

Bible Study Notes

What will YOU be like in the Resurrection?



v1.0

Assembled by C White

*“As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness:
I shall be satisfied, when I awake [in the resurrection], with Thy likeness”
(Ps 17:15. see too Job 14:14-15; IJohn 3:2)*

Waiting for the Resurrection

“If He set His heart upon man, if He gather unto Himself his spirit and his breath;

All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust” (Job 34:14-15. See also Is 40:7-8).

But, according to Psalm 16:11:

“At Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

And in ICor 2:9:

“But as it is written, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” ” (cp Rom 8:18).

“They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house;

And Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures.

For with Thee is the fountain of life: [cp Rev 22:1; 21:6; John 7: 37-39; 4:10; Is 12:2-3]

“In Thy **light** shall we see light” (Ps 38:8-9)

Resurrection to glory

“There are also celestial [ie heavenly or divine] bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the **glory** of the celestial is one, and the **glory** of the terrestrial is another.

There is one **glory** of the sun, and another **glory** of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in **glory**: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body [see John 3:5; 12:24; Rom 6:5; Mark 4:30-32]

“ ... And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (verses 42-44, 49)

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the **glory** of the Lord, are changed into the same **image** from **glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor 3:18).

Actually, glory – especially God’s glory - is mentioned so frequently in scripture that sometimes we tend to read over them. See for instance Is 40:5; Col 1:11; Heb 2:9; John 17:5,22 etc. It is associated with power, light, a shining appearance and pure holiness. What is “glory” anyway? In the English language it

means a thing of beauty and magnificence, fame and honour as we have seen. As such that which is glorious deserves praise and rejoicing in. Similarly, in the Hebrew it means beauty, comeliness, honour, majesty, splendour, rich; while the Greek has the meaning of praiseworthy, dignity, honour, worship.



The glory of the Sombrero galaxy taken with an infrared camera

As Christians are destined to inherit, as offspring, the Father's very glory, we shall be filled with holiness, brightness, cleanliness, perfection, righteousness and radiate light. As such we will fulfill what it means to be glorified.

How similar to the quote in Meldaus's book (referred to below) about the differences in glory in the heavenly realm. So it is in the spiritual realm within the angelic kingdom and shall be with us at the resurrection.

We are called to glory and partakers of the very divine nature of God Himself (II Pet 1:3-4), Christians must develop holy, righteous character by the inculcation of the Laws of God, beatitudes and the fruits of the spirit (Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 15:49-50; Col 3:10) and become holy, pure in heart (Prov 23:7) just like God, but in miniature form:

What is 'glory'?

The Dictionary of Imagery explains this concept:

"Glory is one of the master images that helps to tell the story of the Bible ... **Glory includes splendor, beauty, magnificence, radiance and rapture.** In the Bible it is primarily a quality ascribed to God and places of his presence, including places of worship and heaven ... Glory is an image of divine transcendence as it makes itself visible to people ... The NT boldly identifies Jesus as glory ... The NT eschatological visions share with the OT ones and emphasis on the motif of future glory ...

"Glory is one of the great positive images of the Bible, the language of the mystic and of the believing heart that has glimpsed the greatness of God. It is paradoxically a divine quality that is remote from human finitude and yet is held out to believers as something they will share." (pages 330-331) (emphasis mine)

That term is perhaps illuminated best in FJ Meldaus's work *Why we believe in Creation, not in Evolution*. Under the heading "The Continuous Display of a surpassing Glory" (pages 60-61) he writes:

“A look into the night sky is a fascinating sight; this inherent **glory** of the skies is greatly enhanced by the discoveries of modern Astronomy. When viewed in a telescope, the colour of stars become decidedly more pronounced. As a matter of fact, many stars glow with a brilliance more dazzling than a cut and polished gem. The difference in colour in stars is due to their temperature! Very hot stars are blue-white or white, colder ones are orange or red. Through the telescopes many stars can be seen as green, orange, violet, pink, and many other colours. It is a most inspiring spectacle!

“Here are some wonder of the heavens.

“In the constellation Aquarius is a magnificent globular cluster of stars like a swarm of glittering bees. Not far away (on a stay photograph that is) is a lovely pale blue Nebula.

“The star Beta Ononis is a prodigious sun having a luminosity 13,000 time that of our Sun. The chief star in Canes Venatici is seen through a telescope to be actually two great suns, one yellow and the other a gorgeous lilac.

“As you know, stars are classified according to their brightness; the brighter being those of the first magnitude or less. Those which are just visible, without the aid of a telescope, are the sixth magnitude. A first magnitude star is 100 times as bright as one of the sixth magnitude. Stars of the 22nd magnitude have been photographed by larger telescopes. Think of what marvels are to be seen in a cluster of 100,000 stars each a pinpoint of **glory** ... !” (emphasis mine)

Relevant scriptures:

“**Arise, shine; for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee** [metaphorically we shall emit light and truth; literally we shall shine with energy and power].

For, behold the darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people [both literally during the Day of the Lord and spiritually]: but the Lord shall arise upon thee.

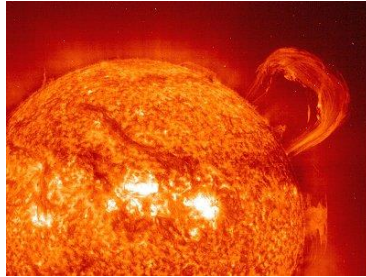
And the Gentiles shall come to thy **light**, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Is 60:1-3)

“And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and His voice was like a noise of many waters [cp 1:24; Rev 1:15; 14:2]: and **the earth shines with His glory**” (Ezek 43:2)

“For as the **lightning** [Gr means a light, ie the sun] cometh out of the east, and **shineth** over unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matt 24:27. See Rev 1:16; Hab 3:3-4; Hos 6:3; John 8:12)

“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath **shined**. Our God shall come and shall not keep silence. A **fire** shall devour before him” (Ps 50:2-3)

“For the Lord God is a **sun** and shield” (Ps 84:11)



The blazing sun – a type of God's glory

Sparkling, shimmering, shining – just like God!

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars [which are actually suns] for ever and ever” (Dan 12:2-3. See Mark 12:25)

“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt 13:43)

“And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt **shine** forth, thou shall be as the morning” (Job 11:17. See Job 14:14-15; 19:25-27; Rom 8:17; Col 3:4)

“...we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is” (IJohn 3:2; cp Col 3:3-4) [see what Christ is like in Rev 1:13-18; Matt 17:2,5,9; 24:27; Rev 21:23; Ezek 43:2; Is 60:1-3)

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and **the day star arise in your hearts**" (II Pet 1:19)

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the **image** of God, should **shine** unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the **light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts**, to give the light of the knowledge of the **glory** of God in the **face** of Jesus Christ ...

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the **glory** of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of **glory**;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor 4:4-6).

"But the path of the just is as the **shining light, that shineth** more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov 4:18. See Luke 1: 78-79).

"The Lord make His face to **shine** upon thee" (Num 6:25)

"The Lord ... **shined** forth from Mount Paran" (Deut 33:2)

"... upon whom doth not His **light rise**" (Job 25:3)

"Lord, lift Thou up the **light** of they countenance upon us" (Ps 4:6)

"The Lord is my **light**" (Ps 27:1)

"Make Thy face to **shine** upon Thy servant" (Ps 31:16)

"Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath **shined**" (50:2)

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to **shine** upon us" (67:1)

"Thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth ... cause Thy face to **shine** and we shall be saved" (80:1,3,7,19)

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; They shall walk, O Lord, in the **light** of they countenance [Heb = face]" (89:15)

"... the **light** of Thy countenance" (90:8)

"Make Thy face to **shine** upon Thy servant" (119:135)

"Cause Thy face to **shine**" (Dan 9:17)

God the Father, the Most High God, is called "the Father of lights" (James 1:17); while in I John we are told that "God is light" (1:5). He is the Father of lights because light literally exudes from Him; and Christians are meant to be a kind of extension of God - Again, this is no doubt both literal and metaphorical. In the New Jerusalem, we are told by John, that resurrected saints will be blessed and fortunate enough that they "**shall see His face**; ... And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord giveth them light" (Rev 21:4-5).

God, it is said, covers Himself “with light as with a garment” (Ps 104:2). This has nothing to do with the mystical nonsense of the evangelicals with their bizarre ideas such as the meaningless dribble that we will be staring into God's face for eternity. The meaning in Revelation is three-fold: firstly we will be able to actually see God for the first time, literally; we will be enabled to fully see or understand Him at that time as our communion with Him will be so close; and finally, it signifies His blessings being bestowed upon us.



An exciting new spiritual realm at the resurrection!

What is our Destiny?

“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?
Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. **Do not I fill heaven and earth?** saith the Lord” (Jer 23:23-24. See Ps 139:7-11).

All matter came from Him and all matter – the entire universe - can be extinguished and become part of His essence again: Notice what the old Worldwide Church of God taught:

“Man has the potentiality of becoming GOD! ... By the very fact that God, through man, is reproducing Himself, we know MAN, when his spiritual creation is completed, **shall actually become GOD!**” (*The Good News*, 9/79, article, “Your Children—FUTURE GODS?” p.4 – Herbert W Armstrong).

“WHY did the Creator God put MAN on the earth? For God's ultimate supreme purpose of reproducing himself—of recreating himself, as it were ... ultimately [resulting] in millions unnumbered... children who shall become God beings, members of the God family. ... The sole value of human life lies in ... the potential of being... **born of very GOD, a child in the God Family**” (*Mystery of the Ages*, 1st ed. 1985, pp.102-103, 111 – Herbert W Armstrong).

“Consider why God created mankind in the first place! God is reproducing Himself through man! He is creating in man God's own perfect holy and righteous spiritual character! And that, in turn, is purposed to restore the government of God over all the earth. And, further, to create billions of God beings to finish the creation of the vast unfinished universe! And, beyond that? Ah! God has not as yet revealed what he purposes beyond that!” (ibid. p.170).

“God is reproducing Himself! ... Anyone who joins the ‘church of his choice’ has not come into God’s true Church ... The very first portion of God’s spiritual

harvest of humans... made God Beings—is the Church! ... But we shall also be, as priests, co-saviors with him in saving the world... The Kingdom of God will be the God Family—a **superbly and highly trained and organized family of GOD BEINGS**” (ibid. pp.226, 229, 240, 270 – Herbert W Armstrong).

“You are offered a sonship in the Kingdom of God to teach other people **how to become God!**” (*Good News*, April/1961 - David Jon Hill).

“**Man was created to literally become God**” (*Tomorrow’s World*, May/1971 – Robert Kuhn).

“WE are to someday be ABOVE the angels, ABOVE the cherubim, the seraphim, and ABOVE the 24 elders seated about God's very throne! **WE ARE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD, TO BECOME GOD!**” (*Good News*, WCG, 12/57 – Garner Ted Armstrong).

Christ was resurrected as a forerunner of our resurrection and glorification (ICor 15:20-23; Rom 6:5; Gal 6:8; Phil 3:8-11):

“He reflects the **glory** of God and bears the very **stamp** [KJV “image”] of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.

For to what angel did God ever say, ‘Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee?’ Or again ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?’ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him’ ” (Heb 1:3-6, RSV).

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the **image** of Him that created him” (Col 3:10).

“For whom he did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the **image** of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom 8:29).

“And as we have borne the **image** of the earthy, we shall also bear the **image** of the heavenly” (ICor 15:49).

The original Greek for “image” or “stamp” is “charakter”. Thayer lists the following interpretations of the word (#5481):

1. The instrument used in engraving or carving;
2. A mark stamped upon that instrument; a mark or figure burned in; an impression; marked likeness; precise reproduction in every respect; facsimile; the peculiarity by which things are recognised and distinguished from each other (ie character).

In other words He became a replica or mirror of God in His perfect holy conduct while walking this earth, and fully upon resurrection: “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col 2:9). In 2Cor 4:4 and Col 1:15 Christ is again said to be the *image* of God. A different, but similar, word is used, “i-kone” which means an image, figure, likeness, visible conformity (Thayer #1504). See also John 14:8-11.

As such, we also will become replicas of God Himself – divine beings of the God Family.



A wonderful, beautiful future awaits you