

What We Believe Pt. 10

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, October 7, 2018

Main Theme – Considering the Sixteen Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God – “Part 10”

WORSHIP & PRAYER COMMUNION

At this time, I would like for the ushers to distribute the emblems of Communion:

- The WAFER symbolizes/commemorates the Body of Christ – BROKEN for you
- The JUICE symbolizes/commemorates the Blood of Christ – SHED for your sin

KEY – I can think of no better way to end this time of WORSHIP than with Holy Communion.

- Recognition of OUR sinfulness and NEED of a Savior
- Recognition of God’s PROVISION of such a Savior
- Recognition of the COST of His atoning work
- OPPORTUNITY for repentance and faith

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Events (Regular)**
 - Women's Ministry – This Tuesday, October 9, at 6:30pm
 - Men's Ministry – Cancelled in October (Oct. Mission's Trip)
- **Upcoming Events (Special)**
 - OCC National Collection Week – November 12–19 (Related Info)

MORNING OFFERING PT. 1

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected this morning:

- The FIRST offering will go to the regular support of this assembly
- The SECOND offering is a special mission's offering for our Haiti Trip

MORNING OFFERING PT. 2

As many of you know, a team of us will be traveling to Haiti in just a few short days. The team consists of me, Misty, Taran, Nicole, Jo Anne, Kristie and Ryan. I want to say thank you to the many who have prayed and supported these individuals (as support letters were distributed).

Thus said, we want to give you one more opportunity to SOW into the work of God in and through this team/broader work led by Mission E4. Today, we will collect a special OFFERING from this assembly. The monies given will go to assist team members who have remaining balances. The excess will go to the special projects we will be working on while in country.

The Board of this church did NOT want to rob you of the opportunity to be a part of this trip to a greater degree. If you cannot go, CAN YOU pray for and give to those who can? May the Lord bless you as you prepare to give, and may He bless this trip with His protection, provision, and favor!

SECOND COLLECTION – Make checks payable to 'New Life Assembly of God'

TEAM COMMISSIONING

Call forth & Commission the members of the Haiti Trip: Misty, Jo Anne, Kristie, Ryan, Nicole (me).

- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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INTRODUCTIONS

As always, it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these weekly moments of worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what God has for you today! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have an extreme amount of material to cover in a short amount of time.

OPENING REMARKS

This morning we will BRING TO A CLOSE our extended series on the fundamentals of our faith...

NOTE 1 – Thus far, we have covered 12 of the 16 Fundamental Truths. We have touched upon an ARRAY OF TOPICS, including the Authority of Scripture, the Trinitarian Nature of God, the Humanity and the Deity of Christ, the Fall of Man, God’s Plan of Salvation, Sanctification (i.e., the Act and the Life-Long Process), the Mission of the Church, the Leadership Structure of the Church, the Ordinances of the Church (Communion and Water Baptism), Divine Healing, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, etc.

NOTE 2 – This morning we will touch upon the 13th–16th Fundamental Truths – ALL OF WHICH have to do with END TIMES events and the CULMINATION of God’s plan for man. If you have ever wondered about that which is to come at the end of the age, you have chosen a GREAT Sunday to attend! I would recommend listening to this sermon again and downloading the notes as well.

NOTE 3 – There is NO way that we can explore today’s material in an EXHAUSTIVE way. It would take many months to delve into the scores of texts we could cite (and likely a lifetime of study to attain any level of ‘mastery’). Rather than address these interrelated doctrines at a MICRO-level, I would like to step way back and offer some MACRO-level considerations.

Let’s Delve In.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

Q. Have you ever attended an event wherein you received a PROGRAM upon entry?

PROGRAM – ‘a sheet or booklet giving details of items or performers at an event or performance.’

Perhaps it was at a funeral, a graduation, a wedding, a special church function or a conference, but somewhere/somehow most of us have seen a PROGRAM before. I CANNOT tell you how many events I have attended wherein I have received a program, but I CAN tell you how grateful I am for them during various events.

Q. WHY? Why would I be GRATEFUL for having a program?

Because they tell you what you can EXPECT throughout an event (i.e., WHAT’S IN STORE). They also help you to track HOW MUCH MORE you have to sit through (which is particularly useful if it’s an event you’re not that excited to attend), but that’s a side-note.!

There’s BENEFIT in knowing WHAT IS TO COME and WHAT LIES AHEAD...

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

This morning we are going to BRIEFLY explore doctrines pertaining to events that are YET TO COME. They are sure to be world-changing events in which God brings TO A CLOSE the whole of human history – USHERING IN a new, glorious age that shall last for all eternity!

This morning I want to present to you—in a sense—a PROGRAM of what is in store (i.e., what remains in the grand design and purpose of the Lord). I want to cover (in chronological order) a broad outline of major happenings that will bring closure to the world/life as we know it. Scripture speaks in incredible detail to such happenings!

Q. Do you really think God is going to allow things to go on like this forever? NO, He is not!

God speaks prophetically to what is to come THROUGH the infallible, inerrant and inspired Word!

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (SLIDE)

The first item I want to identify is what we call ‘the Blessed Hope’ or the ‘RAPTURE’ of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is—in my biblical opinion—the next major element of Scripture to be fulfilled...

Q. What am I referring to? What is it that we believe concerning the Rapture?

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord. This is the imminent (i.e., it could happen at any moment in time) and blessed hope of the church.

Q. What does this theologically-dense statement mean/reveal?

It means a time is coming when Christ shall literally appear to GATHER the Church unto Himself.

-Christians WHO HAVE DIED through the ages will be resurrected unto life eternal. Their spirits (which now abide in heaven with God) will be reunited with a reformed, resurrected body. Thus, graves will literally open and bodies long-subject to death and decomposition will be perfected!

-Christians WHO ARE ALIVE when the Lord returns in this fashion will be immediately translated (i.e., their bodies will be glorified and forever beyond death) and they—along with their resurrected brethren—shall meet the Lord in the air (returning with Him to heavenly glory).

We are talking about a MASS EXODUS of Christians throughout space & time from this planet!

KEY – I know it might sound like a FAIRY TALE (and a Virgin Birth doesn’t), but the Word speaks...

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:50–52

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Q. is this the same as the Second Coming of Christ? No, IT IS NOT!

Theologians DISTINGUISH between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ (which we will shortly note). During the RAPTURE, Christ will appear IN THE AIR to collect His people, subsequently returning to glory in heaven. During the SECOND COMING, Christ will set foot again UPON THE EARTH and establish His kingdom on the earth in a dramatic way.

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD (SLIDE)

Next on the PROGRAM of end-time events is something known as the TRIBULATION PERIOD.

NOTE 1 – The Tribulation Period is a future SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and execute judgment on the unbelieving world. The Church, made up of all who have trusted in the Person/Work of Christ will NOT be present during the Tribulation Period (having been saved from this time of wrath at the RAPTURE).

NOTE 2 – This period is referred to by many names: a) the Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6-9; Joel 1:15; 2:1-31; 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2); b) trouble or tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30; Zephaniah 1:1); c) time or day of trouble (Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15); d) time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7); e) the great tribulation, which refers to the more intense second half of the seven-year period (Matthew 24:21);

NOTE 3 – This will be the span of time in which the HAPPENINGS of the Book of REVELATION will occur, including but NOT limited to the operation of the Antichrist, the False Prophet, horrific earthly sufferings (e.g., war, famine, pestilence), the Battle of Armageddon, etc. It will be a time of exceedingly great difficulty and tumult (such as the world has never known). This verse from Mark 13 indicates the horror that will CHARACTERIZE this seven-year block of time...

Mark 13:20

20 If the Lord had not cut short those days [i.e., limiting it to seven years], no one would survive.

NOTE 4 – This will also be a time of great spiritual activity and salvation as well, wherein MANY will come to trust in Christ (likely through the ministry of the Two Witnesses and the 144,000), though many will be MARTYRED during such perilous times at the hands of the Antichrist!

KEY – So much more could be said about this period of time. From time to time, experts in the field like Ginger will do a walkthrough of such a topic (special workshops). Avail yourself of them! For further reference, consider Revelation 4–19a and much of the Book of Daniel (7, 9, 12).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (SLIDE)

Next on the PROGRAM of end-time events is something known as the SECOND COMING of Christ.

KEY – That Christ WILL RETURN is noted continually throughout Scripture. It shall come to pass!

Acts 1:10–11

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

NOTE – We must note that the MANNER and PURPOSE of the Second Coming of Christ will be vastly different from that of His First Coming (Advent). In the First Coming, Christ arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In His Second Coming, Jesus will arrive in heavenly splendor! In His First Coming He operated as the Suffering Servant. At His Second Coming, He will Return as a Conquering King. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TEXTS...

Hebrews 9:28

28 . . . Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Matthew 24:29–30

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days [i.e., Tribulation Period]

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Revelation 19:11–16

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

KEY – Scripture even gives us the LOCATION of this Return to planet earth!

Zechariah 14:4

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS – Several SIGNIFICANT items will take place upon His Return:

1) Judgment of the Antichrist and False Prophet

Revelation 19:19–20

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

2) The Temporary Binding of Satan

Revelation 20:1–3

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

3) The Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints

Revelation 20:4--6

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

NOTE – This is a LIKELY time for the Resurrection/Glorification of Old Testament saints.

4) The Restoration of Israel

At this time, national ISRAEL (which has for so long rejected Christ) shall come to a place of sincere repentance and faith. The Jewish people shall be RESTORED to the Lord, and their season of spiritual blindness, discipline and judgment shall come to an END.

Zechariah 12:10; 13:1

10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

NOTE – Unlike the Tribulation Saints who were resurrected and glorified, these restored Jews shall remain in PHYSICAL bodies for a time! Keep this in mind as we move on!

5) The Judgment of the Nations

Recorded in Matthew 25 – The Wicked WILL BE CONDEMNED. The Righteous shall be BLESSED. The nations shall stand before Christ. The wicked (at His left) will be destroyed and banished to torment. The righteous shall be allowed to enter into something blissful (which we’ll cover NEXT)!

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (SLIDE)

Following the Return of Christ, Christ shall establish a 1,000-year reign over this earth. He shall rule and reign for this allotted period of time, ushering in an age of GREAT glory and blessing!

Revelation 20:1–5

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They[a] had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Isaiah 9:6–7

6 For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace
 there will be no end.
 He will reign on David's throne
 and over his kingdom,
 establishing and upholding it
 with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.
 The zeal of the Lord Almighty
 will accomplish this.

Q. What will things be like with Jesus ruling over the earth and Satan bound?**Micah 4:1–4**

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 peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the temple of the God of Jacob.
 He will teach us his ways,
 so that we may walk in his paths."
 The law will go out from Zion,
 the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples
 and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
 They will beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks.
 Nation will not take up sword against nation,
 nor will they train for war anymore.

4 Everyone will sit under their own vine
 and under their own fig tree,
 and no one will make them afraid,
 for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

Isaiah 11:1–10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9 They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Q. Who shall populate the earth this 1,000-year reign?

-Glorified OT-Age Saints

-Glorified NT-Age Saints

-Glorified Trib. Martyrs

-Those righteous Jews and Gentiles who physically survived the Tribulation Period! However, they shall have extended life-spans (cf. Isaiah 65:20). One who dies at a hundred—mere child...

NOT the wicked. This period will begin ONLY WITH THE RIGHTEOUS!

THE POST-MILLENNIAL INTERVAL (SLIDE)

There will be some brief happenings FOLLOWING the conclusion of the 1,000-year Reign of Christ.

Revelation 20:7–9

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves.

1) The Release of Satan

Remember, Satan was NOT cast into the Lake of Fire at the Return of Christ, as was the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Rather, he was temporarily BOUND. Following the Millennial Reign of Christ, he will be released for a time. WHAT WILL HE DO? Go right back to his antics!

2) The Final Rebellion

Satan will successfully lead one final revolt against God and His people. WHO will he deceive?

- NOT the glorified OT-age saints
- NOT the glorified NT-age saints
- NOT the glorified Trib. Martyrs
- NOT those faithful Jews and Gentiles who endured into the Millennium (natural bodies).

Rather, he WILL deceive those born to natural parents DURING the millennium. Though a great many people will have enjoyed centuries of bliss and harmony with Christ as King, many will still choose to ABANDON Him in the end. This reveals something terrible about humanity!

These people who give in to Satan’s deceptions shall follow him in one FINAL ACT OF REBELLION.

Q. HOW does it turn out?

Revelation 20:9b–10

But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

NOTE – Though Scripture does NOT explicitly say, it is LIKELY at this point those righteous who died during the millennium will be glorified (like the OT, NT, and Trib. Martyrs). At this point, EVERY RIGHTEOUS PERSON who has ever lived during any era will be perfected and glorified!

They are READY TO ENTER INTO THE FINAL STATE OF THINGS...but we’re NOT there yet!

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (SLIDE)

Before we enter the final state of things, the lost throughout time must BE FINALLY dealt with.

At this point, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, the Devil and those he deceived from the Millennium are all cast into the eternal lake of fire. But what of the rest of the wicked dead whose bodies are still in the grave and whose souls are in hades (hell)?

Revelation 20:11–15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

KEY 1 – At this point, every human who has EVER lived in rebellion to God will stand before Him in judgment. Like believers, they shall be resurrected from death, only to enter into the second death: ETERNAL suffering in the lake of fire.

KEY 2 – Thus, EVERY human who has ever lived is prepared for the FINAL state of things. Some will be forever confined to eternal SUFFERING. The righteous will come to know the eternal BLISS of the New Heavens and the New Earth!

THE NEW HEAVENS & THE NEW EARTH (SLIDE)

NOTE – The existing heavens and earth (material universe) will be consumed. God will FOREVER REMOVE the taint and stain of sin by destroying the universe and earth AS WE HAVE known it.

2 Peter 3:10, 12b–13

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

. . . That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

KEY – Thus, a way will be made for the NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

Revelation 21–22:5

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [1,400 miles] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits [200 feet] thick. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

CONCLUSIONS

KEY – Thus, our program—the program of God—is complete. Herein, you have a bird's eye view of things yet to come. Make no mistake...these things SHALL come to pass as the WORD declares.

There shall be a...

- Rapture of the Saints
- 7-Year Tribulation Period
- Second Coming of J. Christ
- Millennial Reign of Christ
- White Throne Judgment
- New Heavens/Earth

Q. How should we conclude this teaching? I feel a response to the words of Christ are pertinent:

Revelation 21:12, 14–15, 17b, 20

12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. . . . 14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

17 . . . Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.