

THE ULTIMATE REST

Lesson 13 for
September 25, 2021









It's undeniable that the world around us is dying down.

The events of the End Time are being quickly fulfilled. We are facing serious personal and collective issues.

As we wait for the ultimate rest in Christ, can we find rest here and now?

-  **Rest in a glorious future**
-  **Rest amid issues**
-  **Rest in working for God**
-  **Rest in hope**
-  **Ultimate rest**

REST IN A GLORIOUS FUTURE

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place." (Revelation 1:1)

John was living in isolation at Patmos Island when he received an amazing revelation of Jesus Christ. He was told to write seven letters, one to each church in Asia. The future of the Church was revealed in those messages.

- 1 Ephesus (31-100)
- 2 Smyrna (100-313)
- 3 Pergamos (313-538)
- 4 Thyatira (538-1517)
- 5 Sardis (1517-1798)
- 6 Philadelphia (1798-1844)
- 7 Laodicea (1844-?)



Then John was shown the final events that would lead to a glorious future: eternal rest on a New Earth with God (Rev. 22:1-5).

We can rest today because we believe that God knows the future, controls our history, and is preparing a future of eternal peace and prosperity.

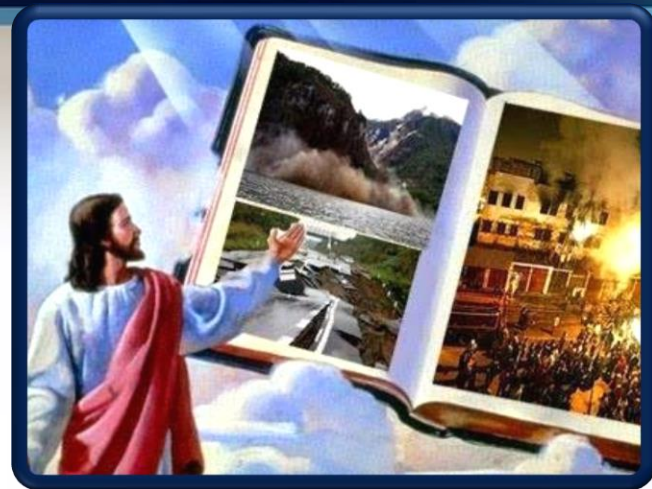


REST AMID ISSUES

"All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Matthew 24:8)

In Matthew 24, Jesus introduced an outline of the events that would take place before His Second Coming. It's a realistic scenario full of issues and troubles that leads to a magnificent ending.

On one hand, the world is shaken by several disasters. On the other hand, those who remain faithful to God are scorned and persecuted by those who don't love Him (Mt. 24:9; 2Tim. 3:12).



Jesus wants us to trustingly rest in His love, even if the world around us collapses.

He will certainly come back for us. His coming will be unexpected and real (Mt. 24:27, 30-31, 36-39). We should rest in his promise and persevere until the end (Mt. 24:13).

REST IN WORKING FOR GOD

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." (Revelation 14:7)

Resting in Christ is not an idle wait. We've been called to proclaim the gospel to the world, to announce the judgement, and to encourage everyone to worship the Creator.

We can find rest in God as we work faithfully for Him. On the contrary, those who work for the enemy "have no rest day or night." (Rev. 14:11)



As Jesus said, we may face issues as we proclaim the everlasting gospel. However, we can rejoice that there is never a situation we face in which Christ does not provide immediate help for us today, hope for tomorrow, and the promise of ultimate rest in Christ for all eternity.



REST IN HOPE

**"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope."
(1 Thessalonians 4:13)**

What happens to those who "fall asleep" [i.e. they are dead]? Are they already enjoying the final rest God has promised?

The Bible presents death as sleep (Jn. 11:11-14; Dn. 12:2; 1Co. 11:30; 15:6).

Undoubtedly, death is kind of a rest: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on [...] they may rest from their labors" (Revelation 14:13). However, it's not the everlasting rest (Ps. 6:5; 115:17; 146:4; Ecc. 9:5-6, 10; Is. 38:18).

The expression R.I.P. ("Rest In Peace") is engraved in many tombstones. The believers who fell asleep are now resting in the hope that one day they will be awakened by their Lord.



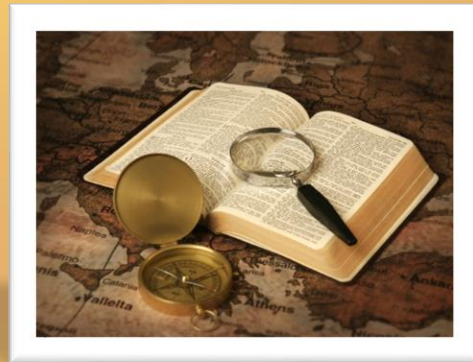
ULTIMATE REST

★ "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4) ★



Imagine you begin a trip to a new place you've never visited before. You have no route instructions, physical map, GPS, or smartphone. Would that be a relaxing trip? Or would you feel restless until you reach your destination?

Fortunately, God has given us a simple map and accurate instructions so we can reach the destination He has prepared: ultimate rest with Him for all eternity.



Therefore, Paul encouraged us to rejoice in this hope today.

No matter our present situation, no matter what trials we are facing, if we dwell on God, on His goodness, His love, and on His sacrifice on the cross for us, we can rejoice in Him and have peace for our weary souls.



“Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound [...] A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 1:24.”