

## SCRIPTURE LESSON/CONFESSION

### **WLC 86 What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?** A.

The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness,(1) and received into the highest heavens,(2) where they behold the face of God in light and glory,(3) waiting for the full redemption of their bodies,(4) which even in death continue united to Christ,(5) and rest in their graves as in their beds,(6) till at the last day they be again united to their souls.(7) Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.(8) (1)Heb. 12:23 (2)2 Cor. 5:1,6,8; Phil. 1:23 compared with Acts 3:21 and Eph. 4:10 (3)1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12 (4)Rom. 8:23; Ps. 16:9 (5)1 Thess. 4:14 (6)Isa. 57:2 (7)Job 19:26,27 (8)Luke 16:23,24; Acts 1:25; Jude 6,7

**WLC 87 What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?** A. We are to believe, that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust:(1) when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the self-same bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls for ever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ.(2) The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body;(3) and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonour by him, as an offended judge.(4) (1)Acts 24:15 (2)1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; John 5:28,29 (3)1 Cor. 15:21-23,42-44; Phil. 3:21 (4)John 5:27-29; Matt. 25:33

### **Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-20, 50-58; Romans 8:18-25; 2 Corinthians 4:3-18**

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:1** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you- unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace

toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. <sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> ***But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.***

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:50-58:** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ***"Death is swallowed up in victory."*** <sup>55</sup> ***"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*** <sup>56</sup> ***The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*** <sup>57</sup> ***But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*** <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 8:18-25:** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> ***And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*** <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-18:** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> ***For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*** <sup>12</sup> ***So death is at work in us, but life in you.*** <sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup> ***So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.*** <sup>17</sup> ***For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,*** <sup>18</sup> ***as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.***

## **Part One Review**

### **Introduction**

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus is a declaration of good news (gospel) of what God has done in inaugurating a new creation, the restoration of all things! Are you a part of this “age to come”, “in Christ”, awaiting full salvation for eternity, or are you merely “in Adam”, part of this “present age” and destined to be judged?

This is why our salvation shouldn't be understood merely in an individualistic, “me and Jesus” personally, kind-of-salvation, but one where we are part of a resurrection that means a new creation, a new humankind, a new age that has been, and will continue to be revealed by God's Holy Spirit! Jesus is Lord of all, and we must see Christ's resurrection not merely of “my individual soul”, but of the whole cosmos!

### **Summary of Sermon**

1) Jesus' Resurrection from the dead is the birth of a new creation/ a new world.

2) Jesus' Resurrection from the dead and his ascension to God's right hand is a time for Christians to live in the tension created by two ages until he returns to restore and renew all things permanently and eternally.

3) Jesus' Resurrection from the dead is the only hope for the world, both Jew and Gentiles, and is particularly the hope of Israel's restoration that the Old Covenant prophesied and pointed forward to!

4) We must see our lives as part of a new existence, a new creation. What God did for Jesus at Easter in the resurrection, in his same yet transformed glorified body, is what he will do for all those united to him by faith!

5) This Easter ask God to renew and restore your imaginations and thinking of yourself as part of a bigger story and new creation!

## **I. Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead is the Birth of a New Creation**

All that we are about to approach in our sermon study is founded on Genesis chapters 1-3: God's creating all things very good by the word of his power in the space of six days, man being made in God's image to have dominion over the creation, the fall of man because of disobedience, and the First Adam being exiled from the Garden of God's presence with the Tree that can give humanity new life eternally.

**2 Corinthians 5:17:** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 6:14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creation**. <sup>16</sup> **And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.**

## **II. Two Ages/Aeons/or Worlds: “Two Adams and Two Ages”/Old Creation and New Creation Comparison** (1 Corinthians 15:21, 22; 45-49)

***In Jesus’ first coming, he brought the future into the present!***

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:21-22:** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:45-49:** Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

One commentator (Ridderbos, pg. 57), explains 1 Corinthians’ “Two Adams and Two Ages” of Paul in this way:

***“As Adam is the one through whom sin entered the world and death through sin, so Christ is the one who gives righteousness and life. Christ and Adam stand over against one another as the great representatives of the two aeons (ages), that of life and that of death. In that sense, as representing a whole period of time, a whole humanity, Adam can be called the type of “him who was to come” (Romans 5:14), i.e., of the second man and of the coming aeon (age) represented by him. For as the proto-father brought sin and death into the world, so Christ by his obedience (that is, by his death) and his resurrection, has made life dawn for the new humanity.”***

### **Non-Conformity to “This World (Age)”**

Romans 12:1-2

### **This World “Passing Away”**

1 John 2:15-20

ESV **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions- is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> **And the world is passing away** along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

### **The “Powers of the Age to Come” and/or “End of the Ages”**

ESV **Hebrews 6:4-6**: For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and **have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come**, <sup>6</sup> if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. **But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup> so **Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**

ESV **1 Corinthians 10:11** Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, **on whom the end of the ages has come.**

### **III. Jesus is the “Last Adam” or “Final Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:40ff)**

1) **Jesus is NOT “Last Adam” or “Final Adam”** in the sense of a successive number of “Adams”, but that he is the **ultimate Adam**, the One who represents a **new creation** and **new humanity**.

2) We will bear the image of the Man from heaven (1 Cor. 15:49).

3) Jesus Christ was the Son of God (Daniel 7), Son of Adam (Luke 3), Son of Abraham, Son of Israel...this is why it is significant that he is the “Last” or “Final” Adam- - he has come to redeem a new humanity of those who believe in him alone as the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

## ***Overlap of “Last Days” with the Heavenly Reign of Jesus Christ.***

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:22-28:** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> ***Then comes the end***, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> ***For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*** <sup>26</sup> ***The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*** <sup>27</sup> For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, ***that God may be all in all.***

### ***Illustration of “Already, Not Yet” from 1 Corinthians 15:22-28***

- 1) ***Jesus has already triumphed over death and evil*** (this present age) in his resurrection, yet the end is still to come!
- 2) ***Jesus is already reigning over his enemies, including death*** (this present age), but has yet to be fully realized. NO matter how powerful the world looks in this present age, it will not last- -in fact, Jesus Christ is LORD of this world (cf. Phil. 2:6-11).
- 3) ***Believers are already raised with Christ*** (John 5:24-25, and seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:4-8; Col. 3:1-4), yet await the full resurrection of their bodies (1 Corinthians 15:23; Romans 8:23).
- 4) ***Jesus is reigning over this present age*** at God’s right hand and we as his people must not only celebrate this reality, but to show forth his powerful rule through us who are his people in preaching, evangelism, and being servants in this present age!

Compare Paul’s teaching here with Ephesians 1:19-22:

...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, ***not only in this age but also in the one to come.*** <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church...

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 John 3:1-3:** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> ***Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be***

**like him, because we shall see him as he is.** <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

God's future is on the way! We as the people of God are to show to the world the in breaking of God's future salvation and judgment in new creation:

<sup>ESV</sup> **James 1:18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Real suffering – but hope!

Real struggle with sin – but hope!

Real forgetfulness about who we are in Christ –but hope!

<sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 3:1-4:** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 28:18-20:** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

## **Part Two**

### **III. Jesus is the “First Fruits” of Resurrected People (1 Cor. 15:20ff)**

***The Future in the Spirit has been brought to us in the present as those united to Jesus Christ!***

### **Considering the Work of the Holy Spirit in Chris't Resurrection (Our Resurrection):**

#### **C. The Tension: Already Resurrected, but Still Living in This Present Age**

1. The Holy Spirit as the First Fruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Romans 8:23).

2. The Holy Spirit as “Deposit” or “Down Payment” or “Guarantor” or “Pledge” (2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:1-5; Eph. 1:11-14).

3. The Holy Spirit as “the Seal” (Ephesians 4:30).

4. The Holy Spirit in the Resurrection of Christ’s People (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

## **V. Death Has Been Defeated!!!**

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:26** The last enemy to be destroyed is **death**.

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:50** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> **“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”** <sup>56</sup> **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.** <sup>57</sup> **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

N. T. Wright writes: “The focal point of this saving kingdom [of Jesus Christ the Messiah] is the defeat and abolition of death itself (verse 26). And the defeat and abolition of death must of course mean new life, new bodily life, resurrection life.” (‘Resurrection’, pg. 335).

### **Compare “Soulsh Body” of Adam and the “Spiritual Body” of Christ the “Last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:44-49)**

1) Compare Paul’s use of “Spiritual” elsewhere in 1 Cor. 2:11-15

2) Notice the contrast between two modes of existence: “soulsh” =Adam and “Spiritual, or Holy Spiritual” =Christ!

3) Christ has **become** Life-Giving Spirit in His resurrection as part of the “firstfruits” of the entire harvest (cf. 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Cor. 3:16-18).

**THEN THE END WILL COME...**

## **VI. What Kind of Body will We All Have?**

1) Plato’s “Ugly Ditch”

2) Problem with contrast of “Physical” and “Spiritual” Body- -NOT referring to material/non-material Greek dichotomy (remember: continuity and discontinuity with the

present body –human flesh, but Holy-Spiritually Glorified human flesh that will never see corruption!

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:42-44:** So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

3) A body that is not merely enlivened and animated by the *psyche* (soul, cf. Genesis 2:7), but one that is enlivened and animated by the Holy Spirit (thus *Holy-Spiritual Body*). ***Glorified body is the point with all the fullness of the Holy Spirit!***

<sup>ESV</sup> ***Romans 8:9-11:*** *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

***Notice the “Already, Not Yet” hope of the Spirit in the above passage!***

Christ’s resurrection and our resurrection (“Already, NOT Yet”):

John 5:24-25

<sup>ESV</sup> **John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. <sup>25</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

(Compare with) Revelation 20:4-5

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 20:4** Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who 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 for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

John 6:39-44

<sup>ESV</sup> **John 6:39** ***And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*** <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, ***and I will raise him up on the last day.*** <sup>41</sup> So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from

heaven." <sup>42</sup> They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. **And I will raise him up on the last day.**

#### **The Judgment at the "End of the Age" (Matt. 13:36-49)**

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. **The harvest is the close of the age**, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be **at the close of the age**. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> **Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.** He who has ears, let him hear.

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup> **So it will be at the close of the age.** The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous.

4) **Christians are not "going to heaven" but "heaven will be coming to us"** in the Person of Christ when he returns to restore his people and all of creation (that is why in the Book of Revelation, John sees a New Heavens and New Earth prophesied by Isaiah, and the glorious city coming down out of heaven, from where Christ rules over all people right now!

<sup>ESV</sup> **Philippians 3:20-21: But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

Revelation 21: City coming out of heaven to the earth

2 Peter 3:3-11: Restoration of the new heavens and the new earth

#### **Our "Already, Not Yet" Hope!**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-11:** Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a **wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.** <sup>7</sup> But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for

our glory. <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of **this age** understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written, **"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"**. <sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.