

# activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

**“WE SHALL BE  
CHANGED!”**

What your resurrection  
will be like

**THE EYEWITNESS**

24 hours that changed  
everything

**BEYOND THE  
HICCUP**

An interview with God on  
the Endtime





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Easter came early for me this year. As I was putting together this issue, my dear mother, who was already in failing health, suffered a severe stroke and passed away after 87 full and happy years. While she was in hospice care, my brother, sister, and I took turns at her bedside. When it was my turn, I read to her from *Glimpses of Heaven*, a collection of quotes, reflections, and Bible passages about the next life.

The more I read and thought about the wonders that awaited my mother—the healthy, strong, prime-of-life body; the joyous reunions with my father and other loved ones who had gone on before her; the infinite opportunities to learn and grow (she was an educator and a voracious reader); the boundless, unfathomable love that pervades the heavenly realm; and the awe of seeing her Creator face to face—the more my feelings of impending loss were overtaken by expectant joy for her.

Each Easter since I came to know Jesus, I have marveled at the depth of His love in dying for us and have thrilled at His resurrection. But this “Easter” experience was a bit different because Jesus’ promises concerning *our* resurrection sunk in like never before—promises like “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), and “Because I live, you shall live also” (John 14:19).

When I returned to work and reread some of the articles I had already selected (*Happy Resurrection*, page 7; “*We Shall Be Changed*,” page 8; and *Let’s Live!*, page 16), I found their messages even more powerful and full of hope than before. When Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10), He wasn’t talking *only* about eternity. With Him in our hearts, we can have a foretaste of Heaven every day. All this and Heaven too!

KEITH PHILLIPS

FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

Vol 8, Issue 4 April 2007  
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# TRANSFORMED

By Virginia Brandt Berg

**ONCE ATTENDED A MEETING WHERE** a 16-year-old boy sang several gospel songs, and as he sang, his face shone with the joy of the Lord. I learned later that he had grown up in a horrible home environment. From the age of 12 he had been sent out to steal to support his family, while his father and mother would sleep off their drunken stupors. Within a year he was also stealing to support his own drug habit,

which his life of crime had led to. He had been arrested for theft and drunkenness, and had been in and out of juvenile correctional centers. But one day some young people met him on the street and led him to receive Jesus, and his life was completely transformed.

How had that transformation taken place? There's a verse in the Bible that says, "We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). The transformation takes place by behold-

ing Jesus. Many people try to transform their lives with human striving and carnal willpower, but through self-effort they can never experience the kind of transformation that boy did—never! It can only happen as we behold Jesus. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

Jesus said, "Abide in Me, and let Me abide in you" (John 15:4). This is the secret of the transformed life: Jesus abiding in you and living out His life through you. *He* does the transforming! He'll change your life for the better if you'll give Him the chance! □



## WHOSE HANDS?

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.

A tennis racket in my hands is useless.

A tennis racket in Roger Federer's hands is a Wimbledon championship.

A rod in my hands might keep away a small dog.

A rod in Moses' hands parted the Red Sea.

A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A slingshot in David's hand was a mighty weapon.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in Jesus' hands fed thousands.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands produced salvation for the entire world.

Put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because, as you can see, it depends on whose hands they're in.

—Author unknown

# THE EYEWITNESS

# 24

By Curtis Peter Van Gorder

**THE PAST 24 HOURS HAVE BEEN DISTURBING, TERRIFYING, WONDERFUL.** It started with an order from Caiaphas the High Priest, Caiaphas the puppet of Rome, Caiaphas whom I serve. “Malchus do this! Malchus do that!” And of course I must do as I am told. I am the puppet of a puppet, here to carry out his dirty work. And this was the dirtiest job I had ever been given.

My orders were to pass on the High Priest’s instructions to the captain of the temple guard, go with him and his men to seize Jesus, and take Him to the judgment hall. We’d done this sort of thing before when we’d arrested other rogue teachers, but this time something in me resisted my orders.

Months earlier I had heard Jesus speak, and I tell you, no other man spoke like He did! “Love your enemies. Do good to them that hate you.” Now *that* is a message you don’t hear often! With everyone else it’s “an eye for an eye.” The zealots want their country back. The religious fanatics want their religion back. The crooked merchants who have been out-cheated want their money back. It seems everyone wants revenge. Jesus was different.

Caiaphas wanted us to arrest Jesus in the dead of night because he was afraid there would be a riot if the common people were around to see it. Jesus had done many miracles, and most people loved Him. In fact, the crowd had called for Him to be their king upon His entry into the city just a couple of days before.

I AM THE PUPPET  
OF A PUPPET ...  
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The idea was to find Jesus in the garden where He went to pray, take Him by surprise, and arrest Him before He could escape. But when we got there, it was like He knew we were coming for Him and was waiting. Judas Iscariot did what he'd been paid to do and pointed out Jesus from the group of a dozen men. What a way to betray his leader—with a kiss!

We could have saved the temple treasury the 30 pieces of silver that the chief priests paid Judas, because before we could say or do anything, Jesus asked us, "Who are you looking for?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," I answered.

"I am He," Jesus said. His presence was so overpowering that all of us who had come to arrest Him fell to the ground. "Who are you looking for?" Jesus asked again.

"Jesus of Nazareth," I repeated as I struggled to my feet.

"I have told you that I am the one you are looking for, so let these others go," He said, pointing to His disciples.

But one of them—the one they call Peter—didn't want to leave without a fight. He drew a sword and swung. I dodged and thought he had missed, but then I felt a sharp pain and blood gushed from the side of my head. My ear was gone! I dropped to my knees and clutched the wound, trying

in vain to stem the flow of blood. My clothes became a red-soaked mess and I began to lose consciousness.

Suddenly a brilliant light engulfed me. Someone called my name. It was Jesus, kneeling over me and covering my wound with His hand. I felt a warm tingle. The pain stopped. Jesus' eyes were full of love. He didn't say a word, but I knew then that He was my friend, not my enemy. I also knew that I would be all right—but what would happen to Jesus? I had played a part in His arrest, and now I regretted it.

"Put that sword away," Jesus said, turning to Peter. "He who lives by the sword will die by the sword."

I think some of the guards were as surprised as I was that Jesus could have enough love to heal His enemies. Some may even have wondered, like I did, if He really was the Son of God. Not the captain of the temple guard, though. He never doubted his orders. He jerked Jesus to His feet, and a moment later they were all gone.

Alone in the garden, I contemplated the miracle that had just taken place. My ear was restored perfectly whole, but my blood-soaked robe and skin were proof that something amazing had happened. How could the others have dismissed that miracle so quickly? How could they have been so callous?

Back home, as I washed the caked blood from my face and arms and changed clothes, I couldn't shake the thought that I had just been an accomplice to a horrendous crime.

I ran to the High Priest's palace to see what would happen to Jesus, and found the place filled with people. News of Jesus' arrest had spread quickly.

"Where is He?" I asked one of the guards.

"The trial has begun. Caiaphas is already convinced that this Jesus fellow is guilty of blasphemy. He will pass judgment quickly. Jesus doesn't have a chance," the guard answered matter-of-factly.



I kept feeling my ear. There was no pain, no damage. I ran my fingers over the spot, but couldn't even feel a scar. How could that be?

Then that thought came back, even stronger than before. *I'm responsible for this!* I felt like I was the one on trial. *He healed me. He showed me love and mercy. Now He is surrounded by wolves crying for His blood. What have I done?*

The guard was right. Caiaphas and the chief priests were quick to pass judgment, but they didn't have authority under Roman law to condemn Jesus to death.

I followed as Jesus was taken to stand trial before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus' accusers were a bit like we were in the garden—nearly bowled over every time He spoke. They knew Jesus was no ordinary man.

"I find no fault in Him at all," Pilate declared after his interrogation. But when he saw that the crowd had been incited by the priests to demand Jesus' execution and was about to riot, he called for a basin of water and washed his hands, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Man. If you want Him crucified, you see to it!"

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, and the whole garrison of Roman soldiers gathered around Jesus. They dressed Him in a scarlet robe and put a crown of thorns on His head. They spit on Him and mocked Him. "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they put His own clothes back on Him and led Him away to be crucified.

I was pushed along by the crowd as it surged through the narrow streets of Jerusalem until we came to the hill called Golgotha—"the place of the skull"—just outside of the city. By the time I pushed my way to the front of the crowd, the soldiers had already nailed Jesus to a cross and hoisted Him



## IT HAD BEEN A MIRACLE WHEN HE HEALED MY EAR, BUT AN EVEN GREATER MIRACLE WHEN HE HEALED MY HEART.

up to die like a common criminal. His face and body were splattered with blood, like mine had been in the garden.

In my mind I traveled back several months, to when I had heard Him tell a crowd, "I have come to seek and save the lost."

Even though I was sure He wouldn't be able to hear me over the noise of the crowd that had gathered to watch Him die, I told Him, "I *am* lost, Jesus. Forgive me for what I did!"

Then He looked straight at me with the same love in His eyes that I had seen in the garden. I knew I was forgiven. It had been a miracle when He healed my ear, but an even greater miracle when He healed my heart.

A moment later Caiaphas arrived to taunt Jesus and gloat over his victory. He was so different from Jesus—so filled with hatred and malice. "If You are the King of Israel, as You claim, come down from the cross! Then we will believe. You trusted in God—let Him deliver You now!"

The sky turned dark, the wind blew, thunder shook the hillside, and Jesus cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Even as He hung there dying, He forgave His executioners.

Now I know what I must do. I must find some way to serve my new Master out of love and gratitude.

Curtis Peter Van Gorder is a member of the Family International in the Middle East. □



# happy resurrection

By Ariana Keating

**WHEN I WAS EIGHT OR NINE**, my family bought Franco Zeffirelli's six-hour miniseries *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977) on video and we spent quite a few Sunday mornings slowly going through the series, learning about the life of Christ. During the last hour, Jesus' trial and crucifixion are portrayed. I knew the basic story, having heard it retold each Easter for as long as I could remember, but seeing it portrayed so vividly was a different matter. I watched with horror as Jesus was tried, mocked, beaten, and crucified. Watching Jesus die was too much to bear. My heart broke and tears flowed.

My mother saw my anguish and pulled me near. "But honey," she said, a smile lighting up her face, "the best is yet to come. He is *alive!*"

Sure enough, after that terrible death came His glorious resurrection, and with it all my anguish was washed away. After we had finished the video and our discussion, I drew a picture of Jesus smiling down from Heaven. I was so thankful that the greatest story ever told had a happy ending!

I believe day-to-day life is a bit like Easter. We experience disappointments, sorrow, and pain, but through our Savior we can find sweet relief and "resurrection." Our troubles won't last forever. In those moments when we feel like we are dying, when we feel burdened and full of sorrow, we need to remember that the "best is yet

to come." Just as Jesus' death was not the end, only the beginning, so the problems of life that threaten to undo us can signal a new beginning, the turning of a new page. That's Easter—the joy of starting again.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25–26). "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16–18).

Happy Easter! Happy resurrection!

Ariana Keating is a member of the Family International in Thailand. □

# “WE SHALL BE CHANGED!”

## What Your Resurrection Will Be Like

By David Brandt Berg



### BEHOLD, I TELL YOU A MYSTERY,”

the apostle Paul wrote to a group of Christians in the Greek city of Corinth. “We shall not all sleep [be dead], but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet [Jesus’ Second Coming]. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we [who are alive] shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ... Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’” (1 Corinthians 15:51–55).

Paul also said that our spirits are immediately present with the Lord when we die (2 Corinthians 5:8), so in this passage he is explaining the bodily resurrection of the dead.

It’s pretty hard to explain how a spirit can rejoin a body that’s been in the grave for years—possibly even hundreds or thousands of years—and come to life and be perfectly whole, even better than it was before. Paul says it’s going to be like the difference between a seed and what the seed becomes once it has germinated and grown to maturity (1 Corinthians 15:36–44). How are you going to explain that transformation?

Our resurrection bodies are going to be new and different, and yet they’ll be close enough to the ones we have now that we’ll recognize each other: “Then I shall know just as I also am known” (1 Corinthians 13:12). The disciples recognized Jesus after He was resurrected, but not always. He was different enough that sometimes they didn’t recognize Him (Luke 24:13–16, 31; John 20:14–16). That was either because He didn’t want to be recognized at the time, or because

He was more beautiful and more perfect, because He had a new spiritual body that would never die—and that’s the kind of body you’re going to have! You’re going to be like Jesus was and is now, since His resurrection. He “will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious [resurrection] body” (Philippians 3:21).

Were Jesus’ followers able to see Him after He was resurrected? Yes! Were they able to usually recognize Him? Yes! Did He walk and talk with them? Yes! He even cooked for them and ate and drank with them (Luke 24:43; John 21:9–14). Jesus was able to do all these normal, natural things, and in your new resurrection body, so will you. Think of that!

But that’s not all. You’ll also be able to do some things you can’t do in your natural body. When His followers were in a locked room for fear of those who had crucified Him, Jesus





walked right *through* the locked door (John 20:26). Another time, when He had finished talking with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, He “vanished from their sight” (Luke 24:31). You’ll be able to walk through walls and doors and appear and disappear, just like Jesus did. You’ll also be able to travel from

or what you’re doing, you’re suddenly going to notice a wonderful change and look to see that you’re wearing a beautiful new robe of righteousness!

Actually, you may be so preoccupied with what’s happening in the sky—lightning and thunder and Jesus appearing in the clouds—that you may not even

ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14). That includes *you*, if you’ve received Him! It also includes all of your departed family members and friends who are saved. So don’t worry that you’ll never see them again; you’ll meet in the air. What a family reunion—the biggest ever!

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). □

## YOU’LL BE ABLE TO WALK THROUGH WALLS AND DOORS AND APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR

one place to another, not merely at the speed of sound or light, but at the speed of *thought*.

“We shall all be changed!” The main thing that’s going to be changed is your body, but if He’s going to change your body, He’s certainly going to change your clothes. You’ll be clothed in a robe of light, a robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10). Just think, no matter where you are

notice what you’re wearing. But you’ll sure *feel* different because you’ll “be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” (1 Corinthians 15:52). At the sound of that trumpet you’re going to be raised from the dead, if you are dead, or raised from the earth if you’re still living.

In another epistle, Paul writes: “I do not want you to be

# THE BRIDGE

By Janet Barnes



**W**HEN I MOVED TO THE PORT CITY OF TAMPICO, MEXICO, and began working with a group of other volunteers from the Family International, they took me for a tour of the townhouse we share. It is located fairly close to the busy downtown, but also not too far from the poorer outlying areas where we conduct most of our projects. The setting is nice, located near a beautiful lagoon where folks gather to mingle in the cooling twilight, and also just a short drive from a clean uncrowded beach.

*What a terrific place!* I thought, as we climbed the last flight of stairs. But the best was yet to come. A door led onto the balcony, where we were greeted by a panorama of palm trees, rooftops, and, in the distance, a magnificent bridge spanning the bay. The combination of the brightly lit spans of the bridge, the rooftops, and the cool night breeze was breathtaking, and the scene from that balcony has made for many an inspiring evening since.

The coastal weather can be changeable, sometimes calling for a thin blouse in the mid-afternoon and a warm sweater in the evening. Although it's usually sunny and clear, there have also been storms, unexpected cloudiness and rain, and some very windy conditions—occasionally even a hurricane. Whatever the weather, however, I take a few moments almost every day to stop and look out at the magnificent view from our balcony. I find the view of that beautiful bridge inspiring and somehow comforting. It connects two worlds, making all sorts of things possible that wouldn't be otherwise.

One morning as I took a few minutes for quiet reflection in one of the rooms adjoining the balcony, I looked out and expected to see the bridge, but it wasn't there. *Maybe an unexpected fog or haze had rolled in and obscured the view*, I thought. But I soon realized that it was *my* position that was off. I moved over a bit and was able to view the inspiring scene once again.

Then I was struck by a new thought—that that bridge is a lot like our relationship with God. It's always there to both inspire and comfort. By it we have access to another realm, and by it we are able to receive the help and guidance that we need. But sometimes it can seem as though the “view” is gone, or that the help we've learned to rely on has somehow failed, just this once. But actually we just need to change the position of our heart. Then that sweet inspiration and comfort and peace comes back into “view” once again, and our faith is restored.

Janet Barnes is a member of the Family International in Mexico. □



# Eternal Friendships

By Maria Morrow

**T**HE VISION LASTED ONLY A FEW SECONDS, but it left a big impression. I had been talking with a friend, when suddenly I saw a glimpse into the future. We were hugging, laughing, and talking about our lives—and we were in Heaven. This has happened to me several times. Sometimes it has been with a close friend, and other times it has been with someone I had just met. In each case I was left with the profound feeling that friendships in Heaven are much deeper and more meaningful and longer lasting than the ones we enjoy in this life.

I find that thought very comforting, perhaps because I'm somewhat isolated and lonely in my present situation. I have always been gregarious and had many friends, and friendships have always been very important to me. But fibromyalgia has a way of making a hermit of even the most sociable person. The aching muscles, fatigue, and sleep problems that come with this neurological disorder leave me too sick to go out with friends or attend parties, and often too sick to even talk on the phone. What do I have to talk about anyway, when I live in such an isolated world?

And what about all of the people I met and helped in the course of my years of volunteer work before

I got sick? Do they even remember me now? Are they thankful for my prayers, and have those prayers made a difference? Does my friendship still mean something to them? What's left to show for those years? I've asked myself those questions while lying alone in a dark room.

But now, through this series of little visions, I understand better that this life truly is only a brief moment in time and that regardless of how things are going now, someday these friends and I will be together again in heavenly bliss. It will be like old times, except that then it will be in a perfect world where there is no more parting, pain, or sorrow.

I will also meet you, dear reader whose name and life story I don't yet know, and I think we'll find we have a lot in common. We may have had very different lives, but we both will have experienced happiness and hardship, joy and sorrow. With old friends and new ones, we will go on to experience a whole new world.

And most wonderful of all, we'll be face to face and heart to heart with the One who loves and understands us like no other, the One who lived and died for us and rose to life again that we might live together in His love eternally, the ultimate forever Friend—Jesus.

Maria Morrow is a member of the Family International in the U.S. □

IT HAPPENED  
TO ME

FRIENDSHIPS  
IN HEAVEN ARE  
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THIS LIFE.



## BEYOND

# THE HICCUP

## AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD ON THE ENDTIME LAST OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

**INTERVIEWER:** *You were saying that after the Millennium—the thousand years of peace on Earth that will follow Jesus’ return—there will be a minor “hiccup,” but that it’s all in the plan. Please explain.*

**GOD:** At the end of those thousand years, the Devil is then freed from his prison in the bottomless pit and we have somewhat of a reprise of the Battle of Armageddon.

*What! We go through all that again? Why does the Devil get released, for goodness sake?*

For the same reason that I let him hang around in the world today. He provides an alternative, and the people of this new world will once again have the freedom to choose which way they want to go.

*So what happens?*

The Devil and his forces are again defeated—this time permanently. The Earth then gets a

complete makeover. The surface is burned up and recreated anew, becoming an even better and more splendid world.

*So why not do this at the beginning of the thousand years? Seems like we work for all that time, or at least some do, and then it all goes down the tubes.*

It got as good as it could get under the prevailing conditions. Don’t you want to see it improved?

*Yes, without question, but why not do it right after the Battle of Armageddon? Why wait till this reprise, as You put it?*

It once again has to do with the training program for humanity. It is practice for the ultimate home I have for you.

*Must be quite a place if we need to practice for a thousand years. You’re a bit hung up on that, aren’t you?*

*Well, it doesn’t seem to be that logical. I would think a hundred years max would be all we would need to practice. Besides, all those who started off at the beginning would be dead even before a hundred years are up, let alone a thousand. Doesn’t seem much point to it if you are still practicing when you die and never get to live out what you learned.*

Who said you would die?

*Common sense dictates that not a lot of people are going to live to be a hundred.*

In the thousand-year period, things will change so much that people will think that you are still a child when you are a hundred.

*Oh boy, that’s a big one to swallow. I am talking about normal people here, not the ones with the new super bodies You talked about earlier. Normal people won’t be able to live that long, will they?*

If I work it out so they can, they can.

*But the body naturally ages. The rigors of the environment take their toll also.*

The environment does take a pretty bad beating before Armageddon and there is a lot of fix-up to be done. But all that is going to be taken care of during the thousand-year period, and the environment is going to get back into pretty good shape. Besides, you keep leaving Me and My power out of the equation. I am going to do a miraculous number on the human body, and it is not going to age like it does now.

*So if I have things right, we've got the people who went up in the Rapture with new super bodies but then we also have the people who survive Armageddon getting a makeover too?*

That's right. There will be those who survive on Earth through Armageddon. Those survivors will not necessarily get a makeover, as you called it, but with a few changes in the environment, the aging process will decelerate markedly. So although the initial survivors will benefit marginally, the real beneficiaries will be their children and their children's children.

*What are all these survivors going to do? It sounds a bit like they all go back to the Stone Age.*

(chuckles) That's not a very nice way to describe the nearly paradisiacal lifestyle that they will eventually enjoy.

*I don't think a lot of people are chomping at the bit to go rural. Too boring?*

*Yes. I think many will think so. Got a better idea?*

*Most people go for the urban lifestyle.*

Millions of people being lonely together? That is a better idea?

*Not everyone is lonely. I admit that apparently a lot are, but most have some friends, at least.*

Man was not designed to be an urban creature. Believe it or not, he was designed with a rural or at least semi-rural lifestyle in mind. Okay, I see the wheels turning in there, and you are going to say that I, knowing the future and all, should have been able to anticipate cities. Of course I did. But I still didn't design man for that. He functions best in a more quiet, peaceful, but regular life. Modern urban stress is a killer that is doing more damage than most people realize.

*But You said earlier that the centerpiece of Heaven is a giant*



*city. Isn't this contradictory—that Your idea of Heaven is a city, but those on Earth need to live as country bumpkins?*

“City” is perhaps not the best way to describe it, but it comes closest in your understanding. It is huge. Almost unimaginably huge. It is in the shape of pyramid, with a base of nearly five million square kilometers and an apex over 2000 kilometers high. Now I admit some of it might have the appearance of being urban, but there is a lot of parkland and open space in an area that big. And I assure you the lifestyle will be relaxed. Even though much work will still be done there, it takes place at a relaxed pace. But back to your apparent critique of My plan for Earth during those thousand years, I can assure you that people will enjoy life there—or at least most of them will.

*Most, but not all?*

There will be those who will not be satisfied. Just like Adam and Eve were not satisfied with what I had for them in Eden, so some people will not be satisfied in a world that will closely resemble Eden.

*You would think we'd learn.*

You would, wouldn't you? But take heart—those who have problems with it don't cause the whole thing to be lost to everyone.

*So these are the ones that are involved in the “hiccup”?*

Yes. When the Devil comes along at the end of the thousand years, they gladly follow him into another rebellion.

*What then?*

Well, I put an end to it pretty quickly.

*I guess You sort of run out of patience with the bad guys.*

You could say that. There is always a limit, and they will have reached it by then.

*This brings up an aspect of Your nature that we haven't touched on in these interviews, the lightning-bolts-and-thunder side. There are accounts in the Bible of You causing the Earth to open up and swallow the wicked, raining fire and brimstone on cities, even flooding the Earth and killing all but a handful. This is all pretty terrifying for us mortals. How are we to reconcile this side of You with the kind and gentle side?*

If I had sat back and not intervened so harshly, the results would have been far worse. The people involved had caused so much harm and hurt and suffering to others. I have to judge evil, else I would not be just.

*This side of You is most evident in the Old Testament. Have You changed over time so that You don't do things so violently now?*

I have changed My tactics, but My nature remains constant.

*Tactics? That almost sounds like You are waging a war.*

I am. There is a very big and violent war being waged for the hearts and souls of men. But this violence is in the spiritual realm. My battle is with My ancient adversary for the souls of humanity—and that battle is conducted person by person.

*So You don't do these big cataclysmic things like You did in days past?*

Man does a pretty good job of that all by himself.

*But what about the Battle of Armageddon, or this hiccup [1000 years later], where the Devil starts a war all over again? That's pretty physical, isn't it?*

Man initiates these conflicts by choosing to follow the Devil in the flesh, in the form of the Antichrist, or by choosing to rebel with the Devil in the hiccup we are talking about. When man has stepped so far out of line as to destroy himself, the planet, and many other people, I must step in to put things back in line. These wars only occur because of the choices of man.

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# WHY JESUS CAME

## **J**ESUS CAME TO TRY TO MAKE IT AS EASY FOR US AS HE COULD.

He tried to make the Christian life so easy that anybody could live it. He walked those dusty roads and talked to the simple fishermen and the tax collectors and the drunks and harlots to show them that God loved them all and that they could all love God, they could all love each other and serve each other and serve the world with the Gospel.

God made a way of escape from the impossible burden of perfect adherence to His laws, a way of mercy, a way of forgiveness and grace: salvation. Now nobody has any excuse for blaming their problems on God, because He has made a way out, a way to get the victory, a way to overcome our sins and faults and shortcomings and problems and weaknesses, whatever they may be. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). He paid the price, made the way, and gave us the truth, and He alone can help us to live the kind of life we ought to live.

He never asks of any of us a standard that is beyond our individual reach. Whatever He asks, we can do with His help and by His grace, and through His power and His love we can attain it (Philippians 4:13).

—David Brandt Berg

If you haven't yet received Jesus as your Savior, you can right this minute by asking Him to come into your heart. Simply pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for the wrong things I've done, come into my heart, and give me Your gift of eternal life. Amen.

## FEEDING READING

### *Resurrection Power*

**JESUS' RESURRECTION WAS FORETOLD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**  
Psalm 16:10b

**JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD IS A HISTORICAL FACT, ESTABLISHED BY EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS.**

Matthew 28:1–9

Luke 24:13–53

John 20:1–17

Acts 1:2–3

Acts 10:40–41

Acts 13:30–31

1 Corinthians 15:3–6

2 Peter 1:16

**JESUS HAS POWER TO GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.**

John 1:12

John 3:16

John 5:24

John 6:40

John 11:25

1 Peter 1:3–4

1 Corinthians 6:14

**OUR PHYSICAL BODIES WILL ONE DAY BE RESURRECTED AND REJOIN OUR SPIRITS.**

Job 19:25–27

John 5:28–29

1 Corinthians 15:51–54

**OUR POWERFUL, IMMORTAL RESURRECTION BODIES WILL BE EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN OUR PRESENT ONES.**

Luke 20:36

Philippians 3:21

1 John 3:2

# Let's live!

If you have found Me, you have found the secret to experiencing life to the full. I am far more than a historical character who lived and died 2,000 years ago. I lived and died back then, yes, but I also rose from the dead and am as alive and active today as I was when I walked the earth. And because I live, you can experience life and love as they were meant to be experienced, both here and now, and forever—boundless and eternal.

This heavenly gift is within your grasp. It's not difficult or complicated or only for certain people, but it's only possible when our spirits meet. When your spirit reaches out to Me, when you invite Me into your life, I give you full access to My love and power, which can help you succeed in every aspect of life. There is no problem that I can't fix, nothing bad that I can't make good, and nothing good that I can't make better. There is no hurt that I can't heal. There is no sadness that I can't turn to joy. There is no need that I can't provide. There is no void that I can't fill.

I am alive today in each heart that welcomes Me. I am active and at work, always renewing, restoring, and replenishing, making everything better and more beautiful whenever I am given a chance. Let Me live in you!

**FROM JESUS  
WITH LOVE**

