

Things To Come

Notes by Franklin

- I. Living in the End Times page 2

- II. The Great Exodus of the Elect page 4

- III. The Tribulation page 7

- IV. Tribulation on the Earth but Celebration in Heaven: page 9
 - 1. The Judgment Seat of Christ. page 9
 - 2. The Marriage Supper of the LAMB page 10

- V. The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ page 10
 - 1. Believers in Heaven will return with Him page 11
 - 2. Beast & false prophet thrown into Lake of Fire page 11
 - 3. Satan bound for one thousand years page 11
 - 4. Believers reign with Him page 12

- VI. The Final Judgment – At the Throne of GOD page 13

- VII. The New Heaven and Earth page 14

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Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: **Ask Me about THE THINGS TO COME** concerning My sons, and you shall commit to Me the work of My hands. Isaiah 45:11

I. Living in the End Times:

Romans 13:11-14 **Knowing** what a critical hour this is, how it is high time for you to **wake up out of your sleep** (wake up to reality, spiritual reality). For salvation (final deliverance from this present evil age) is nearer to us now than when we first believed. (12) The night is far gone and **the day** (the Day of the Lord) **is almost here**. Let us then **throw off** the works and deeds of darkness and **put on the full armor of light**.

(13) Let us **live** and **conduct** ourselves **honorably** and becomingly as in the day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy.

(14) But **clothe yourself** with the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and **make no provision for indulging the flesh** - put a **STOP** to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature - to gratify its desires, lusts.

We are living in a time of spiritual warfare and we need to be like the sons of Issachar:

1 Chronicles 12:23 **Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war**, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD. (32) Of the sons of Issachar, men who **understood the times**, with **knowledge** of what Israel (God's people) should do.

- Soldiers, well trained, disciplined, focused on the goal, knew the Masters will, knew the enemies ways, totally committed, even unto death.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 **Know this**, that in the last days **perilous times** will come (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, incompatible, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; **Avoid such men as these**.

2 Peter 3:3-4 **Know this** first of all, that in the last days **mockers** will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, (4) and saying, "**Where is the promise of His coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Matthew 24:4-14 See to it that no one misleads you. (5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. (6) You will be hearing of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is **not yet the end**. (7) For **nation will rise against nation**, and **kingdom against kingdom**, and in various places there will be **famines** and **earthquakes**. (8) But all these things are merely **the beginning** of birth pangs. (9) Then they will **deliver you to tribulation**, and will **kill you**, and you will be **hated** by all nations because of My name. (this is and has been true of Israel for a long time and also of believers in Hindu and Islamic nations) (10) At that time **many will fall away** and will **betray one another** and **hate one another**. (11) Many **false prophets** will arise and will mislead many. (12) Because lawlessness is increased, most people's **love will grow cold**. (13) But **the one who endures** to the end, he **will be saved**. (14) This gospel of the kingdom **shall be preached** in the **whole world** as a testimony to **all the nations**, and **then the end will come**.

Matthew 24:33 **when you see all these things, recognize that HE IS NEAR, right at the door**.

Matthew 24:34 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

The above verses describe the times we are living in today.

We must realize and always remember that:

- We are **not** of the world, as Jesus was not of the world. (John 17:16)
- Our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:21)
- We are **strangers and pilgrims on the earth**. (Hebrews 11:13)
- We are **ambassadors for Christ**, in a foreign country. 2 Cor 5:20
- Our mission is to complete the mission that Jesus came to this world for:
 - To **seek** and to **save** the lost - Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20
 - To be **salt and light** – Matthew 5:13

By the signs of the times, it appears we are now standing at the door of the "last days." This period is known as the tribulation. However, before the tribulation begins, something wonderful happens.

II. The Great Exodus of the Elect

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our **gathering together to Him**, (2) that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **DAY OF THE LORD** has come.

They were living in such difficult times, the Thessalonians thought that the "*day of the Lord*" had come and they had missed "*our gathering together to Him*."

This points out that Paul's teaching was that believers would be "*caught up to Him*" before the "*day of the Lord*." And to explain to them that the "*day of the Lord*" had not yet come Paul explains:

Verses 3-4: Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of the Lord) will not come unless **the apostasy** (falling away) **comes first**,

1 Timothy 4:1-2 The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will **fall away** from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons (see 1 John 2:17-19; 2 Peter 2:20-22)

and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the **son of destruction**, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself **as being God**.

This had not happened and it is clear that before it does, the true believers will be "*gathered together to Him*."

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ - all the believers - WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE WORLD before the "*day of the Lord*" when great tribulation comes upon the earth.

Day of the Lord: Isaiah 13:6+; Ezekiel 30:3 ; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14; Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10

Matthew 24:37 For **the coming of the Son of Man** will be just like the days of **Noah**. (38) For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that **Noah entered the ark**, (before the judgment) (39) and they did not understand until **the flood came** and took them all away; **so will the coming of the Son of Man be**. (40) Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. (41) Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

Just like the days of Noah we should be preparing our ark:
By **faith** Noah, being **warned** by God about things not yet seen, in godly fear **prepared** an ark for the **salvation of his family**. Hebrews 11:7

NOAH and his FAMILY entered the Ark, the LORD closed the door, and they alone were protected by the LORD and escaped or were SAVED from the judgment, the tribulation.

They did see, go through, and experience the judgment, but from a safe place from which they "**endured to the end and were saved**".

Luke writes the same concerning Noah and then adds the following:

Luke 17:28-31 It was the same as happened in the days of **Lot**: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; (29) but **on the day that LOT WENT OUT from Sodom** it rained **fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all**. (30) **It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed**.

Remember – the LORD said he would not destroy Sodom if righteous men were there (Genesis 18:26-33). So for this final destruction the righteous will be taken out.

Genesis 19:29 Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, **and sent Lot out** of the midst of the **overthrow** (before it happened), when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

The Lord took His elect out of Egypt by the miraculous opening of the Red Sea before the judgment and plagues began in Egypt.

Therefore we understand the following verses to say all true believers will be **"taken out,"** referred to by some as the "rapture" **before** the great tribulation, (the word "rapture" is not in the Bible. It is the Latin word used to translate "caught up.")

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 For **if we believe** that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will **bring with Him** those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (believers that have died and have been with the Lord in spirit only). (15) 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep (died). (16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (resurrection of their bodies to be joined with their spirits). (17) Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore **comfort one another** with these words.

The passage continues: Chapter 5:1-11

Now **as to the times and the seasons**, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. (2) For you you know full well that the **day of the Lord** (the final great judgment) will come just like a thief in the night. (3) While **THEY** are saying, "Peace and safety!" then **destruction** will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and **THEY will not escape**. (4) But **YOU, BRETHREN, are not in darkness**, that the day would overtake **YOU** like a thief; (5) for **YOU** are **all sons of light** and sons of day. **We are not of night nor of darkness**; (6) . . . but let us be alert and sober. . . . (8) . . . having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For **GOD HAS NOT DESTINED US FOR WRATH**, (the wrath is this final judgment. Believers will not be around for it) **but for OBTAINING SALVATION** through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, **WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM**. (11) Therefore **encourage one another** and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 also speaks of this supernatural event: Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we** will not all sleep (not all die), but **we will all be changed**, (52) **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the**

last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead (the dead body of believers. Their spirit has been with the Lord. 2Cor.5:8) **will be raised imperishable, and we** (who are alive on earth) **will be changed**. (53) For this perishable (body) must put on the imperishable (resurrection body), and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about what is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

- These following verses will help explain the resurrection of the body: 1 Corinthians 15:42-45 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable **body**, it is raised an imperishable body; (43) it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; (44) it is sown **a natural body**, it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

At the sound of the trumpet – we will be *"caught up to meet the LORD in the air" "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."*
"And so we shall always be with the Lord."

III. THE TRIBULATION

Matthew 24:15-28 Therefore when you see the **Abomination of Desolation** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, let the reader understand, (16) then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. (17) Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. (18) Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. (19) But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! (20) But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. (21) For then there will be a **GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will**. (22) Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect (those who come to faith during the tribulation) those days will be cut short. (23) Then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ, or There He is, do not believe him. (24) For false christs and false prophets will arise and will show **great signs and wonders**, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. (25) Behold, I have told you in advance. (26) So if they say to you, Behold, He is in the wilderness, do not go out, or, Behold, He is in the inner rooms, do not believe them. (27) For just as the **lightning** comes from the east and **flashes** even to the west, **so will the coming of the Son of Man be**.

In other words – His coming will NOT BE MISSED BY ANYONE.

Revelation 13:2 And **the beast** which I saw was like a leopard . . .
(6) And he opened his mouth in **blasphemies against God**, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (7) It was also given to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**, and **authority** over **every tribe** and **people** and **tongue** and **nation** was given to him. (8) **All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. (9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear. . . (11) Then I saw **another beast** coming up out of the earth; . . . (12) He **exercises all the authority of the first beast** in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to **worship the first beast, WHOSE FATAL WOUND WAS HEALED**. (13) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. (14) And **he deceives** those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to **make an image to the beast** who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. (15) And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that **the image of the beast would even speak** and cause as many as **do not worship the image of the beast to be killed**. (16) And he causes **all**, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given **a mark on their right hand or on their forehead**, (17) and he provides that no **one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark**, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (18) Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is **six hundred and sixty-six**.

Revelation 14:9-13 **If anyone worships the beast and his image**, and **receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand**, (10) **he will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb**. (11) And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name. (12) Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

IV. Tribulation on the Earth but Celebration in Heaven:

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10 we will all stand before the **judgment seat of God**. (12) So then each one of us will **give an account** of himself to God.

The Judgment Seat of Christ is NOT an issue of being admitted to heaven. Sin has already been judged on the cross (Romans 8: 1-3). Only true Believers are there standing before the LORD. It is a matter of being REWARDED for our work as HIS servants.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must **all** appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ, so that **each one** may be **rewarded** for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 **each man's work** will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and **the fire** will **test the quality** of each man's work. (14) If any man's work which he has built on it **remains, he will receive a reward**. (15) If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved**, yet so as through fire.

REWARDS WILL BE HANDED OUT FOR:

1. Our labor in the Kingdom of planting and watering (1Cor.3:8)
2. Enduring persecution and insults for Jesus' sake (Mt.5:11-12)
3. Living righteously and not for show (Mt.6:1)
4. Giving to the poor and not for show (Mt.6:3-4)
5. Praying in secret (Mt.6:6)
6. Fasting in secret (Mt.6:18)
7. Receiving His ministers (Mt.10:41)
8. Giving anything even as simple as a cup of water (Mt.10:42)
9. Loving our enemies, doing good, lending (Luke 6:35)
10. Preaching the gospel (1Cor.9:16-18)
11. Whatever we do, doing it heartily as for the Lord (Col.3:23-24)
12. Counting the reproach of Christ the greatest value (Heb11:26)
- 13.

2 John 8 Watch yourselves, that **you do not lose what we have accomplished**, but that **you may receive a full reward**.

Revelation 22:12 Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and **My reward is with Me**, to give to every man according to what he has done.

We Will also Receive CROWNS:

1. For persevering under trial and loving Him (James 1:12)
2. Exercising self-control in all things (1Cor.9:25)
3. For those we have won and disciplined (1Thes.2:19)
4. For being faithful, finishing my race, loving HIM (2Tim4:7-8)

2. The Marriage Supper of the LAMB

Revelation 19:7-10 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb** has come and His bride has made herself ready. (8) It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) Then he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he said to me, These are true words of God.

V. THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 24:29-31 But **immediately after the tribulation** of those days the **sun will be darkened**, and the **moon will not give its light**, and the **stars will fall** from the sky, and the **powers of the heavens will be shaken**. (30) And then the sign of the **SON OF MAN** will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they **will see the SON OF MAN coming** on the clouds of the sky with **power** and **great glory**. (31) And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and **they will gather together His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

The elect here would be those of Israel and of the Gentiles that came to faith during the tribulation.

Revelation 19:11-21 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and **HE** who sat on it is called **FAITHFUL and TRUE**, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. (12) His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. (13) He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **THE WORD OF GOD**.

All Believers, His Church, His Bride, shall return with HIM.

(14) And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. (15) From His mouth comes a **sharp sword**, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and **He will rule them with a rod of iron**; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. (16) And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.

(19) And I saw **the beast** and the **kings of the earth** and their armies assembled to **make war against Him** who sat on the horse and against His army.

Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

(20) And **the beast was seized**, and with him **the false prophet** who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two **were thrown alive into the lake of fire** which burns with brimstone.

(21) And **the rest were killed** with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Satan is Bound for one thousand years

(20:1) Then I saw an **angel** coming down from heaven, holding the **key of the abyss** and a **great chain** in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the **devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years**; (3) and he **threw him into the abyss**, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, **until the thousand years were completed**; after these things he must be released for a short time.

(4) Then I saw **thrones**, and **they** sat on them (Rev.3:21), and **judgment was given to them**. And I saw the souls of those who had been **beheaded** because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had **not worshiped the beast** or his image, and had **not received the mark** on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life (their resurrection bodies raised) and **reigned with Christ for a thousand years**. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the **first resurrection**. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these **the second death has no power**, but **they** will be **priests** of God and of Christ and **will reign** with Him for a thousand years.

ALL BELIEVERS WILL REIGN WITH HIM:

Revelation 5:9-10 You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every **tribe** and **tongue** and **people** and **nation**. You have made them to be **a kingdom** and **priests** to our God; **and they will reign upon the earth**.

NOT ONLY FOR A THOUSAND YEARS BUT FOREVER:

Revelation 22:5 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**.

Our Time on earth is all for the Purpose of Preparing us for our Future Position of REIGNING With the LORD.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials
James 1:2

See the following parable Jesus told:

Luke 19:12-14 A nobleman (Jesus Christ) went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return (Jesus has returned to heaven). And he called ten (not all) of his slaves (you and me), and gave them ten minas (gifts & talents) and said to them, Do business with this until I come back. (15-19) When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him (the rapture) so that he might know what business they had done. The first appeared, saying, Master, your mina has made ten minas more. And he said to him, **Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over TEN cities**. The second came, saying, Your mina, master, has made five minas. And he said to him also, and **you are to be over FIVE cities**.

This Millennial Reign is known as THE DAY OF THE LORD.

2 Peter 3:8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is like a thousand years**, and a thousand years like one day.

VI. The Final Judgment – At the Throne of GOD

2 Peter 2:5 **He preserved Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others

(7-8) and if **He rescued righteous Lot**, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (8) for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds

(9-10) then the Lord knows how to **rescue the godly** from temptation, and to keep the **unrighteous** under punishment for the **day of judgment**, (10) and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.

2 Peter 3:7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for **fire**, kept for the **day of judgment and destruction** of ungodly men. . . . (10) But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the **heavens will pass away** with a roar and **the elements will be destroyed** with **intense heat**, and the earth and its works **WILL BE BURNED UP**. (11) Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way,

WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS,

(12) looking for and hastening the coming of the **DAY OF GOD**, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! (13) But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells**. (14) Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless

Revelation 20:11-21:6 Then I saw a **GREAT WHITE THRONE** and **HIM** who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw **the dead**, the great and the small, **standing before the throne**, and **books were opened**; and another book was opened, which is **THE BOOK OF LIFE**; and **the dead** were **judged** from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and **death and Hades gave up the dead** which were in them; and **they were judged**, every one of them **according to their deeds**. (14) Then **death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire**. **THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH**, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in **THE BOOK OF LIFE**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Matthew describes the above in this manner:

Matthew 25:31-42 But when the **Son of Man comes in His glory**, and all the angels with Him, then **He will sit on His glorious throne**. (32) **All the nations** (all ethnic groups) will be **gathered before Him**; and He will **separate them** from one another, as the shepherd separates **the sheep from the goats**; (33) and He will put the **sheep on His right**, and the **goats on the left**. (34) Then **the KING** will say to those **on His right**, '**Come**, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**. (35) For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; (36) naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. . . . (40) **The KING** will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, **you did it to Me**.' (41) Then He will also say to those **on His left**, **Depart from Me**, accursed ones, **into the eternal fire** which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

Please note: IT IS NOT OUR JOB to separate the sheep and the goats.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 **Then comes the end**, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has **abolished all rule and all authority and power**. (25) For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (26) The last enemy that will be abolished is **death**. (27) For **HE has put all things in subjection under HIS feet**. But when He says, All things are put in subjection, it is evident that HE is excepted who put all things in subjection to HIM. (28) When all things are subjected to Him, then the SON Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that **GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL**.

VII. The New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21 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. (2) And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) 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, (4) 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."

(5) And He who sits on the throne said, "**Behold, I am making all things new**." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." (6) Then He said to me, "**It is done. I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End**."