

## What about the Dead in Christ Now? (part 4) The Revelation

1. The intermediate state has **physical realities**. (Adopted from Heaven, by Randy Alcorn, chapter six and seven)
2. **Revelation provides great detail about the current existence for the dead.**
  - 2.1. Greg's **justification for using Revelation** as actual events rather than metaphorical ones.
    - 2.1.1. **Hebrews 8:1-5**
      - 2.1.1.1. Indicates a tabernacle is in God's realm, which the former earthly tabernacle was copied.
        - 2.1.1.1.1. The earthly things were copied from the "heavenly things."
    - 2.1.2. **Hebrews 12:22**
      - 2.1.2.1. Speaks of a "city" of God to which Christians come. The type of literature in Hebrews does not indicate the language is metaphorical.
  - 2.2. Greg's **justification for using Revelation 7:9-17** in a current context.
    - 2.2.1. Greg does believe that a '**great tribulation**' will culminate present history.
      - 2.2.1.1. This belief does not discount that John's use of "great tribulation" is a current as well as a future occurrence.
        - 2.2.1.1.1. The use of the article "the" indicates that John saw this tribulation as the expected outcome of Jesus' prophetic words to His church (Revelation 2:9-10; 2:21-22); along with God's general prophecy regarding tribulation; c.f. John's current experience (Revelation 1:9) the experience of many believers (Revelation 6:9; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Romans 5:3; 8:35-36; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:1-7, 12-13).

3. Revelation provides a **glimpse into the life of current believers** presently.

3.1. There are many **similarities between life here and life in paradise.**

3.1.1. **Revelation 6: 9-11**

3.1.1.1. People talk with God.

3.1.1.2. People wear white robes.

3.1.1.3. People still desire justice.

3.1.1.3.1. John does not necessarily mean by “soul” disembodies people. See Revelation 20:4 to see “soul” used as the whole person.

3.1.2. **Revelation 7:9-17**

3.1.2.1. People hold palm branches.

3.1.2.2. People have faces.

3.1.2.3. People are involved in service.

3.1.2.4. People eat and drink?

3.1.2.5. People follow (walk?) the Lord.

3.1.3. **Revelation 11**

3.1.3.1. There is a temple, 11:19; 15:5-16:1, 17; see Hebrews 8:1-5.

3.1.3.2. The Ark of the Covenant is in the temple.

3.1.3.3. There is lightning, thunder, and hail.

### 3.1.4. Revelation 14:13

3.1.4.1. People no longer tire in heaven.

3.1.4.1.1. **ἀναπαύω**: to cease, give rest. To give rest, quiet, recreate, **refresh** (Matt. 11:28; 1 Cor. 16:18; Phile. 1:20); in the mid. / pass. form, to be refreshed (2 Cor. 7:13; Phile. 1:7, 20; Sept.: Prov. 29:17; Is. 14:3; Ezek. 34:15). In the mid., *anapaúomai*, to rest oneself, to take one's rest (Matt. 26:45; Mark 6:31; 14:41; Luke 12:19; 1 Pet. 4:14; Rev. 6:11; 14:13; Sept.: Deut. 33:20; Esth. 9:16; Job 10:20; Prov. 21:16; Is. 13:20, 21; 27:10; Mic. 4:4).<sup>1</sup>

3.1.4.1.2. **ἀναπαύω**: **1. cause to rest**, give rest (Mt 11:28; 1Co 16:18+); **2. rest**, be refreshed from tiredness (Mt 26:45; Mk 6:31; 14:41; 2Co 7:13; Phm 7, 20; Rev 14:13+; Ro 15:32 v.r.); **3. abide**, implying continued rest (Rev 6:11; Lk 12:19+); **4. remain**, continue on (1Pe 4:14+)<sup>2</sup>

3.1.5. Revelation 15 (I realize that John's description here may wait future fulfillment. I further understand John to describe events that occur in the intermediate period. Consequently, I think how people are described should be given consideration to help better understand the intermediate period).

3.1.5.1. This scene is described in heaven:

3.1.5.1.1. People play harps

3.1.5.1.2. People sing

### 3.1.6. Revelation 19:17

3.1.6.1. Birds fly in the intermediate time.

### 3.1.7. Revelation 20:4-6

3.1.7.1. People rule with Jesus for a thousand years.

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<sup>1</sup> Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.