Revisiting The Transformation and the Rapture of the Ecclesia

Michael A. Landrum
March 22, 2025

In the year 2006, I published an article: **HIS APPEARING 40 days of the "Greater Works" and the Rapture of the Church,** on our ministry website: www.BridgetheLight.org . The article described a vision which was given to me concerning the coming of the Lord to receive his true "called out ones", told in the Greek word "Ecclesia".

I let the article speak for itself, as I presented my experience with as much clarity as had been given to me at that time. Many spokespeople deliver a "Word from God" in serial fashion, almost daily. That may be important in certain cases. But what the Lord has indicated to me, through the years, is to simply have the patience to wait for Him to complete His statement and timing. I am cautious about any prophetic declaration given to me that may be premature. Even now, the Spirit of God has given to me encouragements which are not yet ready to be released.

The understanding of what I have simply described as the "Transformation" of the church came one afternoon in 2000. For details on how this occurred, please reference my first article. Initially, the message was shared with my wife and cautiously with a few trusted believers. A friend with whom I had shared the vision, decided to post it onto a Christian website. From there it garnered much attention with many asking for further insight. I could not elaborate until the Lord spoke more of its purpose. While Kathy and I were living in New Zealand, He specifically directed me to release it, which then I did.

As the timeliness of this certain message has been increasingly burning in my heart, He has prompted a revisiting to writing a further testimony. This message is a unique message. It is specifically meant for the body of Christian believers who continue to live the experience of Paul the Apostle, as "dying daily" so that the life of Christ would be manifest in their mortal flesh. This is a process. Examples can be seen with certain of the set-apart ones of old, who "loved not their lives unto the death". Many historical examples have been named, but many also are unnamed. But certain such ones could include the Celtic saints, or Brother Lawrence, in his humble but famous Christian classic book, The Practice of The Presence of God. Smith Wigglesworth described his ministry of Faith as beginning with "the measure of Faith" that Paul describes as already given to us, then going past that into the Faith of God, where all things are possible, as He directs.

There are certain epochs, in dispensations, which are characterized by *revealed* knowledge. These are seemingly "new", but are actually bringing the illumination of the established Truth in the written Word of God. In effect, they may "spotlight" details of God's revealing. Modern-day prophet Jonathan Cahn has likewise exemplified this in the revealing of God's "mysteries", as the current age advances to its conclusion.

Approaching this is with careful attention--with ears upon Him as He speaks and eyes upon Him as He moves. The fear of the Lord keeps me from speaking anything that might be presumptuous. But before continuing, a recap of the original article will be important.

In June of 2006, the original article was placed on our ministry website as He directed. I would encourage a reading of that article to grasp a fuller sense of what I now add in commentary to it.

Much of modern church prophesy has revolved around understanding the second coming of Messiah. It is also the keen interest of observant Judaism to be ready for their expectation of the FIRST coming of Messiah "Ben David"—son of David. The most prominent prophetic subject in the church today is the Rapture of the church.

The coining of the word "rapture" derives from the Latin "Rapturo", which itself derives from the original Greek "Harpazo" , meaning to literally take away by force or to seize or claim eagerly. It is used in various contexts, as in Matthew 13:19 and John 10:12.

There is a well-understood conclusion that there will be in the last days of our current age, a removal (or transition) of God's people from the earth. Most believe that this will occur before the greatest judgements in the book of Revelation are carried out, but the timing of the removal has been a matter of debate, perhaps nuance, to various interpreters. The Lord would not only have us to know the better sense (the season) of His timing, but also His wider INTENTION, as a testimony to the world.

The Bride of Christ

The greatest mystery of all time and eternity is described in steps recorded throughout the Old and New Testaments, these texts being in concord with each other. That central theme is the story of God's workings to redeem a world that has been alienated from Him through disobedience and lost privilege. It is a manifestly "fallen world" with its fallen nature. As C.S. Lewis said, "*It has all the evidence of a good thing spoiled*".

The means through which Almighty God has chosen to manifest His plan is a thrilling, layer by layer unfolding. It is--and has been--commissioned through flawed, broken and imperfect human vessels.

The Old Testament is the chronicle of God's seemingly unlikely choices of individual human beings to demonstrate His nature and to eventually catalyze the birth of a people set apart for Him—belonging exclusively to Him. They are in love. They are in solemn agreement to obey and remember His Covenant. The New Testament is the chronicle of that necessary means by which that setting-apart is designed to be accomplished in the human heart.

Since the scriptures describe what we have come to know of a "Holy" God, who Himself is unalterably "set apart" from any unholy presence or influence, there is the requirement of that intended people to be themselves also set-apart. This is not optional, but required, in order to come into His presence, to co-occupy His realm, as finally and fully belonging to Him. This was presaged, in part, in the Old Testament in certain chosen individuals, such as Enoch, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah and Ezekiel.

Implicitly, that larger sense of a "people" would eventually need to literally acquire His Holy nature. Requisite to that, the only recourse was that He would first come into their realm. They had to be redeemed, by His first action, to acquire what they simply could not obtain for themselves, by their own fallen effort.

Sacrifice for Purpose

The yearly sacrifice of a flawless lamb, by the high priest of Israel, was required in the Old Testament, for forgiveness of a people belonging to Him. The person of God Himself in Jesus as Messiah was offered once for the forgiveness of the sins of both Israel and all who would discern and receive that sacrifice. His sacrifice not only obtained our forgiveness, but also made a way into the presence of the Holy God Whose intention has long been for a people completely conformed to Him, also as Holy.

The book of Revelation openly describes God's grand plan of the ages, to bring into being a Bride. That is, the Bride of Messiah. At the culmination of all things, there is a Bride who is finally and fully conformed to be Holy.

The Bride of Messiah is not just a designation of God's intention, the Bride is to be perpetually, sinlessly perfect, to match for all eternity the Bridegroom, Himself.

God's Conclusion

The Bible's concurrent themes all coalesce around His plan for a People—His Bride—to be finally and fully realized in history. This produces a picture which has come down into an ages-long focus, as literally the completion of significant history. History is meant to have conclusions. HIS-tory is ultimately His conclusion. The evidence He has left in nature itself, likewise, carries a testimony. Yet, a declaration not only of His intention, but of the authority and power to complete His intention. The Bride of Messiah has an assignment that will not be missed: to fully reveal His Truth to the world.

The Rapture of the Church

The event spoken of as Rapture is not only an event to be described in coming history. It is a completion. The clearer understanding of it is the theme of my original article.

The long-awaited coming for His own set-apart ones is requiring PREPARATION, in order to be fulfilled. Indeed, a real case could be made that until the Ecclesia—the "called out ones"—respond fully to His Presence, He will not yet fully appear in their midst. Revelation 19:7 describes, "…for the marriage of the Lamb [at last] has come and His bride has PREPARED herself" (Amplified Version).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly said, "Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they shall SEE God". (footnote 1)

Matthew 5:8 affirms, “Blessed…are the PURE IN Heart, for they shall see God”.

Before Queen Esther, of the Old Testament, was brought before the King, she had to go through a year of preparation and purification.

As believers in the sacrifice of Christ for our sin, we respond to Him as 1 Peter 2:21-22 describes: “Through Him you believe—adhere to, rely on—God, Who raised Him up…Since by your obedience to the Truth through the [Holy] Spirit you have PURIFIED your hearts…”

The Lord is indeed coming—physically to appear and to then rule, but His greatest attention is first on His own completed Bride.

The Assignment for the Bride

God’s precious crown jewel of all history will be His Bride. She is not going to be unprepared when He appears. John admonishes this vital fact, which implies that if people who profess to be His are not ready for Him, then they will be “ashamed” because they very evidently will not be included in the company of the completed Bride.

The assignment for us is that we would be prepared for His arrival. (Footnote 2)

God intends that His Bride will rule and reign with Him.

When He completes His Set-Apart ones, they as a perfect Bride will fully carry out His rule. This is described in Revelation 2:26-27. (Footnote 3)

The Transformation

My original article described a “revealing”, describing a clarification of the details involved with the role of the complete Bride. There is an astounding event very rapidly approaching. It will be the most momentous that this world has known. It is the actual completion of the Bride of Christ, called the “Transformation”.

The timing is not known in precision. But it is virtually “here”, already. It has been spoken of as the Rapture of the church, but it is going to be in fact the final touch upon that project of the ages--the church (“Ecclesia”) triumphant. The importance is that far from this being a “*disappearing*” of the church, the Lord clearly explained that it is something far better: it is an *APPEARING*.

It is timed as the simultaneous completion of three levels of Heaven’s intention: 1) The summing-up of Old and New Testament Covenant purpose, of a people for Himself—although the story line will extend for the nation of Israel even past the event, 2) The summing up particularly of Church history, 3) The summing up of the current generation of individual believers alive at His Appearing. These will themselves be personally “completed”, or instantaneously “crossing over the finish line”, after daily

dying to self-- that His Life may be theirs. This will be the generation that Paul the Apostle wrote of, "…We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed".

There is no intention of heaven to be represented in a passive church being removed in a passively experienced sudden "disappearing". Rather, there remains a testimony to the entire earth which the Lord has reserved through His Transformed and set-apart people. This body of people is to be His ultimate work, with whom He intends the most eloquent statement of all history to a sinful, antichrist-approaching world.

Yes, the rule and reign He will institute in the coming Millennial Age will be astounding, to be sure, but this instantaneous Transformation of the true church will be attended by the whole world bearing testimony to the meaning of His *IMMEDIATE* Power and Authority, as never before.

As described in the original article, the illumination of certain pertinent details came with the question, "How long Lord?" How long shall this appearing on earth be, before He takes us up, as Paul spoke of a catching away. He clearly explained several references to HIS appearing as being the gateway moment for our own appearing/revealing, *WITH* Him. (Footnote 4)

Colossians 3:3-4: "For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new real] life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who *is* our life APPEARS, then you also will APPEAR WITH HIM in (the splendor of) His glory" [Amplified Version].

The Bride on Earth

Many commentators have spoken of the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord's rule and reign of one thousand years on earth. We are thrilled with that promise. But the plan of our testimony on Earth which the Lord revealed, in that daytime open vision in the year 2000, was emphatically speaking of the time BEFORE the Millennium. It is soon to be in our present day.

The event for which we wait is in fact His Appearing, being changed "in the twinkling of an eye". This is not a "disappearing" It is rather an Appearing—with Him in our midst. Transformation will mean entering into our permanent resurrection state—being fully conformed to Him. (Footnote 5)

Now, the issue if there is one, has been that of instantly disappearing into Heaven at that certain future moment. Yet, He showed me that will not be so. The Transformed ones are meant to be a testimony of the most eloquent kind, BEFORE being taken up into Heaven. Remember that Paul, Peter and John all referred to a "coming", by implication first TO His people, before a coming WITH His people.

Many commentators have speculated on the "greater works" prophesied by the Lord (John 14:12).

My own parents as well as my grandparents were Presbyterian missionaries overseas for many years. I was born on the mission field. My wife and I have been involved with missions through the years. I have the highest regard for those who lay down their lives so that His gospel of the Kingdom can be preached. But what is coming is what might be described as the most supercharged testimony that

has ever been brought to the nations, in a soon-to-be-completed Bride, revealed in that actual resurrection state. It will be the most eloquent statement that the Lord will ever make to a world on the very brink of receiving the mark of the antichrist—that is, before it is too late to choose Him.

That short period of testimony will demonstrate the full meaning of the "greater works". As described in my original article, He confirmed that we will follow His own pattern on earth after He rose from the grave into His resurrection state. We will be on "assignment" in His service for an intense 40 days*. THEN, as He himself was witnessed by many as being taken into heaven, so shall the Transformed ones be. This will not be a disappearance, it will be observed event, as it was with Him. He always "goes before" us.

This manifestation is also prophetically told in the Song of Solomon 6:10: "…Who is this who looks forth as the dawn, fair as the moon, clear and PURE as the sun, and TERRIBLE AS A BANNERED HOST?"

This is not merely a description of a mundane "church". It is a reveal that shocks the world.

The Bride in Heaven

Upon seeking the Lord for confirmation of these things in His Word, several references have come.

Psalm 91:7-8 says, "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you. Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High] as you witness the reward of the wicked."

In the book of Revelation, the Church at Philadelphia is promised in chapter 3:10, "Because you have guarded and kept My word of patient endurance—have held fast the lesson of My patience with the with the expectant endurance that I give you—I will also keep you (safe) from the hour of trial (testing) which is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell upon the earth".

Many have seen these very promises manifested in various situations and degrees for our encouragement throughout history, but the time is coming for the FULL degree of these promises to be manifested through a people who will become impervious, even while bearing testimony during the rising oppression coming upon the world.

The resurrection state of those believers will be "as He is". As He is interdimensional, so we will be. So, when those to our "right and left" are falling, we will fully be in the Heavenly realm, while also simultaneously on the earth. It will in fact "not come near" us, even though by conventional definition, we ARE near these things in the material sense.

Another suggestion may also be described in Revelation chapters 6 and 7. Here is the breaking of the sixth (of seven) seals of judgement. The first six seals describe successive calamities, including persecution of the people of God. It is the breaking of the seventh seal itself that launches a whole different scenario of supernatural and final judgements. The judgements leading up to the seventh seal are lesser degree in severity, although very difficult in themselves. Those difficulties do include

persecution of the people of God, but there is a deliverance, here. Noting that the 144,000 Jewish "bond servants" had already been marked or sealed as set apart, as a separate event, chapter 7 verse 9 then says: "AFTER this I looked and a vast host *appeared* which no one could count, [gathered out] of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. These stood before the throne and before the Lamb; they were attired in white robes, WITH PALM BRANCHES in their hands."

The figure of palm branches is important. This symbol is notable in the prophetic Feast of Tabernacles, where Palm branches represent the people of God being brought through 40 years in the wilderness, finally into the promised land!

The "called out ones", or Ecclesia, will suffer persecution. But there is a deliverance, signified in the number 40, from further calamities, coming upon a rebellious world.

This is as it was in the days of Noah, when 40 days and nights of rain represented deliverance in the ark, while the world was being brought into judgement.

Also, at the same moment that the sixth seal is broken, chapter 6:12-13, "…the stars of the sky dropped to the earth…". This is exactly the description of events in Revelation 12:4. (Footnote 6) Then, the dragon positioned himself to devour the manchild being delivered by the woman who is clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet. That male Child is destined to rule all the nations with an iron staff. In Revelation 2, the Lord says to the church at Thyatira after much persecution from the apostate church, to, "Only hold fast to what you have UNTIL I COME", signifying a true deliverance at His appearing. He says of this church that THEY will be given authority over the nations, to rule with a rod of iron, "and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father" (v. 27).

We are at a moment of decision, for the church and for the world. Will we be ready for Him when He comes? That time is sooner than we know.

*I mention here that my understanding of the "40 days" has also been spoken of by Armin Wolff and others. Armin was shown this in 1993. We met together recently to fellowship and encourage one another.

Footnotes:

1: 1 John 3:2-3: "Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall SEE Him just as He [really] is. And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure—chaste, undefiled, guiltless [Amplified Version] .

2: 1 John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide (live, remain permanently) in Him, so that when He is made visible, we may have and enjoy perfect confidence (boldness, assurance) and not be ashamed and shrink from Him at his coming."

3: Revelation 2: 26-27: And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end—doing the works [that please Me]—I will give him authority and power over the nations; And he shall rule them with a scepter (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father."

4: Colossians 3:3-4: "For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new real] life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life APPEARS, then you also will APPEAR WITH HIM in (the splendor of) His glory" [Amplified Version].

5: 1 John 3;2: "Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is". [Amplified Version]

6: Revelation 12:4: "His (the dragon's) tail swept [across the sky] and dragged down a third of the stars and flung them to the earth."

Michael A. Landrum
March 22, 2025