

## Week 7

### **The Blessed Hope**

#### **\*Read aloud**

**13. The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.**

#### **Scriptures:**

##### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

**"For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them we who are still alive and remain on the Earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever."**

##### **Romans 8:23**

**"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us."**

##### **Titus 2:13**

**"While we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ will be revealed."**

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1.** What is the Blessed Hope? (Have someone explain it in simple terms)
- 2.** Scripture says that we will not be spared from persecution, but we will be spared from the Great Tribulation. What does that say about the character of God?

## **The Millennial Reign of Christ**

### **\*Read aloud\***

**14. The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years. This millennial reign will bring the Salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.**

### **Scriptures:**

**Matthew 24: 27, 30**

**"For as the lightning clashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes."**

**"And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."**

**Ezekiel 37: 21-22**

**"And give them this message from the Sovereign Lord: I will gather the people of Israel from among the nations. I will bring them home to their own land from the places where they have been scattered. I will unify them into one nation on the mountains of Israel. One king will rule them all no longer will they be divided into two nations or into two kingdoms."**

**Micah 3:3-4**

**"The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise!"**

## **Two School of Thought**

**Postmillennialism - The millennial reign of Christ will be produced by preaching the Gospel and the forces now at work in the world, and that Christ will not come until after the Millennium.**

**Premillennialism - humanity in this age, as in all ages, will prove a complete failure and that instead of getting better, the world is ripening for judgment and is not going to drift gradually or evolve into a Millennium. Therefore Christ must return before the Millennium begins.**

**The Assemblies of God supports premillennialism.**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Knowing Christ's character and the scriptures, what can we expect during the Millennium?
2. What are your initial thoughts when you think of Revelation and the end times? What should our thoughts be? How should this affect how we live today?