

Stones or Straw?

Build with care



*Mike Haywood
WBC, 23 October 2016*

“Beyond the Day”

... an occasional series

- *“Don’t Tell the Bride”*
 - *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb*

- *“Casting Crowns”*
 - *Rewards in Heaven for faithful living*

- *“Stones or Straw?”*
 - *Build with care*

1 Corinthians 3: 10 - 13

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.

1 Corinthians 3: 13 - 15

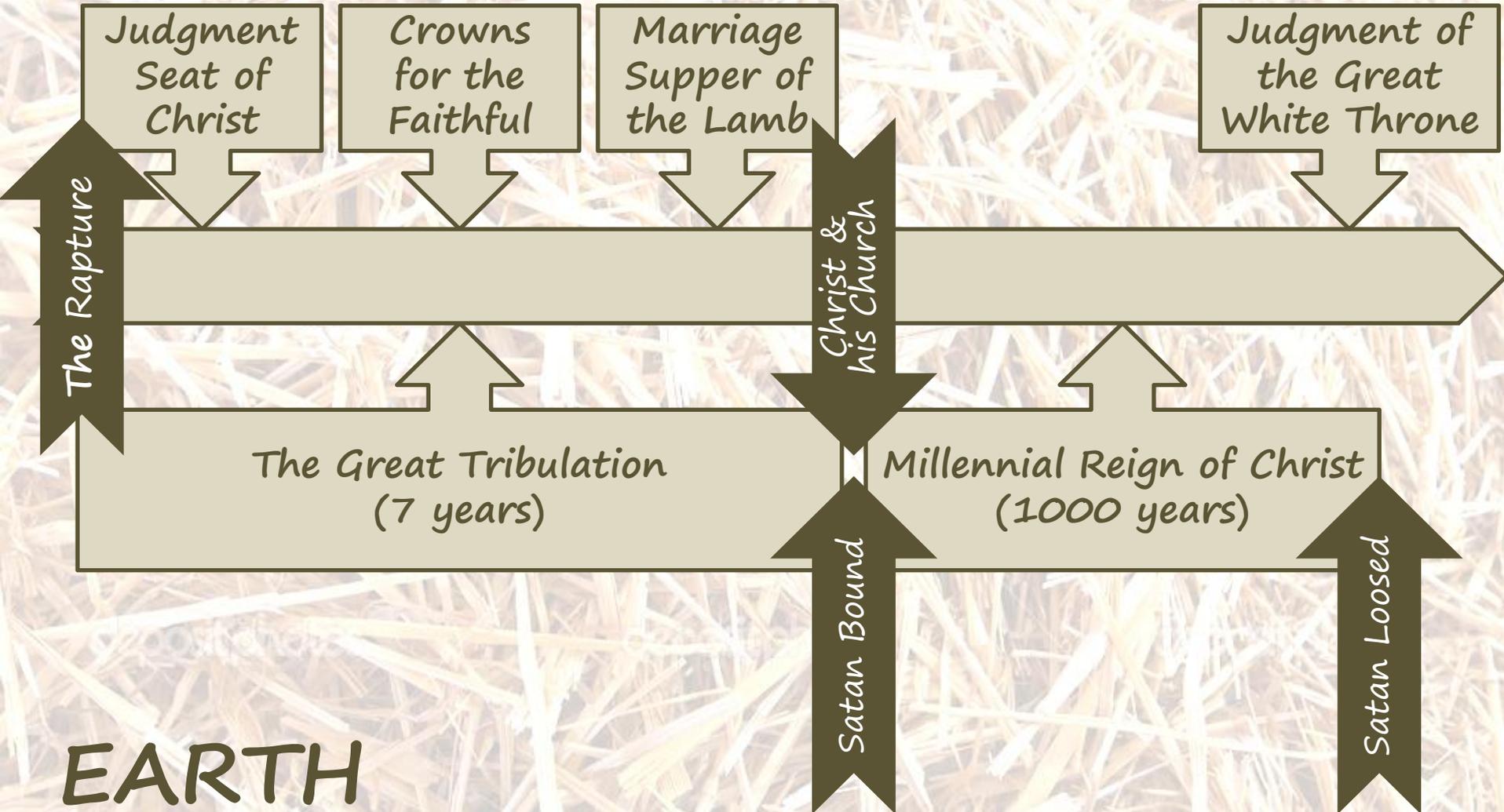
It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved - even though only as one escaping through the flames.



HEAVEN



EARTH

Judgment Seat of Christ

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

- Sometimes referred to as the Bema Seat (Greek: A place of inspection, examination)
- For believers only
 - Not to determine salvation
 - Not to judge our sins
- An opportunity for God to reward us, e.g.
 - Faithful service
 - Obeying the Great Commission
 - Victory over sin
 - Controlling the tongue
 - Good stewardship

Judgment
Seat of Christ

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. *1 Corinthians 3: 12-13*

- The choice of building materials is crucial
- How we live our present lives affects what happens to us at the Judgment Seat of Christ
- Nominal Christianity means a loss of rewards
 - Lack of service
 - Weak witness
 - Sin and indifference
 - An uncontrolled tongue
 - Poor stewardship

Judgment Seat of Christ

It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

1 Corinthians 3: 13

- The Christian life we are building needs to stand up to the test
- The fire is not a fire of judgment
 - Its purpose is to refine and purify
 - To burn away the waste and reveal the real things underneath
 - We are rewarded for things that survive



- And what if the building is burned up?
 - The builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved
 - "By the skin of the teeth"
 - "Continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming."

1 John 2: 28

Judgment Seat of Christ

“Things upon which Christians will be examined at the Judgment Seat of Christ”
Willmington's Guide to the Bible

- How we treat other believers
- How we exercise our authority over others
- How we employ our God-given abilities
- How we use our money
- How we spend our time
- How much we suffer for Jesus
- How we run the particular race God has chosen for us
- How effectively we control the old nature
- How many souls we witness to and win to Christ
- How we react to temptation
- How much the doctrine of the rapture means to us
- How faithful we are to the Word of God and the flock of God

Judgment
Seat of Christ

“Dare to be a Disciple”

- Whole Life Discipleship: Commitment
- Ben Smith

Jesus says, “If someone asks you to go one mile,
I want you to go two miles.”

That’s the level of commitment I am looking for.

Not just, “Doing just enough” ...

(Going back to my school reports I can see that
written over and over and over: “He scraped by”.)

... but actually excelling. Going beyond.

Going more than. Fully committed.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and
I will give to each person according to what they have
done.”

Revelation 22: 12

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