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If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

RRR Series: Redemption; Resolve; and the Return.

Classroom & Arena Style Lessons

WRANGLERS

Redemption Messages:

#1 Hard Question/Easy Answer

#2 Living Free or Free Living

#3 Redeemed from What to What?

Resolve Messages:

#1 Stand your Ground

#2 Resolved to Lift up Jesus

#3 What Does God Expect of Us?

Return Messages:

#1 Ready or Not!

#2 Rapture & Banquet

#3 The Judgments

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THE RETURN LESSON #1: Ready or Not

Jeremiah 8:20 *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom or an outside setting.

Arena Style: *Have a horse still trailered up. As the owner unloads the horse and before the horse is warmed up or has even been saddled, tell the horseman that it's time to begin his event. Discuss how this just does NOT work! The horse is not prepared or ready.*

Add the Classroom illustration also; working it into the lesson.

Classroom: *Bring produce such as apples, fall greens, any type of produce. Bring a handful of weeds as well. Talk about a harvest or a gathering from an orchard or a garden. Towards the end of growing season many times there are weeds. But you don't want to eat the weeds; you want to eat the produce. There is a different kind of Harvest coming. This one is planned by Jesus and you are the produce IF you are saved. He's coming for the produce & the weeds are left behind.*

Introduction:

Jeremiah 8:20 *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

In the times of Jeremiah the Prophet when this verse was written and up until about 100 years ago, much of a person's life was spent growing crops so that people could feed themselves. Planting seed and the time of harvest was very important because their lives depended on it. There were no grocery stores and only seasonal markets that carried locally grown produce. This verse meant something very "real" to these people.

Time to get out into the fields planting:

Luke 10:2 *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

TO THE TEACHER:

Read Matthew 13: 24-40 and Matthew 13: 37-43 in preparation for this lesson.

Be ready to summarize the story for the students during the lesson presentation.

We need to be busy in the fields sowing good seed because we are about out of time! There are lots of people that we see every day that need for us to tell them about Jesus and how to be saved [born-again]. Let me explain.

Jesus tells us a parable [a story] in [Matthew 13: 24-30](#).

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

He then explains this story in [Matthew 13: 37-43](#).

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

This is not a hard story to understand. The Lord Jesus “saves” anyone that prays with a repentant heart and asks Jesus to save them, but there are many people that do not get saved.

Now what do I mean by “saved?” That is just a term, a word that is used throughout the New Testament to indicate that a person has accepted Jesus as their way to Heaven.

A “saved” person is sometimes referred to as “born-again” as Jesus referred to being born again in [John 3](#) when he spoke to Nicodemus.

In this story that Jesus told in [Matthew 13](#), He says that the “saved” people are like the wheat in the story and that the “unsaved” or “lost” people are like the weeds.

He says that God lets us grow together on this earth. We are not to hate “lost” people and with a bitter attitude expect God to send them to Hell.

Instead we are commanded to plant God’s Word in them in hopes that they will receive Jesus as Savior just as some of us already have.

The Lord also tells us that we should not waste time because the harvest is coming soon.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

When the Harvest comes, it’s too late to put out any more seed:

Revelation 14:14-15 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Jesus is coming back. When He does, all the saved/born-again people will be harvested. He has promised this over and over again in His Word. Jesus has never told a lie, nor has He ever been mistaken.

The Lord has often told events in advance of them happening. Each time He says something will happen, it does just exactly as He said. Do you have any reason to think that He will be wrong this time? Is there any reason to believe that the Harvest won’t happen? Absolutely this will happen!

Jesus is coming again, just as He says.

As a born-again/saved person you cannot wait until you are a grown-up to start planting the seeds in other people’s lives. You need to start now.

Are you ready for the Harvest?

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

[From Arena & horse illustration] Just as the horse came right off of the trailer and he was not prepared to compete right away, there will be people left on the earth when the Harvest comes that were not ready to be in the Harvest. They may be “at the rodeo” but not part of it yet.

But it will be too late to be part of it. They will be sitting in the church enjoying the music, enjoying the fellowship of “believers.” However the Bible says that they are tares.

There will be people that look very similar to the wheat [the saved] but they are not wheat. You won't be able to fool anyone at the Harvest. So which are you? Are you wheat or are you a tare?

Ready or not, Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready?

And if you are ready, do you have compassion, do you care that others are not?

Present Salvation Here



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Wranglers **THE RETURN LESSON #2: Rapture & a Banquet**

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Illustration:

Make this a Campfire Lesson complete with marshmallows.

Introduction:

Everyone is curious about the future. The fairy tale stories are full of people that wanted a window or a crystal ball that looked into the future. For a long time we used to hear about “psychic hotlines” where you could for a price call someone to tell your future.

You can find your horoscope online daily.

When I, Ron, was a child, I had a black ball that was like an “8” ball for pool that you could ask questions to. You would then shake the ball and an answer would appear in the ball.

Francine’s great –grandmother read coffee grounds and told people’s fortune [or future.]

The little black “8” ball, the horoscope, and the coffee grounds don’t really tell us anything. They are only a waste of our time.

The Bible has a lot to say about fortune tellers and soothsayers, witches, and wizards. None of the news is good concerning them.

The Bible has a lot to say though about a sure and promised future.

TO THE TEACHER:

Read 1 Corinthians 15: 51-53 in preparation for today’s lesson.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

This lesson is to prepare, but not scare.

The emphasis in the lesson is on the Rapture event of the Church and the Celebration in Heaven for 7 years.

Rapture:

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Jesus told us that an event is coming at the end of the Church Age. This event is called The Rapture by a lot of people.

There are movies by that name; there are books and sermons with all kinds of opinions and speculation on WHEN and HOW this event is going to take place. But I want to stick to what we KNOW about this event from the Word of God. After all, this is God's event and all the speculation in the world won't change what He has planned for this event.

So what is this event all about?

You learned to use a calendar once you started school. [Show a calendar.] It has months, days, and sometimes more than one year is available on some calendars.

[Draw on a white board or carry to your campfire a poster.]
There is another kind of calendar that is called a Time Line.

On this time line we can place the Beginning of Time; the location of when Moses lived on the earth, the location of when Jesus went back to Heaven after he arose from the grave and the position of where we are today.

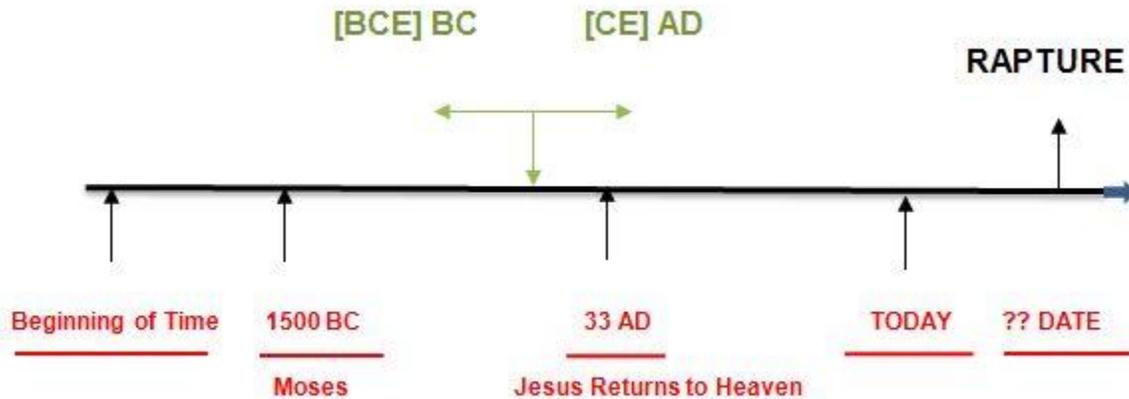
You can also add the event: The Rapture.

The End of Earth Time along with the word FOREVER or Eternity is just beyond the end of this line. We will cover that more in detail beginning in the next Lesson.

We are on this time line in a place often referred to as the CHURCH AGE. This simply means we are living in a time between when Jesus went back to Heaven and when He will be coming for all of the SAVED people in the event commonly referred to as THE RAPTURE.

TO THE TEACHER:

In my lifetime people have changed twenty centuries of traditional time reference from Before Christ to Before Common Era and the Anno Domini to Common Era. It is interesting that this has only happened recently in the timeline.



Just like Jesus' birth was foretold all throughout the Old Testament, this event was foretold in the same way.

According to the Bible we are to be looking for the Trumpet to sound at any time! All the prophecies of the Bible have come true and right on time. This one will not be any different. It will happen and it will be on time.

When this event takes place, if you are saved/born-again then you are going to be taken to Heaven.

If you are not saved, then you will be left on the earth to face a terrible time in History called The Tribulation.

The two scriptures we read are only some of the scriptures that talk about this event. But let's reread them now and see if they are more easily understood now that you see the timeline.

Read [1 Corinthians 15: 51-53](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18](#).

Jesus is coming back in the event we call The Rapture. He will first have all those saved people that have already died [referred to in scripture as those that "sleep"] caught up in the air first. This means that people that have already died and are in His presence will have their old bodies that remained on earth changed into a new spiritual body. THEN those that are still alive will be "caught up" and be changed also.

Seven year Banquet :

When we Christians are taken up into Heaven we will be judged at the "Bema" or judgment seat of Christ and then have a great feast.

The word "bema" is a Greek word that was translated to refer to this time or event after the rapture. It is for judging of the saved by Jesus.

TO THE TEACHER:

The BEMA seat of Christ is a whole different lesson altogether and needs more time to expound upon. This lesson does not take the time to go into this. The two Judgments are explained further in the next Lesson.

The BEMA seat of Christ is ONLY for saved people. It is not really a judgment at all in the sense of the word judgment. Rather it is a time of rewards for the saved people. We will get into details on that in our next lesson.

There is a Great White Throne Judgment coming for people that are not saved, as well, but it is further down the time line and is separate from the Bema Judgment. It is covered in the next lesson.

During those seven years in Heaven while there is a terrible GREAT TRIBULATION going on down on the earth, we are at an event called the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**.

Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Born again people are called the Bride of Christ. Marriage is used as a symbol of our relationship to Jesus. This is one reason that a correct understanding of marriage is essential to the Christian.

In the Jewish tradition marriage was a three part process. First, the man and the lady were betrothed or engaged. This was more than what people consider it to be in our culture today. It meant they were already contracted through a legal process agreed upon by both families and themselves. But they were not to live together yet.

The second step in the process happened a year later, when the bridegroom and some of his male friends, went to the house of the bride at midnight, creating a torchlight parade through the streets.

The bride would know in advance this was going to take place, and so she would be ready with her lady friends, and they would all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom's home.

This custom is the basis of the parable of the ten virgins in ***Matthew 25:1–13***.

The third phase was the marriage supper itself, which might go on for days.

We as the Bride of Christ are invited to the marriage supper. Jesus is the LAMB of GOD. He was the supreme perfect sacrifice for our sins. This will be a seven year party!

The saved will be in Heaven with Jesus for seven years before the next event on God's calendar.

After the banquet, the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**, then we will be saddling up to ride back on horses with Jesus to witness the Battle of Armageddon where King Jesus is the Victor.

Next Lesson we get more details about what the future holds for both the saved and the unsaved.

But the question today is: Are you ready if the trumpet sounds today?

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Wranglers THE RETURN LESSON #3: The Judgments

1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Isaiah 2:20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

Illustration:

This message can be illustrated inside a classroom but we prefer the outside setting.

Outside Style: *A few weeks in advance* promote a small scale sheep, horse, or goat show. Arrange to have a judge for the mini-event. This should be an **illustration "event"** and include only a few animals. Prizes should be small such as a ribbon for placing. Some of your students may participate with their own animals. Keep it fairly small scale and simple.

Classroom setting: *Bring pictures or a video of a judging event for sheep, horses, cattle, goats or hogs. Some of your student may have participated in 4-H for example. They may have pictures, ribbons, or other trophies they can share as part of your illustration.*

Introduction:

You hear people say "Don't Judge."

While there is way too much judging by people about people, there is also something called "discernment." Discernment is sound judgment. Discernment can keep you from bad company and bad situations.

But as far as Judgment of my intentions, what I am thinking, or WHY I do some things, that really can only be "judged" by the One True Judge.

To the Teacher:

As adults & especially as children we only think of JUDGING in a couple of ways: As something positive like with a contest OR as something negative like putting people down.

Attempt to convey through this lesson that God is not trying to JUDGE or DECIDE your eternal destiny based on your works, but YOU will Determine your eternal destiny based upon your acceptance or rejection of the King of Kings, Jesus.

Then there is the kind of Judging that we talked about today in the illustration. This involves competition to see who gets the better prize or score. While this is fun and entertaining, it is nothing like the Judgment Time that we will face one day with God.

Did you know that there are going to be TWO entirely different judgments for the saved people and the unsaved people?

The people that are saved are going to be at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The people that are not saved are going to be at the Great White Throne Judgment.

These two judgments are very different and have very different outcomes. They are not held at the same time and contrary to what movies and people may tell you, neither of these judgments determines if your good works will OUTWEIGH your bad works.

So what is all this talk about God's Judgment Day?

The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Judgment seat of Christ is strictly for the born-again/saved Christians. This is the one you should want to be at. The only Lawyer you will need there is Jesus. The only restitution for your sin is already paid in full by your advocate, Jesus. And the ribbons, prizes, and trophies are "out of this world."

And the best part is we give them BACK to Jesus. After all, He is the reason we have accomplished anything!

1 Corinthians 3: 12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Foundation in this illustration in 1 Corinthians.

Whatever we do that is "good" (for example like obeying parents, telling others about Jesus, or helping a little old lady across the street) we consider these as good works. You may be a good citizen and obey the laws of the land. This is "good works." You may be kind to animals, obey your parents, and wash behind your ears.

But at the Judgment Seat of Christ our "works" are put to the "test." It's a test of fire according to this scripture.

If what we have done for Christ is done with the purpose and intent of obeying God and for His glory, then this you can safely say is Gold or Silver or Precious Stones.

However, if we have sung in the choir, preached from the pulpit, or given all our money to the church and done this to get the praise of people, you can safely say it will be burned up like wood, hay, or stubble. Your intentions show up at this Judgment. Your purpose shows up at this Judgment.

There are also rewards handed out at this Judgment. God looks at the heart! Be sure your heart is right with God, Christian. It will make a difference at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I want to hear Jesus say:

Matthew 25:21a Well done, thou good and faithful servant...

The Great White Throne Judgment

Then there is the Judgment for all the people that are not Christians. These are people that never accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. The Bible says, they will be throwing all of their material goods away just to run to the hills to hide because King Jesus has come.

Isaiah 2:20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

People will be giving away all the THINGS that they have worked for and wanted because they will have no value any longer when Jesus returns the final time.

The Bible tells us in several places that everyone will have to bow to Jesus eventually. Even the atheist, even the other religions of the world, everyone will have to bow.

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Great White Throne Judgment is not for the saved. If you are washed in the Blood of Jesus through Salvation, then you have no part in this judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Bible is pretty straight forward here concerning this judgment. It is too late to argue with God; no one will be able to. It is too late to say, I change my mind I want to follow Jesus. That will have already have been decided when you were living on earth.

This is a sad time for sure.

In Summary:

If Jesus comes today for the saved people in the event we call The Rapture [which we studied last lesson], which Judgment will you be headed for?

Which Judgment would you be taking part in; The Judgment Seat of Christ or the Great White Throne Judgment? Something to think seriously about!

God is not trying to JUDGE or DECIDE your eternal destiny based on your works, but YOU will Determine your eternal destiny based upon your acceptance or rejection of the King of Kings, Jesus.

Only after you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will you be RELEASED to live free.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

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Wranglers THE RETURN LESSON #4: Forever and Ever AMEN!

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

To the Teacher:

In preparation for this lesson, please read Revelation 21 and 22.

Introduction:

In the last three lessons we have offered instruction on being ready for the Second Coming, on the Rapture of the Church, on the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the Judgments of the Saved and the Unsaved.

This lesson will focus on what Forever will be like. This is a message of hope and encouragement that is not based on speculation, but upon what we find in the Word.

Everlasting Life & What it is NOT:

People are different than other creations. We each have a "soul." That soul will spend forever somewhere.

When people die, it is common to hear people say that they are now angels. This is not found anywhere in the Bible.

In fact, the Bible says that the Christians will one day rule over angels.

1 Corinthians 6:3a Know ye not that we shall judge angels? ...

I cannot think of one reason I would want to step down from my position of a son or daughter of God down to the position of an angel.

So let's be clear: We **don't** spend eternity sitting on a puffy cloud playing a harp transformed into an angel.

Everlasting Life per the Bible:

Read the following two scripture references and then post the last one either on white board or poster board for the students to see throughout the lesson.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

We DO know that there is a “mansion” prepared for each saved person in Heaven. The original Greek word there does not mean a fancy million dollar house with an indoor pool. It simply means an abode, a permanent dwelling place. You could think of it as “in my Father’s Palace...” or home there are many permanent rooms.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Just as a matter of explanation, I tell people all the time what is in my “room.” I will have the Smokey Mountains on one side and the Rockies on the other. My room is so big and so beautiful that while I am living on this earth, there is no way that I can comprehend how vast, how beautiful, or how wonderful my “room” is in Heaven. Do I know what my “mansion” really looks like? No, I do not. But I do know that He has been preparing it for over 2000 years now.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

What about all the talk about streets of gold and walls of Jasper? What about a crystal sea of water coming out of the Throne of God? Isn’t there the Tree of Life also in the middle of Heaven?

All true per ***Revelation chapters 21 & 22.*** [Read portions appropriate to your time constraints.]

Revelation 22: 1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Many times we are asked if our favorite horse will be in Heaven. That question I can only answer with what I do know.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

This indicates that Jesus Himself owns horses and they are present in Heaven. This vision of John was not what he saw on earth, but what He saw in Heaven.

Everlasting Life Somewhere:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

So which is your destination? You will be somewhere.

Present Salvation Here.