

The **LAST** Generation

Prophecy Teaching Series
Pastor Dan Betzer / First Assembly of God / Fort Myers, Florida 2013
Part Eight / March 7, 2013

DESTINATIONS

Over the past several months, we have surveyed prophetic scripture illuminating Jesus' promise that there would truly be a "last generation". That is, a generation of living human beings on earth when in a split second all of the living followers of Christ would be translated into His presence, along with the resurrected bodies of Christians who had died still in the faith. For scriptural clarification I refer you to:

1 Cor. 15:51-58

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. [55] O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? [56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Following the rapture of the church, the translated believers will go through the Judgment Seat of Christ (see I Corinthians 3) to determine the extent of their rewards, after which we will be taken to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Those non-believers remaining on Earth will be subjected to the wrath of God during a seven year period known as the Tribulation. This time will be so severe that if God did not end it (at the Battle of Armageddon) scriptures teach that no one would be left alive

1 (Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be
2 saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. – The words of Jesus).

3
4 The end of the Tribulation brings about the Second Coming of Christ, when He actually
5 returns to Earth as prophesied: Acts 1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things,
6 while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. [10]
7 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men
8 stood by them in white apparel; [11] Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand
9 ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,
10 shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

11
12 The Old Testament prophet Zechariah added details to the Second Coming: Zech. 14:2-5
13 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken,
14 and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth
15 into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. [3]
16 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in
17 the day of battle.

18 [4] And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before
19 Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof
20 toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half
21 of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. [5]
22 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall
23 reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the
24 days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints
25 with thee.

26
27 Then for a thousand years Jesus Christ will rule the Earth in a time known as the
28 Millennium. Multitudes of non-raptured human beings will be born during that time
29 who will be given no choice but to obey and worship Christ the King. So at the end of
30 the Millennium Satan will be loosed for a short season and, incredibly, a multitude will
31 follow Him in an aborted effort to bring down Christ's kingdom. However, their attack
32 on Jerusalem (the world capital at that time) will be instantly repulsed by God.

33
34 At this point, as far as human beings are concerned, eternity will begin. Every person
35 who has ever lived will be in one of two DESTINATIONS: Heaven or Hell. Let's
36 open the Word of God and learn more about both places.

37 38 H E L L

39
40 It is often said that Jesus spoke twice as many times about Hell as He did Heaven. I

1 don't think scriptures will support that statement; however, He DID speak often of a place
2 where unredeemed, or unsaved, people will spend eternity. Many preachers today never
3 speak of this place, almost as if by their not mentioning it, it will somehow disappear.
4 But the Bible makes it clear that Hell is a **real** place with **real** people and it exists right
5 now.

6
7 Both the Old and New Testaments speak of this place of sorrow, suffering and memory.
8 Here are some of the premises revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in God's Word:

9
10 1. Hell is a place of physical torment.

11
12 Luke 16:24

13 **And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus,**
14 **that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am**
15 **tormented in this flame.**

16
17 Rev. 14:11

18 **And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no**
19 **rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth**
20 **the mark of his name.**

21
22 Rev. 19:20

23 **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles**
24 **before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast,**
25 **and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire**
26 **burning with brimstone.**

27
28 2. In preparation for this study I compiled several scores of scriptures that indicate Hell
29 will be a place of physical torment. But the suffering - or torment - will also be mental.

30
31 Luke 16:25

32 **But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good**
33 **things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art**
34 **tormented.**

35
36 For those of us who are hopelessly nostalgic and we heartily embrace memory, Hell
37 would be a terrible place. I believe those lost souls will remember every parent's prayer,
38 every sermon, every altar call, every scripture ever read and every person who had the
39 love and grace to witness to them. Time after time they were given the opportunity to
40 ensure their eternal salvation, yet they missed those openings and went on their way, each

1 day closer to eternal damnation.

2
3 “Mortal man does not realize that God’s great clock does not wait for procrastinators, sluggards, stragglers. Time keeps running out for deathless souls being weighed in eternity’s balances. Judgment always strikes sooner than we think. There is not a person in hell who expected to be there. Those in hell are there because the unexpected happened. No one expects to die unsaved; to enter into eternity without being properly prepared to stand before God. We are numbed to approaching disaster, oblivious to impending doom.”

EVANGELIST JACK SHULER

4
5 It is altogether possible that the mental torment will be the worst suffering of all for those
6 who are forever lost from God, family, and Heaven.

7
8 3. The torment will also be spiritual.

9
10 2 Thes. 1:5-9 [The Message]

11 All this trouble is a clear sign that God has decided to make you fit for the
12 kingdom. You're suffering now, [6] but justice is on the way. When the Master Jesus
13 appears out of heaven in a blaze of fire with his strong angels, he'll even up the score
14 by settling accounts with those who gave you such a bad time. His coming will be the
15 break we've been waiting for. [7] [8] Those who refuse to know God and refuse to
16 obey the Message will pay for what they've done. [9] Eternal exile from the presence
17 of the Master and his splendid power is their sentence.

18
19 4. The degrees of torment will vary.

20
21 Matthew 11:20-24

22 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done,
23 because they repented not: [21] Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida!
24 for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon,
25 they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I say unto you, It
26 shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. [23]
27 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to
28 hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in
29 Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [24] But I say unto you, That it shall
30 be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

31
32 Just as we learned in our study of the Judgment Seat of Christ there will be degrees of

1 rewards for God's faithful, so there will be degrees of torment for the lost in hell.

2
3 Rev. 18:5-6

4 **For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.**
5 **[6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to**
6 **her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.**

7
8 **THAT WOULD CAUSE A PERSON TO WIND UP IN HELL IN ETERNITY?**

9
10 Scriptures make that answer very clear:

11
12 Rev. 20:11-15

13 **And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth**
14 **and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw**
15 **the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and**
16 **another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of**
17 **those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the**
18 **sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead**
19 **which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14]**
20 **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And**
21 **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

22
23 We dare not be blase about this reality. The Bible portrays Hell as a horrendous and
24 very real place, the final destiny of the lost.

25
26 It speaks of "tribulation and anguish" (Romans 2:9 **Tribulation and anguish, upon**
27 **every soul of man that doeth evil).** Jesus Himself described Hell as a place of
28 "weeping and gnashing (grinding) of teeth (Matthew 22:13). In 2 Thessalonians Hell is
29 portrayed as a place of "everlasting destruction" (2 Thes. 1:9 **Who shall be punished**
30 **with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his**
31 **power;)** Peter wrote of "chains of darkness (2 Peter 2:4). Note this passage: Mark
32 9:43 quoting the words of Jesus Himself: And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is
33 better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the
34 fire that never shall be quenched. Is Hell real? What does the Word tell us: Rev.
35 19:20

36 **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles**
37 **before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast,**
38 **and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire**
39 **burning with brimstone.**

1 Note this: while one must make a "decision" to follow Christ and gain Heaven, a person
2 does NOT have to make a decision to go to Hell. The region of the damned is gained
3 simply by ignoring the love of God and His plan of salvation.

4 When one studies this place Jesus spoke of specifically, it makes our work of missions
5 very clear and mandatory. Read the Book of Acts. The believers of the early New
6 Testament church were keenly aware of the fate of those who lived in sin. It was for this
7 reason they preached with tears (Acts 20:19 **serving the Lord with all humility of**
8 **mind, and with many tears....**) and defended God's infallible Word and saving gospel
9 against all distortion and false doctrine. Can we do less than that now as we serve a
10 God Who never changes, in Whom there is no shadow of turning?

11 My friend, it is not moral or just for so many in the world to never hear the Gospel while
12 millions have heard it inside and out - and either ignore it or act as if it does not matter.
13 How will they ever face God with such enormous spiritual criminality against their fellow
14 man?

15 H E A V E N

16 One thing is absolutely sure here today: everyone of us will one day be either in Hell or in
17 Heaven. There just isn't any purgatory or in-between place. It's one place or the other.
18 Because we place our faith in the precious blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all sin, and
19 believe that His death on the cross granted us access to God Himself with no other go-
20 between needed, we believe that we will one day be residents of God's celestial Heaven.

21 Rev. 21:3-5

22 **And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is**
23 **with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself**
24 **shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And God shall wipe away all tears from**
25 **their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither**
26 **shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. [5] And he that**
27 **sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write:**
28 **for these words are true and faithful.**

29 Rev. 21:3-5 [The Message]

30 **I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! God has moved into the**
31 **neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their**
32 **God. [4] He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone,**
33 **crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone." [5] The Enthroned**

1 continued, "Look! I'm making everything new. Write it all down—each word
2 dependable and accurate."

3
4 Polls taken across America reveal that 3/4 of the those interviewed believe they are going
5 to Heaven. However, if you stop ten people at random, asking them HOW they get to
6 Heaven, you're likely to get 7 or 8 varying responses.

7
8 Many books have been published by people who claim to have "died and gone to
9 Heaven" for a brief time and then returned to Earth. I do not doubt their experience nor
10 the veracity of what they believe.

11
12 **But you cannot build solid theology on subjective experiences of anyone. You can
13 build it ONLY on what the Bible teaches.**

14 So let's take a look at several key questions about Heaven.

15 WHERE IS IT?

16
17 Sometimes you have heard it said, "This is Heaven on Earth." I know I have let those
18 words escape my lips when I have visited Maui! Oh my, what incredible beauty!
19 Especially that winding road down the eastern side of the island to Hana. It took Darlene
20 and me over two hours to drive the final twenty miles because we stopped at every hairpin
21 curve, overlooking the ocean to the east or the rain forests and waterfalls to the west.
22 But Maui isn't Heaven.

23
24 Heaven is wherever Jesus went to prepare it for us. John 14:1-6 Let not your heart be
25 troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many
26 mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3]
27 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto
28 myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. [4] And whither I go ye know, and the
29 way ye know. [5] Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest;
30 and how can we know the way? [6] Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth,
31 and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

32
33
34 We know that Heaven is not just some state of mind. It is a very real PLACE. Jesus
35 said so several times. It as real - oh, much more so because it is forever - as Paris or
36 Johannesburg or Rio.

37
38 Heaven is the dwelling place of God. His throne is there! The angels - at least 100-
39 million strong are there! Jesus is there!

1 Why are our hearts so warmly drawn to Heaven? Because we are ALREADY citizens
2 there: Philip. 3:20 For our conversation (better translated “citizenship”) is in
3 heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
4

5 Did you ever note how your ears “perk up” when you hear about your home state or home
6 town? Well, that’s the way it is with us followers of Christ. We really take note when
7 someone talks about - or we sing about - Heaven.
8

9 Last Sunday night, 88-year old Bill Shaw was featured in our concert here and he sang
10 “The Holy City.” What response! The roof came off this place! A standing ovation! I
11 think it was both for Bill, who can still sing so well, but even more for the place he sang
12 about: HEAVEN.
13

14 We used to sing so often about Heaven:

- 15 * Won’t It Be Wonderful There
- 16 * Just Over In The Glory Land
- 17 * He The Pearly Gates Will Open
- 18 * Looking For A City

19 And scores and scores more of those wonderful songs which, unfortunately, are unknown
20 to many believers today. These songs made us “hungry for Heaven” - so to speak.
21

22 So where is Heaven? It is said that there are three “heavens”; there is the atmosphere just
23 above us - 100 miles or so, then there is space which more and more seems to be endless -
24 and then there is “the third heaven” above and beyond it all, which we know virtually
25 nothing about.
26

27 Wherever it is, I will be there one day - and it’s not all that far off. If Jesus returns, it
28 could be yet today. And, surely, at my age Heaven cannot be all that far off in the
29 future. Heaven is a real place, with real people. And I fully intend to be there!
30

31 WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

32 We are given, in scripture, only the briefest of insights to Heaven. Perhaps we would be
33 no earthly good whatsoever if we really knew what Heaven would be like. But the Bible
34 does give us some clues, so let’s take a look.
35
36

37 1. It is the dwelling place of God. Psalm 33:13 The Lord looketh from heaven;
38 he beholdeth all the sons of men.

39
40 2. Jesus is both in our hearts and in Heaven. Acts 1:11

1 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same
2 Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have
3 seen him go into heaven.
4

5 3. Christians - those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior (in fact, not in name
6 only) - are in Heaven.
7

8 There are some who have been told that when they die they go to some “holding pen” or
9 in-between place such as purgatory. But Scripture does not teach that. The concept of
10 “praying for the dead” has been around since long before Christ; however, the more
11 modern “All-Souls Day” really got its footing about a thousand years ago with the
12 concept of a middle place where the dead wait, dependent upon prayers of those still alive
13 on earth. This flies in the face of the biblical teaching: Hebrews 9:27 ...it is
14 **appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**
15

16 4. Heaven will be startling to our eyes because it is / was designed by God Himself and
17 there will be no imperfections, no flaws, to mar it. It will be perfect!
18

19 Some have depicted Heaven as a place of gold and jewels. I hope not. I have gone
20 through the Tower of London where the crown jewels are kept. Frankly, I was bored
21 silly. But now - you take the snow-crowned Alps, or the deep lakes of Austria, of the
22 islands of Hawaii – now you’ve got my interest. I don’t know what Heaven will be like.
23 I cannot grasp it now. .
24

25 I know that:

- 26 – There will be no pollution
- 27 – No crime or violence
- 28 – No politics
- 29 – None of the things that kills people - drugs, booze, greed
- 30 – The tree of life will bloom
- 31 – No tears, no partings, no sorrow, no unfulfilled hopes, no eyeglasses, no hospitals, no
32 medicine....
- 33 – No cemeteries
34

35 Oh, my friend...Heaven is truly real. It is the goal of everyone who believes God and
36 His Word. Jesus died to make it possible!
37

38 WILL WE KNOW EACH OTHER IN HEAVEN?
39

40 Of course, we will. 1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then

1 **face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

2
3 It may require a “second look” because all our imperfections will be gone. But our
4 personalities, thoroughly purified by the righteousness of Christ, will certainly shine
5 through. Peter, James and John clearly identified Moses and Elijah on the Mount of
6 Transfiguration, though they had never seen them before. (Matthew 17:1-9 **And after**
7 **six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into**
8 **an high mountain apart, [2] And was transfigured before them: and his face did**
9 **shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. [3] And, behold, there**
10 **appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. [4] Then answered Peter,**
11 **and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here**
12 **three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. [5] While he**
13 **yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the**
14 **cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**
15 **[6] And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. [7]**
16 **And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. [8] And when**
17 **they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. [9] And as they came**
18 **down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man,**
19 **until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**

20
21 I don't know how old we will be. Fact of the matter is, it won't make any difference
22 because there is no longer such a thing as “time.”

23 24 WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN?

25
26 It will not be a matter of “what we will do in Heaven,” but “what will we do throughout
27 all God's creation?” Some has written that in heaven we will worship without
28 distraction, serve without exhaustion, fellowship without fear, learn without fatigue and
29 rest without boredom.”

30
31 It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

32
33 **NEXT WEEK: MORE ABOUT THE LAST GENERATION**