

*CALLED  
TO*

# ACT

*FOLLOWING JESUS IN TODAY'S CULTURE*

*CULTURE FOLLOWING  
JESUS IN  
TODAY'S*



As followers of Jesus in today's culture, we  
assume we have the options to:

- Pretend
- Ignore
- Hope

**Instead, the Savior Called us to ACT**



# Followers of Jesus are Called to ACT as...

- Subjects of the King (Leviticus 19)
- Fishers of Men (Matthew 4)
- Makers of Disciples (Matthew 28)



Last week...

# Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 3



For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians 3:20-21

\*I don't have to reject or ignore my earthly citizenship – my earthly citizenship should reflect my heavenly citizenship

\*Live like you are there even when you are here



# How do followers of Jesus live on earth as citizens of Heaven?

## Remember...

- God is Creator and King, not an American
- God is not Republican or Democrat or Independent
- God loves the world, including America
- God loves the world, not just America
- God loves the world, so He gave Jesus
- God loves America, so He gave Jesus
- If we love America, we should give Jesus



This week...

# Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5



Now He who prepared us for this very purpose [to be with God in heaven after physical death] is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge [ἀρραβών arrabon “down payment”]. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body [living in mortal bodies on earth] we are absent from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight—

2 Corinthians 5:5-7



for we walk by faith,  
not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

\*To live in light of ultimate rather than immediate realities (Romans 8:24–25), to be obedient to God's commands despite the hardships that obedience produces (2 Corinthians 11:23–29).

-Bible Knowledge Commentary



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we are of good courage, I say, and prefer  
rather to be absent from the body and to be  
at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

Courage **θαρρέω** *tharrheo*

to be of good courage, to be of good cheer, to be bold

Home with the Lord... our citizenship is in heaven



Last week...

**What does heaven look like?**

Revelation chapters 21-22



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

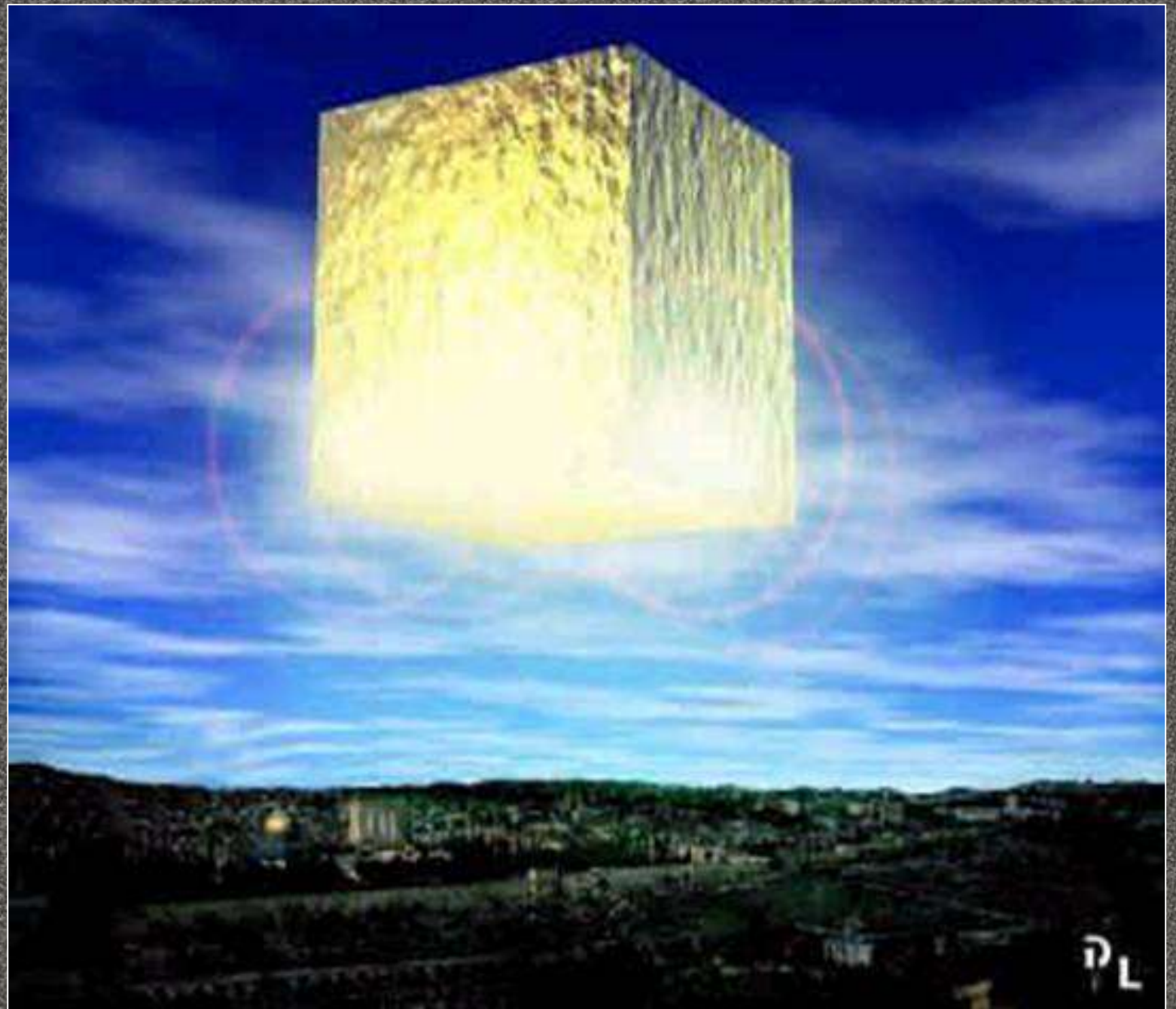
Revelation 21:1-4



And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. Revelation 21:10-16



Revelation 21:2  
“I saw the Holy City,  
the new Jerusalem”





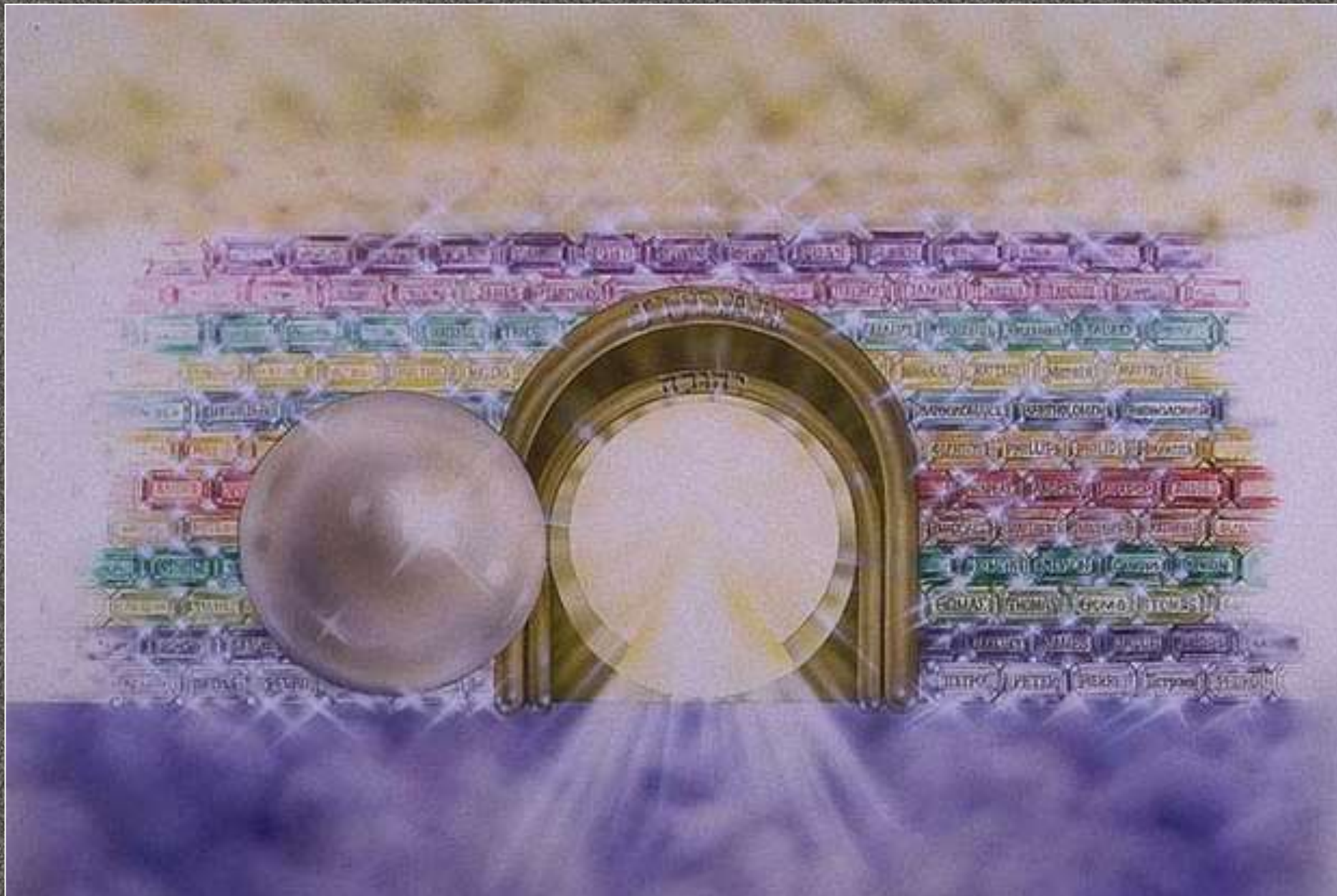
And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. Revelation 21:17-23



Walls of Heaven

The foundations  
of the city

Revelation  
21:12-14 and  
Revelation  
21:19-20





Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:1-5



City of Gold  
through the gate  
of the eternal  
city

Revelation  
21:21-27 and  
Revelation 22:1-6



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Therefore we also have as our ambition,  
whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to  
Him. For we must all appear before the  
judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be  
recompensed for his deeds in the body,  
according to what he has done, whether good or  
bad. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

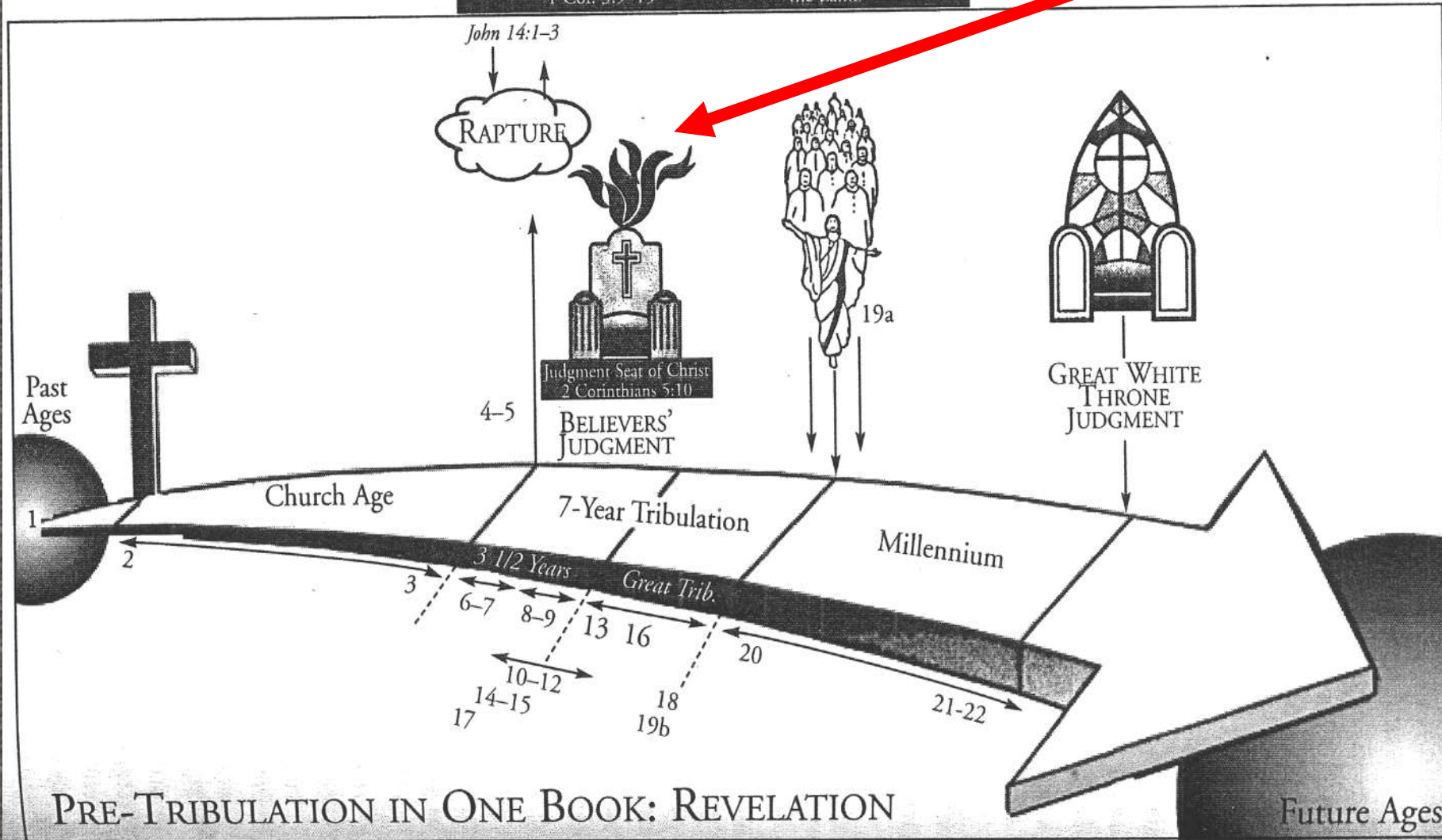
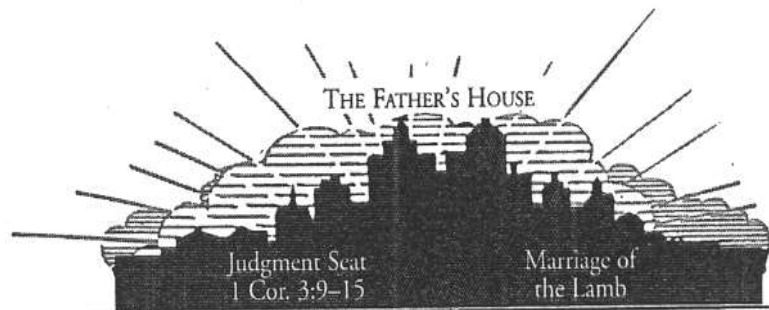
\*In the America of today, how can followers of Jesus be pleasing  
[εὐάρεστος *euarestos* well pleasing, acceptable] to God?



# New Testament age believers in the Savior Jesus

- After death, believers immediately go to Paradise
- **παράδεισος** [paradeisos] had the original meaning of “garden” or “hunting ground”
- And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:42-43
- “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.” 2 Corinthians 12:2-4





PRE-TRIBULATION IN ONE BOOK: REVELATION

Future Ages



# The Judgment Seat of Christ does not determine one's salvation

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10



# The Judgment Seat of Christ does evaluate a person's earthly deeds

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.” Colossians 3:23-25



# The Judgment Seat of Christ does evaluate a person's earthly deeds

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:11-15



Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord [we will all stand before a holy God someday], we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 2 Corinthians 5:11-13

\*Only a person who was utterly devoted to God would show so little regard for himself



**For the love** [ἀγάπη *agape*... unconditional, benevolent love] **of Christ**  
**controls** [συνέχω *sunecho*... to hold together, to hold completely] **us...**

2 Corinthians 5:14a

Is this true in our lives?

What really controls us?

It should be the love of Christ.

Not the guilt of Christ

Not the professional advancement of Christ

Not the selfish desires of Christ



For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all [not just the “elect”], so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16



# What happens when we meet the Savior?

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature [Jesus said “born again” to Nicodemus in John 3:3]; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- **“New” is Greek adjective *καινός kainos***
  - **Definitions:** that which has come into being and was not previously present, new as to form or quality, of different nature, new in quality not just in sequence
  - **Paul did NOT use Greek adjective *νέος neos* which means “recent, updated, young”**
  - *Kainos* is new in kind and in contrast to what previously existed, so taking the place thereof. In that sense *kainos* looks backward, while its synonym *neos* looks forward. *Kainos* is equivalent to “not yet having been”; *neos* is “not having long been”



# America is a disunited, conflicted society

**THE TIMES**  
 Thursday November 5 2020 | thetimes.co.uk | No 73309  
 £2 £1.50 to subscribers  
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**A nation divided**  
**Best analysis of the US election**  
 DANIEL FINKELSTEIN • DAVID CHARTER • HENRY ZEFFMAN • News, pages 4-13

**The top law firms for 2021**  
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## America holds its breath

● Biden ahead in closest contest for 20 years ● Trump accuses rival of trying to steal votes ● Republican legal challenges mount

David Charter, Henry Zeffman  
 Washington

Joe Biden was inching towards the presidency last night in the closely fought US election as counting continued despite a premature claim of victory from Donald Trump.

Mr Biden said yesterday afternoon that he believed he had won. "I'm not here to declare that we've won, but I am here to report that when the count is finished we believe we will be the winners," he said.

He had urged his supporters to "keep the faith" and wait patiently for the highest percentage turnout in 120 years to be tallied, while Mr Trump blamelessly alleged "major fraud on our nation".

**Electoral college count\***

<b>253</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>BIDEN</b>	<b>TRUMP</b>

**137.4m** votes cast, a record

**66.9%** turnout, highest for 120 years

\*2020 GMT

and threatened to go to the Supreme Court.

A day after the polls closed, the fate of the presidency rested in five battleground states feverishly grappling with a huge increase in postal votes, while the Trump campaign launched a series of legal moves to delay the final result. In Pennsylvania and Michigan his lawyers demanded that counting be halted and in Wisconsin they demanded a recount. Mr Biden was projected to win in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The election was much closer than opinion polls forecast but the record number of votes followed an expected pattern, with an early lead for Mr Trump, 24, from election-day votes ended by Mr Biden, 72, as more postal votes were counted. A higher number of postal votes were requested by registered Democrats than by Republicans.

American life seemed to be on hold for 24 hours as the nation and the world waited to see whether the extraordinary presidency of Mr Trump would continue for another four years or he would be replaced by the oldest man to stand for the White House. Mr Trump claimed without evidence that the election was being stolen from him. "We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election," he said in a tweet. The message was immediately flagged as potentially misleading by Twitter.

He added: "Last night I was leading, often solely, in many key States, in almost all instances Democrat was & controlled. Then, one by one, they started to magically disappear as surprise ballot dumps were counted. VERY STRANGE, and the 'pollsters' got it completely & historically wrong!"

Election analysts and state officials concluded that the lead changed hands in Mr Biden's favour because of the length of time needed to process records of legally received postal votes. Democrats said that their lawyers were ready to take on any attempts by Mr Trump's lawyers to block remaining postal votes. The US postal service reported that it processed 91.3 per cent of postal ballots on election day, meaning that potentially tens

**Low? Are you kidding? Donald Trump questioned the swing towards Joe Biden in postal voting as his campaign demanded a recount in Wisconsin, a crucial state**

of millions of votes were still being counted. Mr Trump's lawyers argued that the election was being stolen from him and that the results were illegitimate. They demanded a recount in Wisconsin, a crucial state.

Mr Biden's campaign said that he had won the election and that the results were legitimate. He said that he would accept the results and that he would work to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

The election was a historic one, with a record number of people voting. It was also a close one, with the margin of victory being very narrow. The results were a surprise to many people, as Mr Trump was widely expected to win.

The election was a reflection of the deep divisions in American society. It was a battle between two very different visions of the country. Mr Trump represented a vision of a more conservative, more traditional America. Mr Biden represented a vision of a more progressive, more inclusive America.

The election was a test of the American democratic system. It showed that the system was still working, even in the face of a determined effort to undermine it. It showed that the American people were still committed to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

The election was a moment of great significance for the United States. It was a moment that would shape the course of the country for years to come. It was a moment that would define the American people and the American dream.

**The Washington Post**  
 November 4, 2020

## A nation divided

TIGHT RACE, HIGH TURNOUT REFLECT PARTISAN SPLIT OVER CRISES

Democrat	Rep	Electoral	Pres	Dem	Rep	U.S. House	Senate
11	11	42	219	174	164	11	137

**Trump holds Fla., but other key states may take days**

As Postal Service Tallyes Results, Joe Biden Leads

The presidential election in a nation divided by the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic fallout from the crisis was held on Wednesday morning, with Joe Biden leading Donald Trump in the electoral college. Biden's lead was narrow, but he was projected to win the White House.

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**CLICKOVER FROM TOP: Voters line up early in Chandler, Pa., where the average wait time was two hours. President Trump visits his campaign headquarters in Arlington, Va. And Democratic vice-presidential pick Joe Biden addresses supporters at his headquarters in Wilmington, Del.**



# What does a disunited, conflicted society need?

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

**καταλλάσσω *katallasso*** “return to favor with, be reconciled”



# Reconciliation

1. Jesus earned our reconciliation with the Father by His death on the cross
2. We are offered reconciliation with God by faith in Jesus the Savior
3. After we receive reconciliation from God, we offer forgiveness (emotion) and seek reconciliation (action)
4. Reconciliation follows repentance
5. Reconciliation is part of God's eternal plan

\*The future of the Jewish race depended on Joseph and his brothers being reconciled ("preserve" in Genesis 45:7)

\*Our future in heaven is dependent on us being reconciled to God by faith



Do you need to reconcile  
with someone else?

Are you ready to be  
reconciled to God?



**When a nation needs to be reconciled to God, the Heavenly Father chooses people for a mission**

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20



# What is an ambassador?

πρεσβεύω *presbeuo*

An ambassador is the President's highest-ranking representative to a specific nation or international organization abroad. An effective ambassador has to be a strong leader—a good manager, a resilient negotiator, and a respected representative of the United States. <https://diplomacy.state.gov/diplomacy/what-are-the-roles-of-a-diplomat/>

An ambassador is an official envoy, especially a high-ranking diplomat who represents a state and is usually accredited to another sovereign state or to an international organization as the resident representative of their own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambassador>



Interview with  
**Danny Ayalon**  
Israeli Ambassador  
to the  
United States from  
2002 until 2006





# Reminders for Ambassadors

- Act as a representative from “we” to “they”
- Make friends/relationships... develop partnerships
- When you have to call out wrongs/lies... you still need to be diplomatic
- The job is to make others feel good about your cause



# Questions that Ambassadors must answer

- Who are you representing?
  - Not yourself or your favorite cause
- What are you representing?
  - The will and wishes of the leader
- How are you representing?
  - As if He Himself were speaking



# Reminders for Ambassadors

- The boss picks you
- Know the boss well
- You must go public
- You speak on behalf of the boss

\*What would your boss want you to help people understand? See the next verse.



He [God the Father] made Him [God the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16
- But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- \*The heartbeat of Ambassadors for Christ is reconciliation with God



# The Assignment for Ambassadors for Christ

- Receive the gift of salvation by faith
- Go public with your spiritual story
- Speak as if Jesus is speaking
- Explain to others how they may receive the gift of reconciliation with God

**Are you ready for the mission?**



# Heal our Land

We pray for your great healing on our land. Shine your face on us dear God. We need you now, more than ever before. Our times are in your hands. Thank you that you are rich in mercy and full of grace. Thank you that you are forgiving and merciful. Thank you that you are strong and mighty. Thank you that you are for us and that you fight for us still today. Bring honor to your Name, Oh Lord, for You alone are worthy. - Debbie McDaniel



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