

FINAL RESTORATION OF UNITY

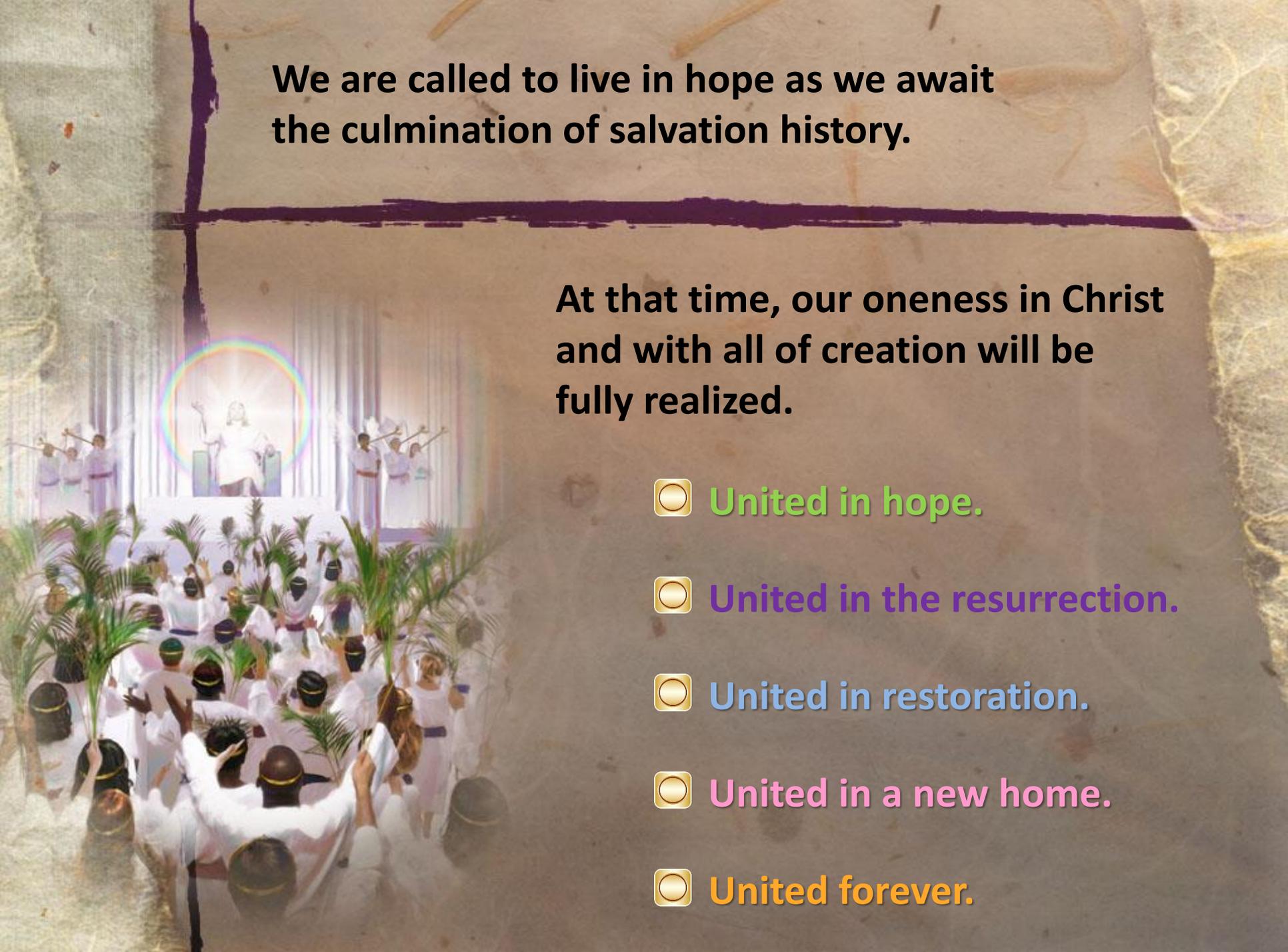


Lesson 13 for December 29, 2018

We are called to live in hope as we await the culmination of salvation history.

At that time, our oneness in Christ and with all of creation will be fully realized.

- ☉ **United in hope.**
- ☉ **United in the resurrection.**
- ☉ **United in restoration.**
- ☉ **United in a new home.**
- ☉ **United forever.**

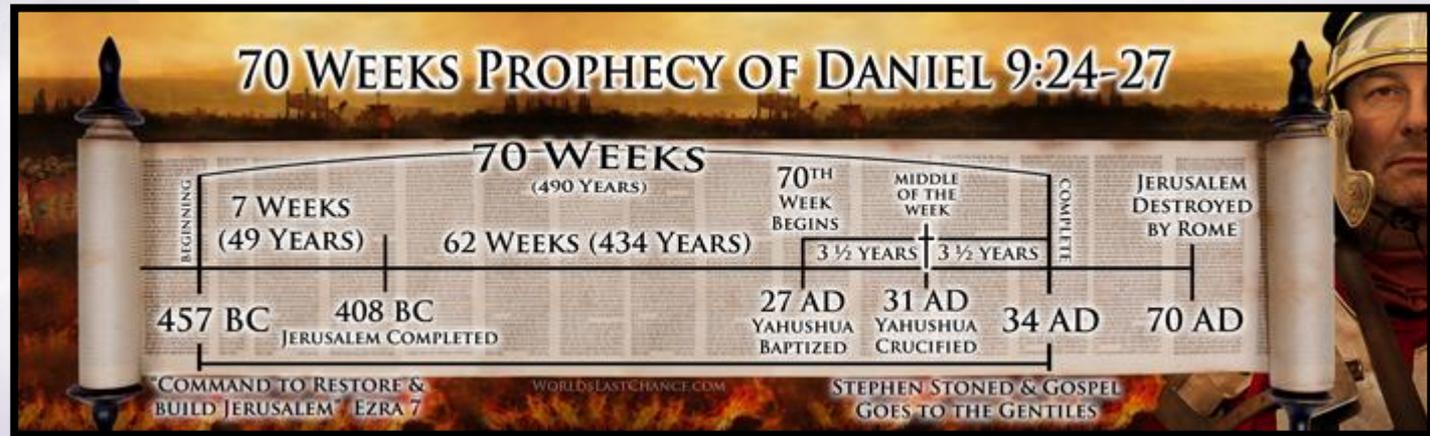


UNITED IN HOPE

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

Jesus promised that He would return. This promise has brought hope to all believers through ages, because God always fulfills His promises (1 Kings 8:56).

Both the First and the Second Coming of Jesus were prophesied in the Scriptures.



It was foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1) and He would be anointed in year 27 A.D. (Daniel 9:25). There are prophecies from Enoch to John which foretell that He will come again with His angels (Judas 14; Revelation 19:11-14).

The prophecies about His Second Coming are as certain as those about His First Coming.

UNITED IN THE RESURRECTION

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

At the Second Coming, the resurrection will unite Christ with all the children of God forever. And, according to 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, our bodies will be transformed.



The dead in Christ will be resurrected with an incorruptible body



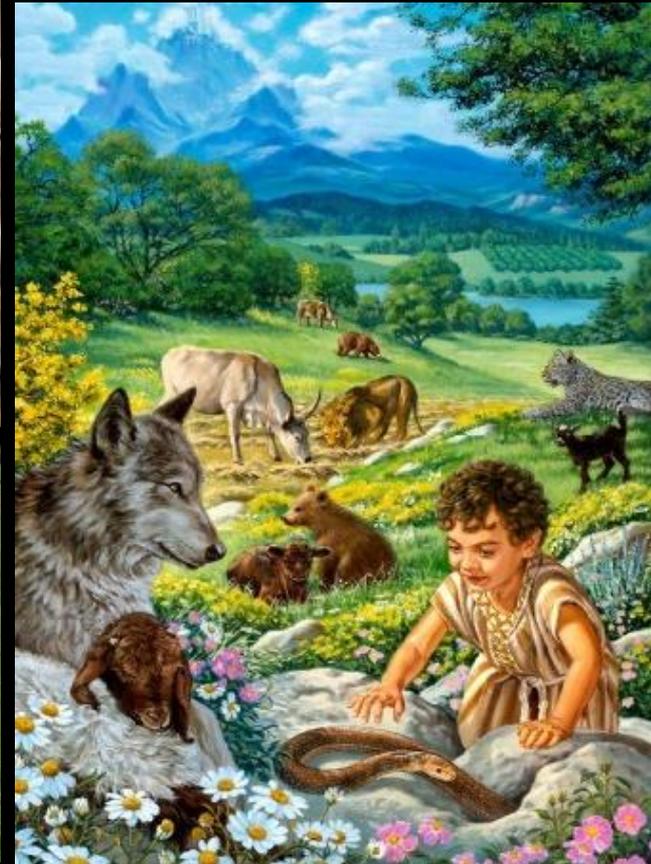
The living saints will be transformed



We will ascend together to be with Jesus forever

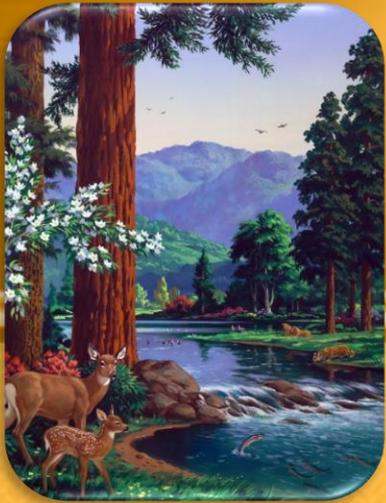
Isaiah 11:6-8

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den."



UNITED IN RESTORATION

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.” (Isaiah 11:6-8)



God will restore everything to its original state before sin entered.

We will live peacefully with our Creator, without any violence. “There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.” (Revelation 21:4).

Sin will be destroyed, and the universal harmony will be restored. All Creation longs for that moment to come (Romans 8:19).



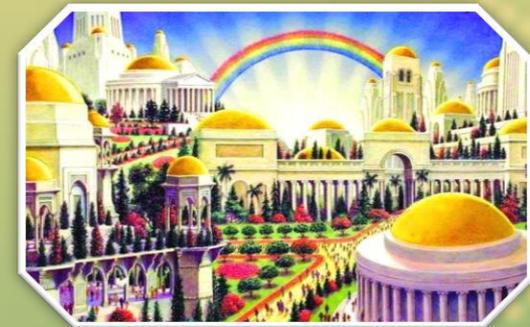
UNITED IN A NEW HOME

“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:2)

God showed John the home of the redeemed which is described in the last two chapters of Revelation: the New Jerusalem. We will be a great united family there.

The glory of God will light up our home. We will walk on the golden streets and plant vineyards and gardens. The relationships that sin had broken will be restored.

We will eat the fruit of the tree of life every month by the river of life. The leaves of the tree will heal all wounds—racial, ethnic, tribal, or linguistic—that have torn and divided humanity for ages.



UNITED FOREVER



"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing." (Isaiah 35:5-6)

How will our new body be in the New Earth? Will we be able to recognize one another? Will we work there? Will animals be like they are today?

Not all the details have been revealed, but we know enough to feel that burning desire to be in the New Earth.

Our feelings and thoughts will be pure. Love will reign within each one of us.

We will be united with one another, with God and with the universe forever.

I want to be there. Don't you?

“In the earth made new the redeemed will engage in the occupations and pleasure that brought happiness to Adam and Eve in the beginning. The Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field...

There every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And there will appear new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects of study to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul...

To the weary and heavy laden, to those who have fought the good fight of faith, it will be a glorious rest; for the youth and vigor of immortality will be theirs.”