

## Future Connections

### Introduction:

- A. **[Back to the Future]**
- B. There is a thirst to know what the Bible says about the future...
- C. The Bible has a lot to say about Christians in the future...
- D. What's so great about being a Christian and the future?
- E. Isaiah 4:2-4
- F. *"Christians today have common connections to the millennial saints of the future."*
- G. What we have is one of Isaiah's many descriptions of the millennial reign of Christ.
  - a. End times will be sparked by the rapture of the church
  - b. Then 7 years of tribulation
  - c. Then Christ will come in His Second Advent
  - d. This will trigger the battle of Armageddon
  - e. Christ will have complete victory & Satan will be bound
  - f. This ushers 1000 year Reign of King Jesus in Israel
- H. This is what Isaiah was foretelling:
  - a. He gives us a description of the surviving Jews & their salvation
  - b. "A Day of cleaning and peace" – Commentator
  - c. We can find a connection with Isaiah's description.
- I. 4 Extraordinary marks of every Christian:
  - I. Christians see Jesus for who He really is. (2)
    - a. On that day the "Branch" will be seen.
      - i. There are some who disagree...
      - ii. But this is a title for the Messiah
        - 1. *"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."* – Jer. 23:5
        - 2. *"Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH."* – Zech. 3:8
      - iii. The N.T. points out that Jesus is the descendant of David and the coming Messiah that the O.T. was prophesying about.
      - iv. In that day they will see Him beautiful and glorious.

- v. The land will be blessed by Him
- b. However, Jesus is already beautiful and glorious to the Christian.
  - i. To those who are being saved He is already magnificent!
  - ii. *"Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"* – Phil. 3:8-11 NLT
  - iii. While we may suffer loss or trouble not, Jesus is supreme!
  - iv. *"Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious"* – 1 Pet. 2:7a
  - v. **[I can only imagine]**  
"The 2<sup>nd</sup> extraordinary mark..."

- II. Christians are called holy by God. (3a)
  - a. On that day the remnant in Zion will be holy.
    - i. Zion is another name for Jerusalem.
    - ii. The Jews who are left from the Tribulation will be saved.
    - iii. They will be called "holy"
    - iv. That is they will be set apart and sacred to God.
    - v. A title reserved only to God and His followers
  - b. However, the Christian is already seen as holy in the eyes of God.
    - i. There has been a change in the lives of the believers!
    - ii. {God} *"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began"* – 2 Tim. 1:9
    - iii. God by His loving-kindness has given the Christian a holy calling.

- iv. *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”* – Col. 3:12-14
- v. We have been set apart and are to live set apart!
- vi. **[2007 Music City Bowl]**

“The 3<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary mark...”

### III. Christians are recorded among the living. (3b)

- a. On that day those who survive are those who have been recorded.
  - i. “Recorded” – KJV = “written”
  - ii. This denotes to have ones name recorded in a registry.
    - 1. Jewish family records
    - 2. David’s military records
  - iii. But God is seen sovereignly keeping a record of His people.
  - iv. Those who will be made holy in the millennium are those who trust in Christ.
  - v. These are the ones whose names are written down in heaven.
- b. However, the Christian today has his name recorded as well.
  - i. Those who are in Christ should find great joy in this fact!
  - ii. *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”* – Luk. 10:20
  - iii. Our name being recorded in heaven is a matter of spiritual life or death.
  - iv. *“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”* – Rev. 20:15
  - v. **[Basketball cut list]**

“The final extraordinary mark...”

### IV. Christians have been cleansed by the Holy Spirit. (4)

- a. On that day the remnant will be washed and purged by the Spirit of God.

- i. After the tribulation, God says that He will have thoroughly cleansed the Jewish people of their sins.
- ii. *“purged the blood of Jerusalem”* – God is removing all the guilt from His people.
- iii. This is going to be true on a national & spiritual level.
- iv. This washing & purging will be brought about by the Spirit of God.
- v. This will be an ultimate act of totally purifying the people.

### b. However, washing and purging has already come to the Christian by the work of the Holy Spirit.

- i. The Holy Spirit also works on us as a Spirit of judgment and burning...
- ii. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”* – Jn. 16:7-11
- iii. He exacts judgment by bringing conviction and sets our hearts on fire for God!
- iv. He cleans us from all our sin and filth...
- v. *“he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.”* – Tit. 3:5-6 NLT
- vi. **[Arrow Heads]**

### Conclusion

- A. Do you realize how extraordinary your relationship to God really is?
- B. Do you bear the marks of a true Christian?