horse leading His armies of angels and saints and He will conquer all who oppose Him.

At the last trumpet the dead in Christ shall rise (not all the dead but those who are in Christ) and the saints who are alive on earth will be instantaneously changed to be incorruptible. Then there will be some space of time, whether 7 years (to accommodate for the Pre-tribulation rapture theory) or 3 ½ years (corresponding to the Mid-tribulation rapture theory) or even just a few seconds (accounting for the Post-tribulation theory), a certain space of time will pass.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

MOD 4 BLOCK 8

The reason we know this is because both groups, the dead in Christ and we which are alive and remain, will be caught up into the air to meet the Lord. After some period, if even milliseconds, Christ will then return with those saints and His holy angels to earth, set His feet down on the Mount of Olives, gather the nations and wage war against the antichrist and utterly defeat him.

The devil and his angels will be bound for a thousand years.

At that time Jesus will not return to sit on the heavenly throne with His Father God but will rather go up to Jerusalem and will sit upon the Throne of David on Mount Zion. Some believe this will be the time when Jesus will separate His sheep from the goats before the throne of His glory as recorded in Matthew 25. Others see this as a fulfillment of the prophecies in Psalms 2, Isaiah 2, and Micah 4.

However it happens, Jesus will sit on His throne in Jerusalem atop Mount Zion and from there He will rule the nations for a thousand years.

Prayerfully and studiously peering through the sometimes dimly lit clouds of prophecies, I can see a city set on a hill where Jesus is King. It is Mount Zion lifted up above the nations so that the Word and the Law are going forth from there throughout the whole world, carried by the waters which flow from beneath the throne of Christ. There are other thrones whereon sit the 12 Apostles of the Lamb and many saints who sit to judge the 12 Tribes of Israel and those who live on the earth.

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."

MATTHEW
19:28

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

MOD 4 BLOCK 8

I can see a “regeneration” (Greek word paringhenesia), New Genesis, a New Birth, a New Beginning, a Beginning Again = “Genesis Again” for the saints of God in this Holy City where Jesus lives as the Tree of Life with the New Creation Saints, His Bride in that city. Outside are those who have survived the tribulation without accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

REVELATION
22:14-15

Life will be hard and harsh outside the city and the will of God. People will continue to have opportunity to submit themselves to God and worship His Christ who is King but many will refuse to obey the Lord.

And it shall come to pass that 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, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

ZECHARIAH
14:16-17

There will be a great bubble of holiness and blessing over Judah and Jerusalem and all who worship the King will be welcomed to dwell there. Let’s read about this time from the Book of Revelation (This will take place immediately after the Tribulation):

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

MOD 4 BLOCK 8

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon — that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan — and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years. When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations ...

REVELATION
20:1-8a

NOTES



GREAT WHITE THRONE

BLOCK NINE

REVELATION

20:12 _____

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

GREAT WHITE THRONE

MOD 4 BLOCK 9

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Everyone will appear before the Great White Throne of God.
2. Records are being kept.
3. Final dispositions of both the souls of man and the angels of God will be irrevocably decreed.
4. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be welcomed into God's eternal Kingdom.
5. The Great White Throne Judgment motivates us to evangelize.

The Bible is clear. Every person who has ever lived, along with the angels, and even Satan himself shall all appear before the final Great White Throne judgment of God.

This is the place where God will fully and with finality judge the living and the dead, principalities and powers, angels and men, and will decree the final sentences which will be carried out swiftly and without appeal. Since the beginning, God has kept records in the form of books which will then be opened. The Book of Works will declare all men guilty seeing that none is righteous, no not one. Then a second book will be opened, the Lamb's Book of Life, only those whose names are written therein shall be eternally forgiven and welcomed into the Kingdom of God and His dear Son.

All those whose names are not found in the Lamb's Book of Life, along with the devil, his angels, and hell itself, shall be cast into the lake of fire which burns forever without end and without reprieve.

I have searched the word of God for several decades now looking for one ray of hope that would give those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior while upon this earth a second chance to be eternally saved. I have found none! Perhaps

GREAT WHITE THRONE

MOD 4 BLOCK 9

this is the greatest motivating factor for personal and world evangelism. One day, the books will be opened and then the books will be closed. We shall all give an account of ourselves to God for the works we have done in the flesh. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's commands. It is certain each one of us, standing on our own, deserves death and eternal separation from God. The law of God demands this. However, Jesus Christ paid the debt of sin for all who will accept His payment and receive His pardon. This acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord must be actively embraced in a conscious and sincere approach to God by faith in His finished work. God keeps the master salvation record in Heaven. It is called the Lamb's Book of Life.

NOTES



A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

BLOCK TEN

2 PETER

3:13

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10



1. After the Tribulation; after the Battle of Armageddon; after the Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth; after the Final Defeat of Satan; after the Great White Throne Judgment; after the devil, his angels, death, and hell are thrown into the Lake of Fire along with anyone whose names are not written in The Lamb's Book of Life; after the heavens and the earth and its works are dissolved and the elements melt with a Fervent Heat; God will create A New Heaven and A New Earth.
2. New Jerusalem, God's Holy City, will sit upon the earth as a Bride which has been adorned for her Husband.
3. God will dwell on earth with man.
4. There will be no more crying nor death nor sorrow nor pain.
5. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter that city.

After the Tribulation; after the Battle of Armageddon; after the Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth; after the Final Defeat of Satan; after the Great White Throne Judgment; after the devil, his angels, death and hell are thrown into the Lake of Fire along with anyone whose names are not written in The Lamb's Book of Life; after the heavens and the earth and its works are dissolved and the elements melt with a Fervent Heat; God will create A New Heaven and A New Earth.

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.

REVELATION
21:1

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2 PETER
3:10

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

ISAIAH
65:17

New Jerusalem, God's Holy City, will sit upon the earth as a Bride which has been adorned for her Husband.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy.

ISAIAH
65:18

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

REVELATION
21:2

God will dwell on earth with man.

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

REVELATION
21:3

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.

ISAIAH
65:19

There will be no more crying nor death nor sorrow nor pain.

"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."

REVELATION
21:4

I have heard people say there is no crying in heaven ... however, that is not an accurate account of the scriptures. Note this scripture which is used as the basis for that inaccuracy clearly paints the picture of God wiping the tears from eyes which have evidently known such great sorrow. And, to portray the true account, this event is not happening in heaven but rather upon the new earth in the Holy City of New Jerusalem.

I believe there will be many tears in heaven for those awaiting this new day. These tears will no doubt include the sorrow we will have over the wasted opportunities each one was given to share the Gospel with a soul now lost for eternity. Many loved ones will not be in heaven ... Only God and God alone can

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10

wipe those tears from our eyes. Let's continue reading about that coming day:

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

REVELATION
21:5-7

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

REVELATION
21:9-14

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10

The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

REVELATION

21:21-27

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

REVELATION

22:1-5

A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

MOD 4 BLOCK 10

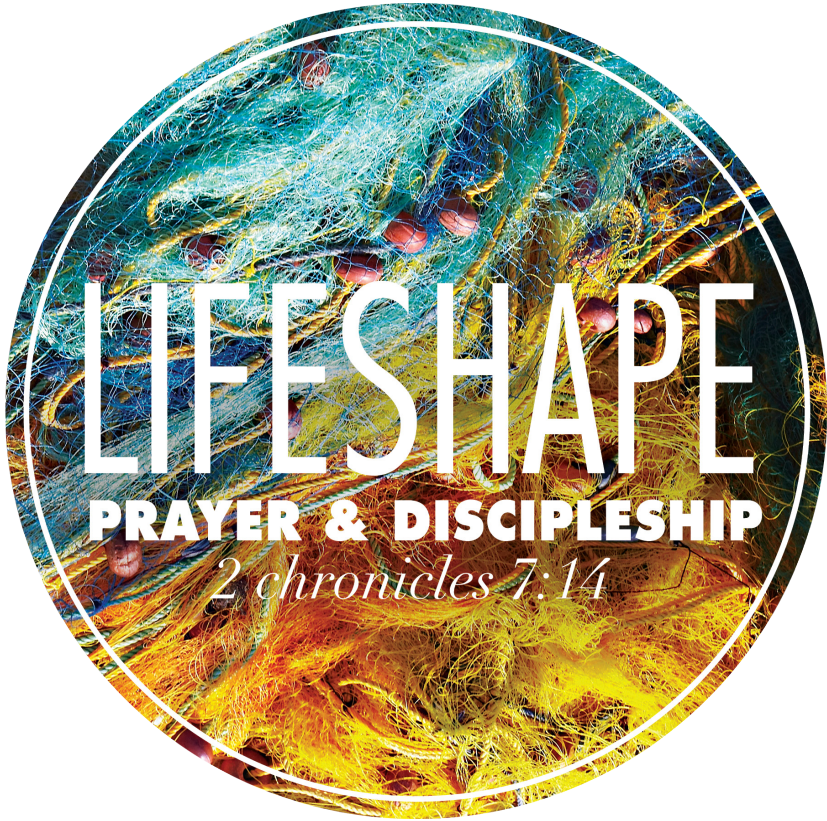
Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter that city.

You have a future. In fact, you have an eternity ahead of you. Where will you spend eternity ... in New Jerusalem or in the lake of fire? What about your friends, family members, co-workers, fellow students, this generation or generations to come? Not everyone has heard the Good News yet!

But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—

2 PETER
3:13-15

NOTES



IN CONCLUSION

BLOCK ELEVEN

MICAH

6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD
require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly
with your God?

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Do justly
2. Love mercy
3. Walk humbly
4. Obey God
5. Keep His commands

Our Key Scriptures are taken today from the Book of the Prophets, specifically the Prophet Micah.

With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

MICAH
6:6-7

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

MICAH
6:8

We have come a long way together, studied the Word of God, and discovered truths and principles which every Believer should know from God's Holy Word. Now we are quickly drawing to the close of these LifeShape lessons and it behooves us to draw some conclusions from our many weeks of study.

Merely hearing the Word of God and the doctrines of Christ are not enough to transform us into the people God wants and needs us to be. Rather we must harness ourselves to believe,

embrace, and live the Word of God. People around us need to see those who claim to know Jesus living the life of a Believer in the face of the daily challenges which come to everyone. The world hates a hypocrite, but they use every means available to them to tempt the Christian in efforts to make them compromise.

I have found 5 principles of life that seem to endure. If we will remember these things, we will be encouraged to stay on the right track. Life is still a choice and failure is forgivable. However, it is better to live victorious over temptations of life instead of recovering from them. So, keep these things in mind while you continue on your journey. They are not law, but they are tried and true principles of life.

- What we say will be said.
- What we do will be known.
- What we believe will be tested.
- What we compromise to keep we will lose.
- The journey is our friend.

It is the journey that prepares us for destiny. At each juncture in life we are offered the opportunity to turn towards God. In every high moment and in every low moment we find a pathway that will keep us walking in the direction of God's will. There is no temptation, test, trial, or tribulation we face in life without God being right there with us, speaking to us, comforting us and offering us guidance. God sees our potential and shines His light on our way. He will never leave us nor will He ever forsake us.

Together, during these LifeShape lessons, we have discovered how:

- God created us and everything we needed from things which did not previously exist.
- The devil subtly tempted Eve and made her believe it was okay to disobey God's Word and do her own thing.

IN CONCLUSION

MOD 4 BLOCK 11

- Sin separates man from man; separates man from God's temporal blessings; and separates man from his eternal purpose.
- Eternal forgiveness requires a perfect sacrifice.
- God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son and whoever believes on Him shall never perish but have eternal life.
- We are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves, it is a gift of God not of works lest any man should boast.
- Grace only demands we believe and receive.
- When we accept and receive Jesus, God accepts and receives us.
- God's children are granted access to Him through prayer.
- The Holy Spirit lives in Born Again Believers with power to be a witness.
- God places every person in a Church family according to His need and will.
- Every Christian is expected and encouraged to grow up and take on personal responsibilities for the health and growth of the Church.
- Each Church is responsible to accomplish the Great Commission through world evangelism and continued discipleship.
- The same Jesus who ascended will come again and receive the Church unto Himself to be with Him forever.
- A great 7 year tribulation period will come upon the earth as judgment from God.
- Jesus will lead His armies of saints and angels to defeat the antichrist at the battle of Armageddon.
- Satan will be bound for a thousand years.
- Jesus will set up His Kingdom and reign in Jerusalem as King of the whole earth for a thousand years.

IN CONCLUSION

MOD 4 BLOCK 11

- Satan will be loosed for a short time to deceive the nations and gather them to a final battle against Jesus the Messiah.
- God will intervene, bind and cast Satan, his angels, death and hell along with all whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life once and for all eternity into the lake of fire, which will burn forever and ever.
- The heavens and the earth will be consumed and utterly destroyed and the elements will melt with a fervent heat and there will be no more sea. The earth will be without form and void and darkness will cover the face of the deep.
- God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth wherein dwells righteousness. He and His Son will live on the earth with man and there will be no more crying, pain, sickness, or death.
- This is eternity.

What more shall we say to these things? In conclusion of these matters I am compelled to call to mind the scripture which says:

That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey His commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

ECCLESIASTES
12:13-14

- Do justly
- Love mercy
- Walk humbly
- Obey God
- Keep His commands



WHAT'S NEXT

BLOCK TWELVE

REVELATION

22:6

Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Jesus is coming quickly!
2. Worship God.
3. Keep His Commandments.
4. Jesus is building the Church as His Bride.
5. The message is always, "Come to Jesus!"
6. Don't change one thing in the Bible.
7. You can always depend on the grace of God.

We have come to the end of our LifeShape Prayer & Discipleship Series. At this point, we understand:

- Redemption
- New Creation Realities
- New Creation Responsibilities
- The Future

So, what's next?

Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true."
And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

REVELATION
22:6

Jesus is coming quickly!

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the

prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book.
Worship God.”

REVELATION
22:7-9

Worship God.

And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

REVELATION
22:10-14

Keep His Commandments.

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

REVELATION
22:15-16

Jesus is building the Church as His Bride.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

REVELATION
22:17

The message is always, "Come to Jesus!"

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

REVELATION
22:18-19

Don't change one thing in the Bible.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

REVELATION
22:20-21

You can always depend on the grace of God.

NOTES

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PASTOR RON HAMMONDS

Dr. R.L. Hammonds has been Senior Pastor of Golden Triangle Church on the Rock in Southeast Texas since 1988. Along with his wife Brenda of forty-one years, two children and nine grandchildren, as well as many faithful friends and partners of the vision, Pastor Ron has pioneered numerous churches in the U.S. and abroad since entering the ministry in 1979. As a pastor, author, biblical documentarian, and church leader, Pastor Ron is committed to taking the Gospel of the Kingdom to every nation on planet earth and is devoted to bringing lessons of life from the pages of the Bible to the hearts and minds of men and women.

AFTER LIFESHAP WHAT'S NEXT?

OTHER TITLES BY PASTOR RON

12:10 Daily Devotions
Marriage Basics
T-Nights
LifeShape: Mod 1
Redemption
LifeShape: Mod 2
New Creation Realities
LifeShape: Mod 3
New Creation Responsibilities

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

ezSermons.com
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ifMyPeopleWill.com

