

MSB264

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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LAYING UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

By David R. Hetteema

A big progressive step in faith is taken when the one seeking truth takes God at His Word concerning the fact that the earth, not heaven is the future home of God's redeemed. When this realization takes place we'll find that our faith is supported by many Biblical prophecies concerning the earthly kingdom of God. This earth is where God's promise of eonian life will be lived out by the "whosoever" of John 3:16 who have believed in God's only begotten Son. Hear the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:5; **"Blessed are the submissive for they shall inherit the earth,"** He also confirms the writings of the inspired Psalmist David found in Psalms: Psalm 37: 9; ...**"those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth,"** Psalm 37:11; and ...**"The meek (submissive ones) shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace,"** Psalm 37: 22; **"For such as be blessed by Him shall inherit the earth."**... These words are God's affirmation that the earth is mankind's future home.

Howbeit, the one who believes what God has said about earth's future should also be aware of some troubling passages in the Scriptures, verses that seem, at first glance to contradict the fact that earth is mankind's future home. For instance: Someone might ask, "If heaven is not our future home then why did the Lord tell us to "lay up treasures in heaven"? (Matt. 6: 20). And what about other statements such as "your reward is great in heaven" (Luke 6: 23), "your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10: 20), or "the hope that is laid up for you in heaven"? (Col. 1:5).

In eleven similar passages we are advised to do works that lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. Then we are informed that **"there is an inheritance...reserved in heaven for you."** See also Matt. 5: 12, 19:21. Add to these Luke 18:22, Phil.3:20 and Heb 10:34

If you do look up and read these references you will discover that in every

occurrence listed, the Holy Spirit uses the word "heaven" to describe the repository of our "treasures" (our works). We are told also that our names are recorded in "heaven," thus we can rightfully conclude, that at some future accounting we will have claim to these treasures that we have been laying up in "heaven."

The word heaven is a reverent synonym for God. In the lost Son parable (Luke 15: 21), when returning to his Father, the Son confesses reverently "I have sinned against Heaven (God) and before you." Matthew in writing his Gospel consistently uses the reverent synonym heaven to describe God's government as the "the kingdom of heaven," while the other Gospel writers use the term the "kingdom of God."

EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED HAS AN ACCOUNT WITH GOD

The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works (Ps. 33:13-15). And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (Heb 4:13).

Our God is omniscient, all knowing. But He has also made plain through His Word that He can choose to know something as well as to choose not to know something, as He determines to know or not to know. Humans cannot do this, but God can. For example; When God in Christ brings His people Israel into the bond of the New Covenant, He says of them **"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more."** No accuser, not even Satan can bring up the things that God has forgotten. But the other side of God's omniscience is that when He chooses, He can know to the last detail everything of a man's life. **For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil (Eccl 12:14).**

With these facts before us, it becomes apparent that all men do have an ongoing account with God. Each individual has a personal record, somewhat like a data bank containing all our credits and debits with God in heaven, a fact that is awesome when we recognize that a day is coming when everyone's account will be audited. While we live we can add to our records, but after death there will be an accounting as we are told;

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (Heb 9:27). Because God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31).

The Father has committed all judgment to the Son, the Son in Whom the Father is well pleased. Jesus Christ will set the order for all of the children of men, both the living and the dead. **For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father** (John 5:22-23).

That appointed time of judgment begins on the day when God unveils Jesus Christ to the nations of the world, the *apokalupsin*, see Isa. 25: 7-8. **For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works** (Matt 16:27).

God's Spirit will be poured out upon the earth with great skill and strength, touching everything and changing everything bringing the promise of righteous judgment and justice to all the nations upon a curse-free earth.

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word (Ps 103:19-20). **I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom** (2 Tim 4:1).

THE PRESENT POPULATION OF THE EARTH IS OVER SIX BILLION PEOPLE

It is impossible for any human to even begin to comprehend the enormous task that God in Christ will undertake. He will first judge (set the order for) everyone of the six billion living upon the earth. We can assume that while He deals with the living, many of His *ekklesia* are being raised from the dead who will have an important place in this earth's government. From that day on, resurrection will restore to life all those among the dead that are worthy to have a portion in the kingdom of God. **Those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead ...**(Luke 20:35). In Isaiah 42: 1-4 God the Father speaks well of His beloved Son who has this great responsibility and the authority to accomplish His work: **"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Nations. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.**

A bruised reed He will not break and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law."

It is important to recognize from the scriptures, that due to Adam's sin, the penalty of death and dying are inherent in every one of Adam's descendents, a fact that continues to be true today. The other side of that awful truth is that, when our God in Christ assumes His sovereignty in this earth, death and the state of death will be under our Lord's control. In His death and resurrection He has purchased a new life in resurrection for all men. There will be a set order (time) of resurrection for every man determined by Jesus Christ, the one who is "The Resurrection and the Life." Whatever their order might be, when an individual's time comes, "the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live." Resurrection is God's gift of restored life in a new body, much like Adam enjoyed at his creation, without sin or death working in it. Resurrection gives the one raised a clear thinking mind, fully aware of life's new surroundings in a beautiful curse-free earth, but also an awareness that all must stand in judgment regarding their personal account with God. A judgment that will determine whether the new life will continue into eonian life in the kingdom of God, or be terminated because of an individual's sin and unbelief. **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad** (2 Cor 5:10).

The "Judge of all the Earth" is also the "King of all the Earth." **For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ... For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (Rom 14:9-12)

There will be many who read this pamphlet who at some point in their lives while considering what God's Word says to them, have responded in faith to become believers in Jesus Christ. An act of faith toward God brings complete forgiveness, God in Christ wipes the sin account clean **"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting (eonian) life, and shall not come into (adverse) judgment, but has passed from death into life** (John 5:24-25). **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit** (Rom 8:1).

Yes, believers also will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, believers will readily bow the knee and confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our salvation, the rock upon which we build our faith. In the judgment described in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, it is not the believer that is on trial but the works that we have built upon that foundation of our faith. The determination of "what have you done with that which I have given you?"

This foundation. . . Let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Cor

3:10-15).

The dying thief on the cross had no time to build on that foundation, no time to lay up treasures in heaven. Those that have had many years to add treasure to their account are wise if they are finding it in the truth of God's Word. **The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.** (Ps 12:6).

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