

So You Want To Fly In Space?

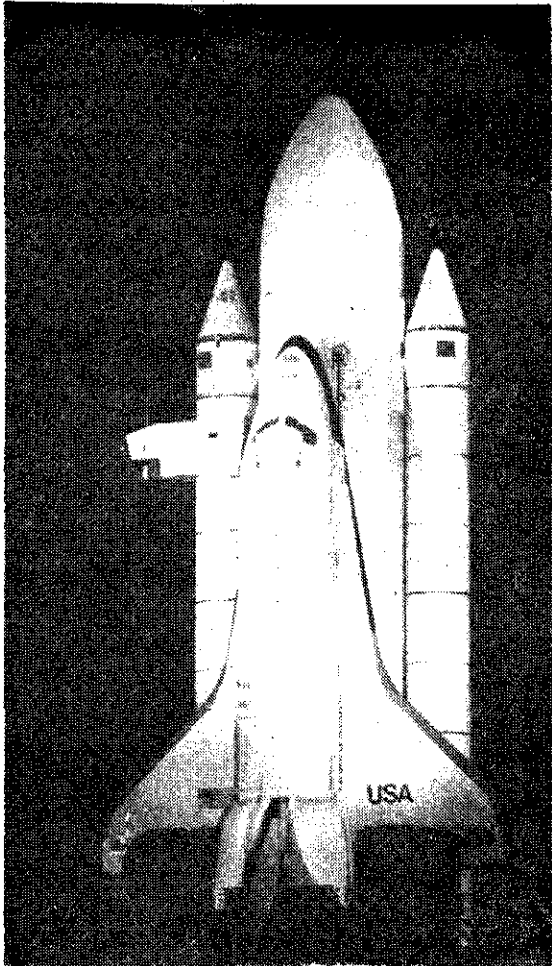


by

Ray Brubaker

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This book was prepared as a result of a series of radio and television programs on the subject—SO YOU WANT TO FLY IN SPACE?

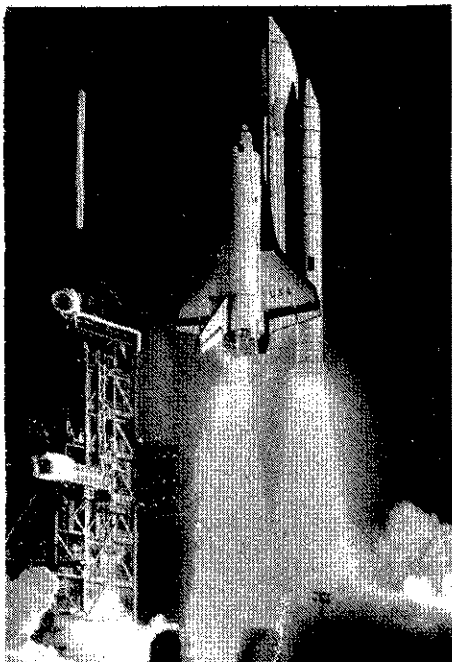
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

IS MAN'S DESTINY AMONG THE STARS?	3
SPACE FLIGHT — FULFILLING A DREAM	8
WHAT OF MAN'S PLACE IN SPACE?	14
WHY TRAVEL IN SPACE?	19
LIVING IN SPACE	24
LEARNING TO BUILD IN SPACE	29
"MANY CALLED, FEW CHOSEN"	34
JOURNEY INTO SPACE	40

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James L. Long Associates

IS MAN'S DESTINY AMONG THE STARS?

Columbia launch: A patriotic surge

As the COLUMBIA lifted skyward from its launching pad at Cape Kennedy, one commentator declared, "Man's destiny is with the stars!"

Astronaut Robert Crippen said upon completion of the first Space Shuttle flight—"I think we've got a fantastic and remarkable capability. We are really not too far from the stars."

Watching the successful lift-off of the 75-ton Columbia Space Shuttle...and then witnessing the precision accuracy as the plane glided to a perfect landing, made us realize how far man has come in space achievements.

Astronaut John Young expressed delight as he piloted the powerless craft to a flawless touchdown in the Mojave Desert and remarked, "What a great way to come to California."

Witnessing this recent accomplishment in space makes us conscious of our Lord's assertion that among the signs of His return—"there would be signs in the heavens."

Is this orbital mission along with the space flight of man one of the signs that we are living in the end-time and Christ is soon to appear?

Theodore C. Danson Smith, writing in the PROPHETIC WITNESS, a British publication, says: "Yes, we believe that space travel is a sure sign of the Saviour's Return!"

Hal Lindsey, in his book, THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, likewise comments on the accomplishments of man in space. Stated Lindsey: "Astounding as man's trip to the moon is, there is another trip which many men, women, and children will take some day which will leave the rest of the world gasping."

Says Lindsey; "Those who remain on earth at that time will use every invention of the human mind to explain the sudden disappearance of millions of people."

For we read: "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." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

To those who may seem a bit skeptical, Lindsey observes: "It will happen! Some day, a day that only God knows, Jesus Christ is coming to take away all those who believe in Him. He is coming to meet all true believers in the air. Without benefit of science, space suits, or interplanetary rockets, there will be those who will be transported into a glorious place more beautiful, more awesome, than we can possibly comprehend."

Dr. John Wesley White, who comments on the reality of space flight, says: "Man has always longed to fly and eventually to ascend into space. In this last third of the twentieth century, man is not only flying billions of man-miles per year, he is ascending, not fictionally, but factually to the skies into skylabs, on to the moon, and soon, he speculates to Mars..."

He notes: "In the space program scientists have learned how to hurl man in his craft aloft from the earth and into orbit...In the AIRLIFT OF THE AGES, all the saints of all generations and nations will rise to meet Christ and with Him ascend into heaven. What an event!"

Witnessing the tall towers at Cape Canaveral reminds us of another tower than man once sought to construct that would take him into the heavens. As our Lord looked on, He must have seen inventive genius approaching that of our day. For the Lord said: "Now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do! (Gen. 11:6B)

"We are really not too far from the stars," said Astronaut Young. Will man's plans take him to and beyond the stars?

One biblical authority says: "Man will not be allowed by God to go too far in his explorations and inventions." He adds: "Things are advancing so rapidly today that Christ must come soon."

If man in his pride of accomplishment leaves out the Creator in his thoughts and plans, he may see his dreams come to nought as at Babel.

As we read this warning in Obadiah, verse 4: "Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord."

The Bible tells us of those who have already made space flights but without the use of space suits and sealed capsules...and who survived.

One of these men was Enoch. We read of him back in Genesis chapter 5. He was indeed a righteous man who "walked with God." And, suddenly one day Enoch disappeared. He did not die...but God took him." Mysteriously and miraculously Enoch was transported to heaven...with or without the need of a heavenly spaceship, we do not know.

Then there was Elijah. Elijah was also a man of God. On occasions the Spirit of God would lift him up from the earth and transplant him safely away from the King who sought his life.

In fact, Elijah's marvellous ascension into heaven is one of the amazing facts of the Bible. For there appeared chariots of fire, and Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind into heaven...surely, a most incredible space flight.

We could tell of others, such as Philip in the New Testament, whom the Spirit of the Lord caught away and transported a distance of about twenty miles.

And, of course, the Lord himself is an example of one who made several space flights to heaven following His resurrection. So we can declare that space travel is nothing new!

Can you imagine the Lord and the saints taking off in a rocket?

The Rev. Ian Macpherson points out: "The manned space-capsule is a sign of the times." However, he observes, "It will not need nuclear power to elevate the saints. They will rise by a heavenly gravitation to meet their returning Lord."

At His ascension our Lord was surrounded by two in white apparel who announced—"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Man, by his actions, is becoming more and more conscious of space. We might ask—what about the part angels will play at our Lord's Return?

In 2 Thessalonians mention is made of our Lord being "revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

A respected scientist and UFO investigator has observed, "There is no doubt that the final holocaust is near, and that is why ANGELS are already spying on our doomed race." He notes, "It is the only way to explain the UFO phenomenon...that they are here, preparing for the Second Coming of Christ."

While admitting that space ships are not needed to transport the saints to heaven yet, why should it be considered ridiculous for the saints to be caught up as Elijah was—by a chariot of fire like a whirlwind?

In Psalms 68 we have a picture of our Lord who "rideth upon the heavens" (v.4). And again praise is ascribed to Him "that rideth upon the heaven of heavens..." (v.33).

Then in the same chapter we are told, "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them..." (v.17).

If the Lord comes and we are transported by a heavenly conveyance piloted by angels to our celestial home, would this seem too far-fetched?

The Bible does remind us of how it will be when Christ comes for His own...

First of all, we do know these old bodies will have to undergo a quick and dramatic change. The old flesh just couldn't stand the trip. And, before you can wink your eye—in a moment—at the coming of Jesus...it will have been discovered that our bodies have changed. We will have undergone complete metamorphosis and now are ready for our heavenly journey.

Then, the Bible would remind us we will be "caught up" to be with our blessed Lord. The Greek word used here has the idea of being conveyed "forcefully and swiftly from one place to another." Only with the advent of rockets and missiles have we realized the tremendous speed wherein objects can travel through the atmosphere.

Whatever man can do we can surely expect God can do better! Man's rockets sometimes fizzle, but God's transportation surely will be absolutely dependable. With our Lord Jesus leading the way, we can surely expect to arrive at our heavenly destination.

Finally, to enter the celestial city will be worth the trip. The Bible would comfort the suffering who agonize in pain, reminding them: "The sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall one day be revealed in us." How precious to be released from tears, and heartaches, groanings and sighings, and every torment of man. Yes, to be with Jesus will be worth every sacrifice made in this life.

The fact remains, my friends, that today many are not looking for the appearing of our Lord; the whole idea of Christ's return to them is preposterous. There are others so occupied with fine homes, luxurious furniture, pleasure-madness, eating and drinking...that they can't become interested in heavenly mansions and celestial travel.

Our Lord, while on earth, related the parable of the Great Supper. Many will be guilty of making meaningless excuses and will miss out on that grand and glorious occasion.

D.L. Moody, the great evangelist, in one of his last sermons ever preached described this tremendous feast prepared by a loving God, to declare: "Go play with the forked lightning, go trifle with pestilence and disease, but trifle not with God. A loving God invites you to a feast! And God is not mocked," said Moody.

May we ask—What excuse have you made for NOT making preparation for our Lord's Return?

Have you given the Lord Jesus your heart and life? Is He everything to you? Does it mean anything to you that He gave his life on the cross to provide for your salvation? Are you looking eagerly and anxiously for His return? And would you be ready were He to come today?

William Beirnes in the MIDNIGHT CRY magazine quotes James 5:8 which states: "Stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Says Beirnes: "We must not let ourselves drift with the spirit of the age. If we are to prevent ourselves from being swept from our moorings, we must: Spend much time in prayer. ...Spend more time poring over the Word of God than anything else we read." And he urges: "Let our conversation be more on His coming and about heavenly things."

Suggests Beirnes: "In these days so close to the Lord's coming, the working man and the businessman should invest their money more liberally in the support of the spread of the gospel, and give more generous amounts in order to get the gospel quickly to the multitudes who are without it."

The fact is, my friends, the Bible describes the last age before the return of Christ as "lukewarm," that is, "neither cold nor hot."

May we shake ourselves of lethargy. May we rid our lives of carelessness and indifference.

Our Lord commanded: "Watch ye...and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Lu. 21:36)

Apparently few have read the book of the Revelation to see the vials of wrath to be poured out in the DAY OF WRATH just ahead. It is indescribable...a hell on earth existence, with Satan cast down upon the earth and ruling through his emissary, the Antichrist!

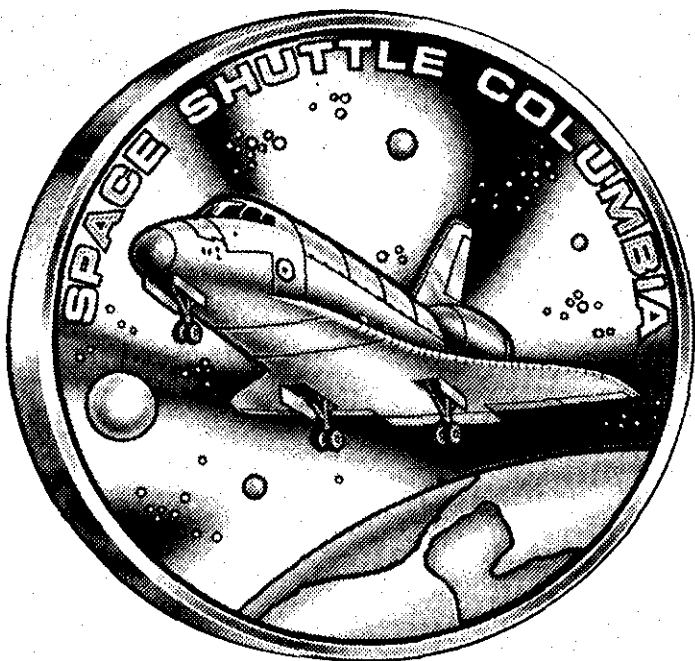
The choice you make must be unmistakably clear—it is CHRIST OR ANTICHRIST.

Choose this day whom ye will serve.

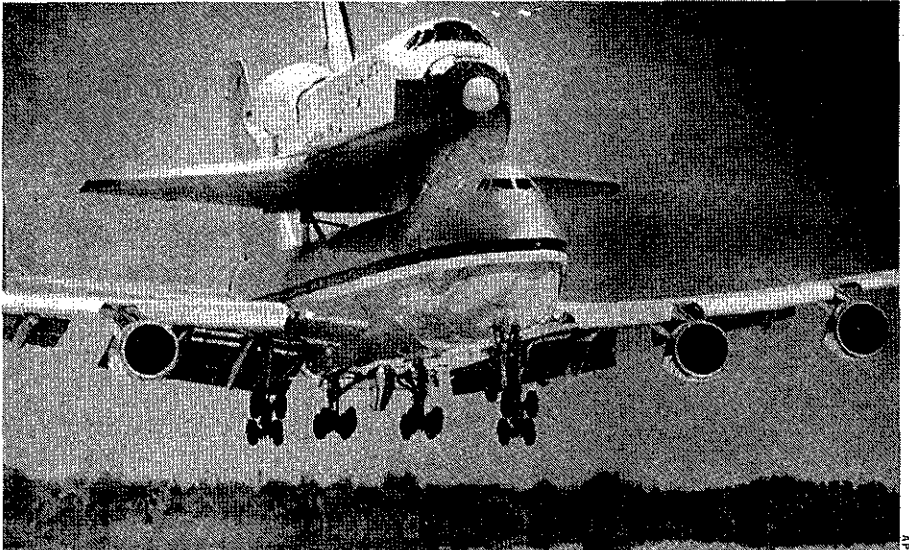
As a mighty army let us rally together. Let us join forces. Let us move forward together shouting, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

That is the call of God to each one of us as we prepare to be "caught up" to meet our Blessed Lord when He comes.

For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



SPACE FLIGHT— FULFILLING A DREAM



With a piggyback landing in Florida, *Columbia* completes an epic voyage

President Reagan said of the Space Shuttle...it did more than "prove out technological abilities...it started us dreaming again."

Well, many are dreaming of taking a space flight.

Ten-year-old John David Corley of Taylorsville, Mississippi wrote to the President about going on the space shuttle. But he had two questions: "1. Will the government provide transportation to the launching? And, 2. Will you please send me the two forms to fill out?"

Cindy Clarke, 15, of Panama City, Florida would like to go on the Space Shuttle. She thinks if fellow-students were to hear her description of a space flight it might be more meaningful than to read the report of some space scientist. She concludes her letter, saying: "If necessary, I will send a letter of recommendation from my school guidance counselor."

Another letter inquiring about space travel comes from Caroline Johnston, 82, of Missoula, Montana. "I have good health," she writes as she dashed off a letter volunteering her services.

"I'd like to reserve my seat on the first available flight, round-trip, no smoking, window seat - if possible," wrote David Best from Stockton, California.

It would appear that there is only limited space available to customers clamoring to get on the Space Shuttle. Already cargo for 48

flights has been spoken for, and the earliest reservations available are for 1985. In fact, it will be years before the full fleet of shuttles is available.

For those inquiring about the space shuttle, "It won't be like going to the moon," testifies a NASA official, "but rather like an airplane ride."

Surely orbiting the earth or traveling to the moon must be a lonely journey. It's certainly not easy to occupy cramped space quarters, where you seem to float weightlessly, and where you simply curl up on a corner of the cabin floor to sleep.

Life on the moon doesn't seem in the least exciting, either. For 13½ days of continuous lunar light, the temperature will bake you to a frazzle, or during the long lunar night when the temperature drops to 168 degrees centigrade, you are frozen stiff. So one newspaper columnist describes the moon as a place "fit only for mad dogs and Eskimos." With no air or wind, and with our astronauts in space suits, it is somewhat of a monotonous, miserable existence.

Yet, I see where in London, a man and wife have already placed a deposit with a travel agency for a flight to the moon.

Are you dreaming of traveling in space?

Bob Emmering of Fairfield, California wrote to NASA, saying: "I am very obscure (you've never heard of me, right?) and I am and probably always will be of Middle America!" Even then, Emmering insists he meets all the qualifications to travel in space. And he insists that a seat must go to an average American and not to a "government official such as a Congressman. They have enough fun on their junkets," he notes.

When the astronauts first set foot on the moon they wore suits which were 13 layers thick. This was basically a rubberized pressure suit designed to offer protection against changing temperatures that might vary from 250 degrees above zero to 250 degrees below zero.

Traveling aboard the Orbiter no space suits will be necessary. A standard sea-level atmosphere will be maintained.

However, in order to travel, the Space Shuttle technicians have installed ceramic-coated tiles to protect the ship from extreme temperatures. Likewise, advanced space suits have been prepared for the pilots to provide an earth-like environment in space, as well as thermal protection from the sun.

Frank M. Denton has referred to man's adventure into space as "one of the most exciting scientific programs the world has ever known."

It was Denton who originally designed the electrical portion of the astronaut's space suit umbilicals.

During a moon mission you may see the astronauts as they leave the mother ship and enter the lunar module at which time they affix their space suit umbilicals. It is the umbilicals which supply the astronaut with the necessary oxygen and pressure to sustain life. Without it, in space, man would perish instantly.

Denton gave the suit umbilical receptacles a reference designation of J316 and J317. In order for an astronaut to communicate to earth he must go through J316 and J317.

What Denton had in mind when he named these designations is John 3:16 and John 3:17...which is a most familiar passage to Bible believers.

We read: "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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

Observes Denton: "Just as the space suit umbilical is the 'life line' for the astronauts, even so the Lord Jesus Christ can be your 'eternal life line', if you will only connect John 3:16 and John 3:17 into your heart. In fact, notes Denton, "Your eternal life depends on it!"

When Astronauts move around in space they carry on their backs a portable LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM which recirculates cooling water through knitted undergarments worn beneath their space suits and enough oxygen for four hours' breathing.

As mentioned already, a portion of this 'life line' consists of an electrical cable which the astronaut connects into a mating receptacle on his space suit. This provides him with a means of 2-way communication. It also enables the astronaut to relay back to Mission Control Center all strategic data concerning his heart.

As Mission Control is constantly monitoring the heart of the astronaut, so God is concerned with the heart. As we read in 1 Sam. 16:7, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart."

Our heart represents the seat of spiritual or conscious life and action. As Jesus testified, "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." That's why Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." For sinful man needs a new heart.

The Psalmist prayed, "Create within me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me." (Psa. 51:10)

As the astronaut's heart is monitored by men, so your heart is constantly under the surveillance of God. God knows all about you, what you are thinking, and what you have done. And one day you must give an account of every deed and action.

That's why God wants you to come to Christ, admitting your wrongdoing, and receiving forgiveness, as we open our heart to Him.

As we read in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness..." That means that the righteousness of God is reckoned unto all who believe on Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Let me put it this way.

We have been explaining how an astronaut cannot travel space without a space suit. So man cannot enter heaven unless clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

In reality, man was not made to live in space. As one writer puts it: "Man is distinctly a creature of the earth."

The Apostle Paul, preaching at Mars Hill declared how God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation..." (Acts 17:26) Again in Psa. 115 we read: "The heaven, even the heavens are the Lords; but the earth hath he given to children of men."

If a man spends much time in space he becomes physically weak and his body quickly degenerates.

As NEWSWEEK magazine comments: "Muscles atrophy (waste away) despite daily exercise. The heart changes its pattern of contractions and may not return to normal even back on earth. Bones lose up to one-half of 1 per cent of their calcium every month because new deposits require gravity's pull."

Think of it!

Notes this journal, "The physiological toll is as vexing."

However, the Bible predicts that one day man, redeemed by grace through Jesus Christ, shall travel in space.

So, space is where it's at...where the action is!

Look into the starry heavens and see the magnificence of God's creation to realize there is where our Lord has gone to prepare a place for all who know and love Him.

In John 14 our Lord said to his disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3)

Did you hear it?

Somewhere in space amidst the stars our Lord is preparing a place for all who accept Him as their Saviour. Remember, He said, "If it were not so, I would have told you." But it is so. And, He is coming again to receive unto Himself all who are ready to meet Him.

There's coming a day when many on earth will experience a sudden metamorphosis. As a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, so man will become capable of traveling in space.

Paul writes: "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 all be changed."

What a change!

The Apostle Paul goes on to explain, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

However, we would point out again that only those fitted properly with appropriate attire will be able to enter heaven.

Like an astronaut must have on his space suit before being allowed to get into his space ship, so you must have on the robes of Christ's righteousness before you can enter heaven.

Turn to Matthew 22 where we have pictured a wedding. Who doesn't like weddings since they are a time of joy and bliss?

The day when we are caught up to meet our blessed Lord and forever be united with Him is described as a wedding. And there will be a time of feasting to which all are invited.

In the parable concerning the marriage feast we read: "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

"Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen."

What is the Lord saying here?

First, He suggests that all are invited to this glorious occasion. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should be saved. However, only those who accept His invitation will be present for this time of joyous celebration.

Second, without the wedding garment we will not be permitted at this time of feasting.

You ask, What is the wedding garment?

We would reply - it is the invisible "robe of righteousness" that you receive when you receive Christ as your Saviour, without which no one can enter heaven.

You've heard it said, "A man can enter heaven without an education, and without a reputation, but he can't enter WITHOUT CHRIST!"

If I were to ask you today - What are you trusting to get you to heaven? You might reply, "Well, I haven't been too bad. I treat my family well. I try to provide for my children and look out for my neighbor. I even go to church occasionally."

That may sound well and good. But the Bible says in Isaiah 64:6, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

God won't accept our righteousness any more than He would accept filthy rags.

So, in order to get to heaven we need to be clothed with Christ's righteousness.

As we read in 2 Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

To seek to wear a space suit and invade space will not bring one into the presence of God. That's similar to when they sought to build a tower that would reach to heaven at Babel.

No, my friends, Jesus said, "He that climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." (John 14:6)

Name all the founders of religions. Show me their tombs. They are all dead. JESUS IS ALIVE. God proved to the world that He alone is the way to heaven.

Our Lord could say, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

So, in order to get to heaven you need to receive Christ. You must be clothed with His righteousness.

Especially in view of our Lord's return are we reminded we need the robes of Christ's righteousness. Then our robes are kept spotlessly clean as we walk in the light of His word, and the "blood of Jesus...cleanses us from all sin."

May we ask sincerely, Do you have on this robe - this "space suit" - the wedding garment required of all attending the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Turn yet to Revelation 19 where we read: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Now, after we receive Christ and receive His righteousness it is expected of us that we live pure and holy lives. After all, if we call ourselves Christians, we should live like Christians, not in the power of our own personalities, but in the strength which He gives.

In addition to receiving the robe of righteousness when we are saved, mention is made here of "fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

The Revised Standard Version says the fine linen is the "righteous deeds of the saints."

The Phillips Translation says, "the fine linen is the righteous living of the saints."

The New English Bible says of the attire mentioned here that it represents the "righteous deeds of God's people."

The Amplified Version states the fine linen worn at the marriage feast speaks of the "upright, just and godly living (deeds, conduct) and right standing with God—of the saints."

Beloved, don't ever get the idea it doesn't matter how you live when Jesus comes. Yes, we are saved by grace through faith - by the blood of Jesus which becomes the covering and cleansing from sin.

But we read in Rev. 16:15 where our Lord says, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

My friend, these are the last days. Jesus is soon to come. And the message of Bible Prophecy is always a call to holy living.

If we are going to be at the Marriage Feast spoken of by Jesus we need to be attired in His robe of righteousness and have on the fine linen of obedience expressed in conduct that is becoming to one who calls himself a Christian.

If you call yourself a Christian and lie and cheat and steal and commit immorality...you're not ready for the coming of our Blessed Lord.

Rather, the message you need to hear is repent—to turn from your sin and humbly receive forgiveness.

In view of Christ's coming we read, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." And we're reminded again, "His wife hath made herself ready!"

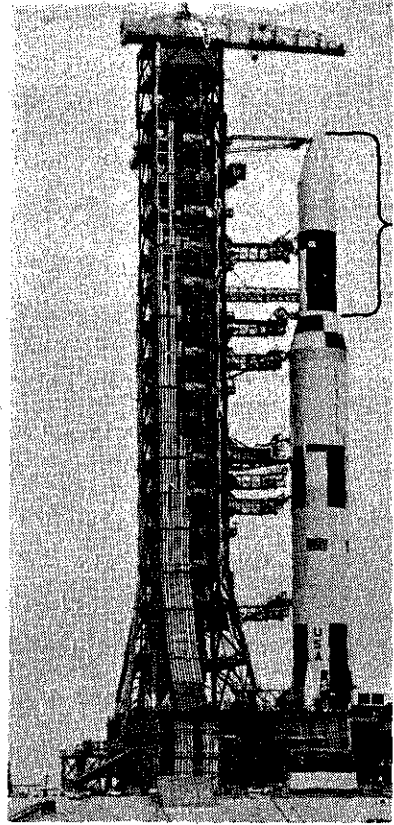
If today you call yourself a Christian, a part of the bride of Christ, you will not only want to get ready, you will be ready for His coming by heeding this message.

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I repent of all my sin. I receive the righteousness you provided when you died on the cross for my sins. I receive you as my Saviour and from now on want you to be the Lord and Master of my life. Forgive me of all my sins, my evil ways, my bad habits, my wrong-doing. I want to be ready when you come. Amen."

Pray this prayer and mean it. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, live for the Lord by reading your Bible and praying every day, and treating your fellowman right.

For our Lord hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

WHAT OF MAN'S PLACE IN SPACE?



Richard F. Williamson, writing in GRIT (Oct. 11, '59) says: "Man is intent on exploring space because of the same human drive for knowledge and taste for adventure that inspired Christopher Columbus to sail into uncharted seas to prove that the earth is round, not flat."

Man's exploration in space in recent times began with a technological race in which the Soviet Union became involved. It has further evolved into a search for knowledge about the planets, the solar system—the universe.

We have seen earth as we have not seen it before. How fragile it is. We might ask—Is this the way God sees our world?

More than seeing the contour of color in blue mountain peaks and green valleys...we know He sees man, you and me.

The "Go-Ahead" for America's first manned space flights came one week after the formation of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) October 1, 1958.

It was three years later before Alan B. Shepard took a 115-mile sub-orbital ride in the Mercury Spacecraft. It was then that questions were asked—Does God want man in space? Is not the earth the bounds of man's habitation?

But other astronauts were to join the procession into Space.

In succession there were ten Gemini flights with two astronauts in each space craft. In space our crafts learned how to rendezvous and dock with another object—a maneuver that was critical to future moon landings.

We witnessed man's walk in space, followed by at least a dozen American astronauts walking on the moon and bringing back 850 pounds of lunar soil and rocks for analysis.

Testified Wernher von Braun, one of the early pioneers in space and rocketry: "God has built man with curiosity. God expects man to use this gift."

Said Dr. Von Braun: "Now we have the tools available to explore space." He noted: "If it were not the Creator's intent for us to explore celestial bodies He would not have permitted us to have acquired the tools."

Among the tools for exploring space was SKYLAB—a manned orbital laboratory.

This was followed by American and Russian astronauts completing an international linkup in Space during the Apollo Soyuz Test project.

Some questioned whether we should have joined the Soviets in this feat of cooperation. They remembered the remarks of a Russian cosmonaut named Titov who circled the earth 19 times and then declared boastfully: "Some people say there is a God out there, but in my travels around the earth I looked around all the day long and did not see Him. I saw no God or angels," said Titov. "I do not believe in God. I believe in man and his strength."

It was while exploring the heavens that some of our astronauts confirmed what we read in Psalms 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." (Psa. 19:1)

And who can forget that Christmas morning when tuned in from space came the message—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." It was a message read by Col. Frank Borman of Apollo 8.

Less publicized were Edwin Aldrin's celebration of Communion shortly after landing on the moon.

Witnessing various space applications including Television "via satellite" makes us think of what we read further in the 19th Psalm: "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

Television pictures are framed with lines or resolutions, while the words are synchronized to get the message to the whole world that Jesus Christ is both Saviour and Lord, and "no man cometh to the Father, but by Me," said Jesus.

And, our Lord further declares, "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37b)

How wonderful that we can approach the God of the universe and find salvation through faith. For He has revealed Himself as man's creator and redeemer having accomplished our redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Writing in the FLAME, a British publication, Len McNeil asks the

question: "Does the plan of God allow for exploration of space?" Again he inquires, "Is it right, or is it wrong, for man to enter outer space and explore other worlds?"

He replies: "Nowhere does the Bible say, 'Thou shalt not go into outer space'."

However, witnessing our vast universe he points to Psalms 115:16 which says: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men."

So heaven is God's dwelling place, while earth is ordained for man.

In the NATIONAL OBSERVER the question is asked—What about man's place in space?

The reply is made. "Since the beginning of time men have wondered about our place in the cosmos. Were we a unique accident of evolution or, in different terms, were we created the chosen of God to have dominion over earth and heaven? Or was this planet but one among many with life? Were we the human species not matchless of our kind?"

Lucretius the Roman is then quoted as saying there must be elsewhere beyond the earth "other combinations of matter like to this which ether holds in its greedy grasp...There are other earths and various races of men and kinds of wild beasts."

Well, it gave men something to think about in the days even before there were Christian theologians.

Lucretius went on to assume that man was not alone in God's vast universe, declaring: "In no wise can it be deemed probable...that this single earth and heaven have been brought into being."

Are there other inhabited worlds?

The article concludes: "That mystery must wait until we reach the stars. Until then, within this solar system which is ours, we, the human species, are restored to our special place, alone upon this planet."

British author Arthur C. Clarke says: "Sometime after 1985, the true space age will begin to dawn." Clarke has produced some 40 books of science fact and fiction, including the famous 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY.

His view as to whether there are inhabited planets was expressed some time ago in these words when he said: "In our present state of almost total ignorance, the only prediction that can be safely made about the other eight planets and their 30-odd moons is that there is not a single one upon which unprotected men can live."

However, he concluded: "Whatever technologies the future may bring, the doors of heaven are now opening; this is the central fact of our age."

Anyone who knows and loves the Word of God believes this is the central theme of our time. We believe that space exploration is a sign that our Lord is soon to come and we shall spend eternity with Him in exploring the universe.

As someone has well-stated—one day our Lord will return and there will follow the greatest airlift of all time.

We read of this in 1 Thes. 4:16-17.

"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."

What a glorious future for the true saints of God! We are going to meet the Lord in the air for a journey through space.

Says McNeil: "Not powered by rockets, but caught up to be with the Lord—impelled and drawn by love divine."

May we ask—Are you ready for this wonderful event? This may be new to you. Many are unaware of this Scripture which promises an exodus from our planet to heaven for all who are ready to meet the Saviour when He comes.

We would point out—this space trip is not for everyone.

In our space program when astronauts are called up for training, only a few actually get to make the trip into space.

Similarly, in our Lord's parable of the wedding feast only those who were properly prepared were admitted. And the conclusion of the matter is this—"For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matt. 22:14)

Remember, those are not my words, but the words of the Saviour. He is coming back to this earth but He is coming for those who are ready to meet Him.

That's why there are admonitions given so that we will not miss this glorious event.

In the book of the Revelation our Lord is described as returning to this earth on a white horse and leading a procession of saints also on white horses. Of these saints it is said they are "called, chosen and faithful." (Rev. 17:14)

Naturally, this is a vivid description of how when we repent of our sins and trust Christ as our Saviour we enroll in His army. For on this occasion He is coming to destroy the armies of the Antichrist. Now notice what we read: "And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

Did you hear it?

Previously we have been told what the fine linen represents. For of the saints caught up at the rapture enroute to the marriage feast where they are forever united with their Lord we read, "For the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Beloved, the only way we will ever be caught up when Jesus comes is to be robed in His righteousness which He freely bestows on all who believe.

The worst sinner, the hardened criminal, the prostitute and the pervert can be totally cleansed and made "white and clean" through the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses from all sin.

On the other hand, it's possible to claim to be a Christian but be living in immorality and impurity, and not ready for our Lord's coming.

A thorough study of this text we just quoted would convince any Bible scholar that not only is it expected of us that we have on the robes of Christ's righteousness, but that those robes be kept clean. When we read: "The fine linen is the righteousness of saints," it relates not only

to imputed righteousness, but to our actual righteous living at the time of Christ's coming.

As the Revised Standard Version declares, the fine linen represents the "righteous deeds of the saints." The Phillips translation says it speaks of the "righteous living of the saints."

We just don't believe that when the Lord comes He is going to snatch some out of the tavern and other dens of iniquity and up we go to meet Him in the air — because we claim to be Christians.

While we are saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ He teaches us that we are to live so that we will be ready when He comes.

We just read, "His wife hath made herself ready!"

Are you ready if Jesus were to come right now? Or would you have to drop to your knees and get right with God? Are there habits and sins that you never got the victory over? Are there hidden sins, unpaid bills, crimes you committed...that tarnish your garments?

May God help us.

Remember, Christ's coming is the believer's "blessed hope!" Like a bride and groom adorned in pure white so we await His return!

In 1 John 3 we read: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God (born-again ones), and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." (1 John 3:2-3)

Are you looking for Jesus to come?

If so, as a truly born-again person you are going to want to be ready. For "every man that hath this hope " will seek to live pure as He is pure.

How do we purify ourselves?

In 1 Peter 1:22 we read: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Pet. 1:22-23)

God has given us His holy Word. As we follow it, obeying the Holy Spirit who has given it, we are purified and made ready for our Lord's coming.

Like Ever-ready batteries produce instant light when needed, we can be ever-ready for our Lord's Coming.

So, let's determine right now that we will be ready! We will heed the admonition of God's Word. We will walk in obedience to His will and to His Word. For "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

That's what it means to be ready for the rapture. We repeat—To be ready for our Lord when He comes means to be walking in the light of His Word. Thus He keeps us cleansed and ever-ready for His coming.

For remember He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



WHY TRAVEL IN SPACE?

NASA's Greg Hayes says: "Thanks to the Shuttle Program you can now seriously look forward to your time in space!"

Richard Levy in an article in **PARADE** magazine has noted: "The Space Shuttle...has captured the imagination of thousands of Americans." He also observes: "NASA is being flooded with requests to participate in its missions."

In fact, in view of the space shuttle program there have been over 100 letters and telephone calls coming daily to NASA's Astronaut Selection Operation at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

At one time, former Vice-Pres. Walter Mondale, while in the U.S. Senate, described preparations for the Space Shuttle as "senseless extravaganza in space!"

Even now, writing in the **HERITAGE FOUNDATION'S AGENDA FOR PROGRESS**, Richard Speir thinks the federal government should abandon the space shuttle program. He suggests the projected savings "can hardly be expected to justify" the expense.

However, NASA sees the test-proven Space Shuttle as the "most practical, efficient, down-to-earth space vehicle ever designed." (**NEWSWEEK** 4/27/81)

The Space Shuttle has the capability of orbiting space. It is also designed for nearby space—no farther than 1,000 miles from earth, and with a range of about 200 miles, with missions lasting no longer than a week.

How about you?

Are you anxious to reserve a seat on an upcoming flight?

Mary E. Bubb, who claims to have covered more launches than any other newsperson, has formally applied for the position of pool reporter aboard the Space Shuttle when the opportunity arises.

The president of ABC NEWS has also written NASA requesting that Science Editor Jules Bergman be invited aboard on a space shuttle mission where reporters will be allowed.

Likewise, the Science Editor of the CHICAGO TRIBUNE wants on, too, although, he admits: "I started off incredulous that anyone would take such a risk."

David W. Garrett, a NASA spokesman for space transport systems, says a journalist will probably be one of the first observers to accompany the Space Shuttle.

According to Garrett, the Media has the inside track. After all, they have been reporting all along concerning the space program. Organizations and individual reporters have written in from seemingly every branch of the media, wanting to be included in a future space flight. That includes the wire services, newspapers, radio, commercial and public TV, news magazines, trade journals, other magazines.

Well, we have not made our application. The reason is that we are interested in a space flight expected momentarily that finds no booster rocket required and no space suits necessary.

Rather, we await an event called THE RAPTURE when our Lord is seen coming for His own and the "LIFT OFF" begins for those who are ready to meet our Saviour.

As the Scripture says in Hebrews 9:28... "unto them that look for him shall he appear."

Are you looking for His coming?

If so, it will be the grand and glorious event of all ages when our Lord is seen coming for His own.

However, we do have great admiration for those who are involved in the Space program.

Such a person wanting to become one of our first female astronauts in space is Anna L. Fisher.

Why would anyone want to travel in outer space?

Testifies a NASA Space Scientist: "People want to fly on the shuttle because it promises something new in our monotonous lives. It's the ultimate experience, a chance to reach a bold, new frontier."

Well, it is surprising how many of our astronauts have been born-again believers. And, although they may testify of the glories of the universe that they have seen in their space ships, they boldly and proudly declare that "knowing" Christ as Saviour and Lord" is truly the "ultimate experience" of their lives.

There have been those who have expressed a desire to take off in a space rocket or to ride the Space Shuttle as passengers.

PARADE lists some of the names of those whom Herbert J. Rowe, a NASA former top administrator, said he would like to invite to ride the Space Shuttle. "The list sort of grows," he notes, and "it includes such names as Lowell Thomas, Walter Cronkite, Sen. Barry Goldwater, John Denver, Hugh Downs, Jane Fonda...just to name a few."

Said Goldwater of the developing Space Shuttle project, "I have observed almost every moment of its construction from blueprint to flight. I said I would like to get a ride on it, and I still would like to go on." Rather jokingly, I think, he said: "I am able to pass any physical they offer."

Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor said she would love to go, but "of course it depends on how many handsome astronauts are on it."

The Shuttle Orbiter, an airplane-like vehicle, can accommodate a crew of seven: commander, pilot, mission specialist and as many as four specialists or observers. Seat availability would be limited although the demand is already high. Passengers will be a privileged group for some time to come."

Barbara Marx Hubbard said a flight aboard the shuttle would make her the happiest woman on earth. "The Space Shuttle represents to me a step toward the ancient dream for peace, freedom and new abundance."

Well, peace can be something illusive. It doesn't always come the way we think it might come. That's why some people take to drugs or heavy drinking, thinking they can discover tranquility of spirit or peace of mind and heart.

But the Bible plainly declares, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

Do you have this peace?

Some years ago, when I first entered the ministry, I found in asking anyone whether they were born-again, they often did not know what I was talking about. Well, since then, the phrase has become quite popular and I'm still not sure whether many know what the term means.

It really means to have a changed heart, a life cleansed from sin with new attitudes, new desires and a new direction that one is traveling. It may involve space travel, for instead of doom and damnation, one's eternal destiny is heaven and one's delight is in the return of Jesus Christ for all who await His coming.

Traveling the Universe in a space vehicle may produce peace by getting away from earth with its problems, but upon landing the problems are still here.

It was Fenelon who declared: "How different the peace of God from that of the world! It calms the passions, preserves the purity of conscience, is inseparable from righteousness, unites us to God and strengthens us against temptations." How do you acquire this peace? By "absolute resignation to the will of God," says Fenelon.

In the Lord's prayer, we pray, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

You see, sin is demanding our will. Peace comes when we surrender our will to God and His will becomes our will."

In fact, here is where many Christians are lacking this peace. They are seeking peace in a thousand different ways including perhaps going to a far-distant land, trying to get away from the hum-drum existence, looking for satisfaction of soul and spirit.

As D.L. Moody, the great evangelist, points out: "As long as our minds are stayed on our dear selves, we shall never have peace." Rather, he notes, the promise is: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."

Allow the Lord to become Supreme. Surrender your life to Him. Invite Him into your heart and life if you've never done so. Then daily pray this prayer, "Lord, take over in my life today. Direct the affairs of my life. Take control of my attitudes and my actions. I surrender all to Thee."

Pray that prayer and mean it. Pray it every morning of every day until you discover this true and lasting peace.

Paul, writing to the Philippians, urged them saying: "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:5-7)

Did you hear it?

Today if you are without Christ, you do not have this peace. And you won't find it by ascending the heavens in a rocket. You won't discover peace in a bottle or in a pill or in the many so-called pleasures that the devil offers you.

Witnessing the tossing waves of the ocean, we're reminded of what Isaiah says: "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." (Isaiah 57:20-21)

May we sincerely ask you—Do you have peace? Or, are you captured by sins of your own making? Do you have desires that seem to control you and from which you would like to be free?

Then turn to Jesus Christ. Ask Him to come into your heart and life. He is simply waiting to give you peace and set you free from your miseries.

Beloved, this is the reason for which Jesus came. He came to save sinners. He came to save you. He is here right now to bring deliverance from your doubts and fears and give you His peace.

Contrary to what some believe—you won't find peace by leaving this world in a space ship. You will find it here and now if you'll let Christ come into your heart and life.

Will you do it?

As John Ruskin once said, "You may assuredly find perfect peace, if you are resolved to do that which your Lord has plainly required...."

What has he required?

First, that you repent.

Are you tired of the way you are living? Does it bring happiness? Do you have peace? Do you want to be saved, cleansed from all your sin?

Second, you must come to Jesus. He came to seek and save that which is lost. Are you lost? Do you want to be saved? In Acts 16:31 we read: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!"

Third, boldly confess Him as your Saviour. Tell your friends that you have received Christ as your Saviour and Lord. For we read, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth, Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

Do it now!

Accept Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Somehow I feel that there are many watching today who are not happy. You do not have peace. The reason you watch television is to get your mind off your troubles. But that does not bring peace. Peace comes from trusting Jesus and committing your all to HIM.

Try it and see if it doesn't work.

Then, every day thank the Lord for saving you.

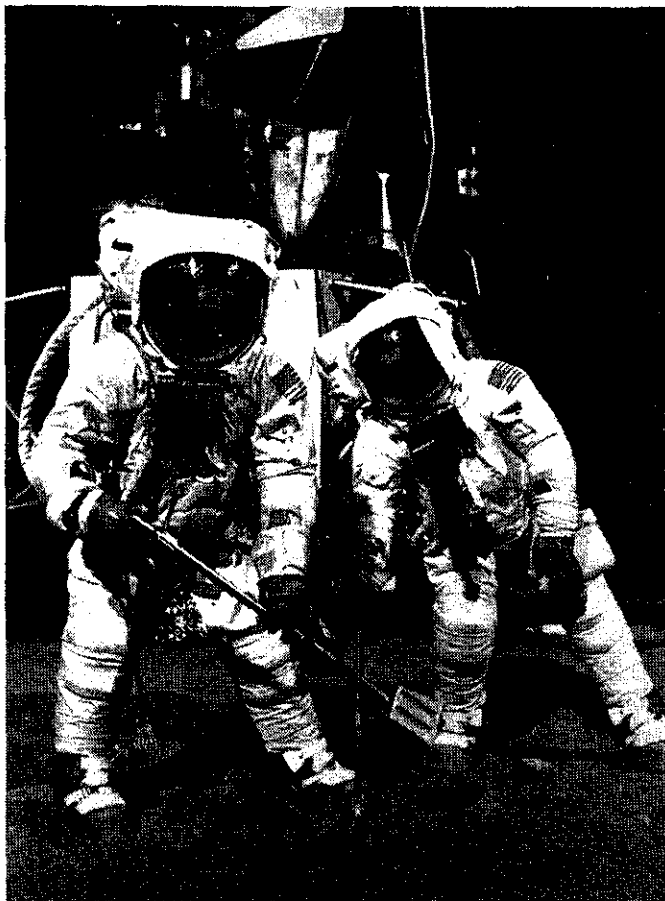
In 1 Cor. 15, we read where Paul writes... "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

In other words, don't forget what Jesus did for you. He died for your sins and rose again and is now at the right hand of the Father interceding for you.

And one day soon He is coming for all who love Him.

So live for Him every day. Read your Bible and pray and seek His help in all of your problems and in all of your needs.

And remember. "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



—NASA Photo

LIVING IN SPACE



Young and Crippen

Astronaut Robert L. Crippen, along with John W. Young, testified before the House Committee on Science and Technology of "new horizons that we can't even imagine today!" An earth-orbiting space station is the next logical step....say these astronauts.

Representative Bill Nelson of Florida has called upon the President to establish manned space stations during this decade of the '80's. The administration previously rejected the idea of an orbiting space station as too costly at the time when the Space Shuttle was approved.

NASA sees the Space Shuttle as inaugurating a new era of space exploitation, turning the drama of the early flights into humdrum routine.

By NASA's calculations the year 1993 should see several orbiters making 40 trips a year into space....that is, if the world should stand that long!

From all indications Christ's Return hastens...a space trip you won't want to miss!

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT sees the Space Shuttle as having accomplished at least three monumental achievements:

It re-established the U.S. as the world's leading space power — at least a decade ahead of the Russians, laid the foundations for unparalleled advances in technology, and made possible a revolution in American military defenses."

"Space Travel," notes this news journal, "is no longer a novelty, but rather an important part of mankind's future."

There are limitless ideas as to how the Space Shuttle can be used. Duties include putting new satellites into orbit — among them 'spies in the sky' for the Pentagon. And there can be the retrieving or repairing of old satellites.

Concerning establishing of Space Stations....NASA says it would love such a mission. Dr. Richard Johnson of NASA's AMES RESEARCH CENTER comments on space colonization....

Can man colonize space? This is TORUS....the concept that has evolved from the work of these teams of scientists and engineers. They believe, in fact, a huge space colony could be built before the year 2000.

The TORUS space colony would be constructed almost entirely from ore mined on the moon. It would become the home for ten thousand people....They would live and work and be protected within a vast wheel more than a mile in diameter. The earthlike environment would even simulate our gravity as the wheel revolves once each minute.

Interesting, isn't it?

From dairy farms to manufacturing....the concept of living and working in space is a possibility with existing technology. That new space home, located a quarter-of-a-million miles from earth would even have a "far out" address.

Space colonization! Will it become a reality?

Gen. Thomas S. Power, who served as Commander-In-Chief of our Strategic Air Command, stated at the launching of our space program, "The time is bound to come when man will venture even deeper into space...to battle the limitless challenge of the universe."

The question we might ask is this — When man ventures deeper into space, is it possible that he will see God there?

In Psalms 48 we read: "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

Now, notice what we read concerning this heavenly city in the sides of the north: "God is known in her palaces for a refuge. For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away." (Psa. 48:2-5)

Did you hear it?

There is evidence there is a city in space, in the sides of the north. One day man will see it. He will be troubled, and haste quickly away.

Nikita Khrushchev, former Russian premier, once joked about the Christian's belief in heaven. He said: "As to paradise, we have heard a lot about it from the priests, so we decided to find out for ourselves.

"First, we sent up our explorer, Yuri Gagarin. He circled the globe and found nothing in outer space. 'It's pitch dark there,' he said; 'no Garden of Eden, nothing like heaven.'

"So we decided to send another. We sent Gherman Titov and told him to fly for a whole day. After all, Gagarin was up there only an hour and a half. He might have missed paradise," said Khrushchev. "We told him to take a good look. Well, he took off, came back and confirmed Gagarin's conclusions," said Khrushchev. "There was nothing there."

But won't Khrushchev, atheists and liberal theologians be surprised when one day the city of God will be seen in heaven?

Watching scenes of our great universe makes us think of the story of a French atheist who was crossing the desert with a camel train. His camel driver believed in God and prayed to Him.

In sarcasm, the infidel asked him what he was doing. The driver replied that he was praying to God. In scorn, the unbeliever asked him, "Did you ever see God? Did you ever touch Him? Did you ever taste Him? Did you ever smell Him?" To these questions the humble man was forced to reply, "No!"

Early next morning, having camped for the night, the atheist looked across the desert waste to observe, "There was a camel that passed by here last night." The camel driver said to the Frenchman, "Did you see him? touch him? smell him? taste him?" The atheist replied, "No, but I see his tracks in the sand."

Replied the camel driver, "I see God's tracks in the sky!"

Stanley Baldwin, writing in CHRISTIANITY TODAY magazine, says: "Most of us have a rather vague concept of heaven."

The reason, according to Baldwin, is that we understand new things only in terms of something we already know.

For instance, try to picture a sunset to someone born blind. He does not know red from black or green. Our terms are but empty words. So, heaven is indescribable. It is not like anything we have already known or experienced. It is a new realm beyond our comprehension."

A person's view of heaven might be likened to the father who invited his three sons to climb a nearby mountain. He asked them to bring back from this mountain some sort of token to show how far he climbed up the mountain.

The first one returned with a white flower which grew only above the timberline.

The second son came back with a red flint stone found near the top.

The third son was gone a long time. But when he returned he exclaimed jubilantly: "Father, where I went there was nothing to bring back, but where I stood I could see the sun shining in all its glory on the surrounding countryside."

The proud father replied, "Son, it has been my ambition that one of my sons should see what you have seen. You have nothing in your hand, but you have a greater thing — a vision in your soul!"

So, Heaven is indescribable. The Bible says: "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."

(1 Cor. 2:9)

The Bible's message is one of redemption. Not much is said about heaven. Not much is said about hell. Rather, the message of the Bible is JESUS CHRIST who came to save us for heaven and redeem us from hell.

Do you know this Jesus, the Saviour of all men, who came to earth to die upon a cross for your sins and mine?

Our Lord could say, "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. And

if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2-3)

Wouldn't you like to know that you are on your way to heaven?

John Bunyan, like many who become discouraged with life, was sitting on the bank of a stream contemplating suicide, when he had a preview of heaven. He proceeded to write a book — one of the most widely read Christian books apart from the Bible — **PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**.

General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, wrote of the glimpse of Paradise which he had.

He wrote: "No human eyes ever beheld such perfection, such beauty. No earthly ear ever heard such music. No human heart ever experienced such ecstasy as it was my privilege to see, hear and feel in that celestial country."

Scientists visualize the construction of space cities, but surely none compare to the celestial city where our Lord dwells.

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John sees the holy city coming down from God out of heaven.

The city is one which defies description — streets of pure gold, gates of pearl, and a foundation of all kinds of precious stone.

We read, "The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it; and the Lamb is the light thereof." (Rev. 21:23)

Harvard astronomer, Harlow Shaley, once estimated there were one hundred thousand million billion stars and planets in our universe as seen through present day telescopes. (If you're writing that down, that's 100 followed by 18 zeros.)

But the Heavenly City which John saw will outshine them all. It is a city foursquare—the length and breadth and height are equal.

The city is one of 12,000 furlongs....a distance from New York City to Dallas, Texas; or from Minneapolis to Tampa, Florida.

Occasionally we read of reports of observatory sightings of celestial objects. Surely, one of these days, the city John saw will make its appearance.

Scientists tell of the enormous speeds of some of the mysterious objects seen traveling through space. One object was seen going at the speed of 76,000 miles per second — that's half the speed of light.

How sad, my friend, for those who are not ready for that day when our Lord returns to our earth's atmosphere.

In Revelation we read where the men of earth "hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17)

Beloved, we need to get right with the Lord so we will be ready whenever He will come.

Concerning the Holy City which John saw descending to earth, we are told: "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev. 21:27)

Is your name in the Lamb's book of life?

Have you received Christ as your Saviour and Lord? If so, the Bible says, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23b)

My friend, you could not help being born once. But you can be born again by placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Make that all-important decision today!

And, if you are a believer in our Lord Jesus Christ....make every moment count as you seek to live for the Lord.

Evangelist Harry MacArthur writes: "The appreciation of heaven will be according to the depth of our experience on earth."

He goes on to say, "We cannot live here according to our own wills, neglecting divinely-sent opportunities, and then suppose we will be permitted to enjoy the highest possible bliss yonder."

Indeed, our appreciation of heaven will be reflected in our love for the Lord, and our efforts at winning souls, or in giving to get out this message.

May we live for the day when our Lord returns and He says to each of us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant....enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Salvation is so simple that a child can be saved by heeding this message.

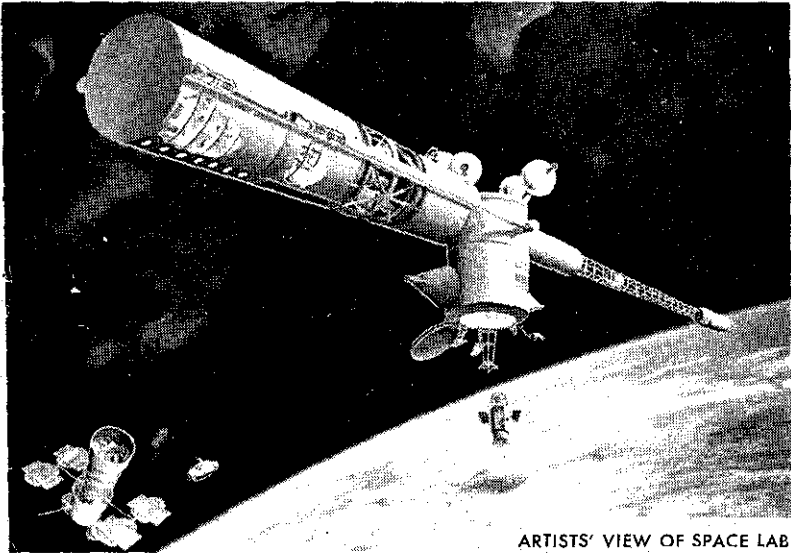
Do you want to go to heaven? Then pray this prayer and invite the Lord into your heart and life.

"Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, but your Word says You came to save sinners. I believe You came to save me when You died on the cross for my sins. I ask You to forgive me of my sins and come into my life. Then, help me to live for You...to read my Bible every day, and to seek to win my loved ones to You. Thank You for saving me. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And live for Jesus every day, for He is coming soon!

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!

LEARNING TO BUILD



ARTISTS' VIEW OF SPACE LAB

IN SPACE

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT has stated: "In the coming decades, if planners have their way, journeys into space will become routine. Factories and scientific space stations will orbit the planet. Unmanned probes will visit the fringes of space and, in the greatest quest of all, seek signs of intelligent life elsewhere."

There are questions which arise as a result of contemplating life in outer space.

For example, one divinity school professor suggests the idea that space exploration "may reinforce the idea that man may not be the most important thing in creation." He asks, "What if out there we find persons superior to us, as we consider ourselves superior to dogs?" (Dr. Bernard Loomer of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School)

As to whether there may be planets that are inhabited, some ask—"Will they need converting?"

A theological professor responds by saying: "If God has revealed Himself to people on another planet, that revelation must essentially be in agreement with that which he revealed to us." (Dr. Per Hassing, Boston University School of Theology) TIME 1/24/69

When our Space Program dawned, with man going to the moon, it resulted in what one minister called "astro theology."

TIME magazine commented that, "A number of clergymen feel that growing knowledge of the immensity of the universe may prove to be a stimulus to renewed faith in God the creator."

Among the astronauts who have found exploration of space bringing them closer to God is James B. Irwin of the Apollo 15 mission, who is an evangelist today.

Irwin testified that his crew explored the moon "with the power of God and Jesus Christ for the benefit of all mankind."

Concerning God's presence, he said: "Our camp site at Hadley Base was like a beautiful valley in the high mountains of earth.

"God was there. The hours that I spent on the moon were the most thrilling moments of my life. Not because I was on the moon, but because I could feel the presence of God."

He noted, "On the moon, I think we had some divine guidance, helping us to be able to interpret what we saw."

He said, "There were several times when tasks seemed impossible."

But he added, "We were able to accomplish almost all of our objectives and I believe it helped to have Someone there watching over me."

He said the beauty of the moon was further evidence of God's creation. "You are almost struck dumb sometimes by the beauty you see, not only on the moon, but around the moon, the view back to earth and the various lighting conditions."

It was this beauty of creation that led Irwin to quote his favorite Psalm to an international television audience... "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth... The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand."

On cue, TV commentator Walter Cronkite picked up a copy of the Bible and read Psalms 121 in its entirety.

Dr. Carl McIntyre tells how excited he was when our astronauts read from the Bible while orbiting the earth. "This has put the Bible up above the Koran," said McIntyre. "It has put this Bible up above any other sacred writings that anyone has."

Perhaps you are unaware of the fact that a special fireproof packet containing microfilm copies of the Scriptures were placed on the moon by Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell. The packet was prepared by the American Bible Society and contained a complete RSV Bible, along with 16 different language versions of Genesis 1:1, and other selections from the Bible.

NASA Space Scientist Dr. Rodney W. Johnson, considered to be America's foremost authority on lunar bases, was asked—"Do you feel that it is in the providence of God to go beyond the moon in the exploration of space? If so, how far? Where will space exploration end?"

Johnson replied: "In my view, we can go beyond the moon, say to Mars, and in the opinion of many, we should undertake a program to do so."

States Johnson: "How this kind of extension of space-flight capability would fit into God's plan for man is difficult to determine."

However, he notes: "With the means and the will we could go to Mars and return—in our lifetime."

Of course, some may not agree. The Rev. Clay Cooper of Spokane, Washington, got his comment in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some years ago when he questioned the Soviet penetration of Space. "Does the Moral Governor of this universe interpret this penetration as an intrusion on His preserve?" asked Cooper. After all, the Soviets do not believe in God.

Others will point to past centuries when man attempted to build to heaven. In Genesis 11 we read where men said, "Let us build a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name."

We remember how the Lord came down to see the city and the tower and put a stop to their building by confusing their languages. They, too, sought to build without God.

Meantime, we continue to seek to build in space.

George E. Mueller of NASA says a Space-Station System would vastly expand man's knowledge of "earth's resources, oceanography, weather prediction and control, disaster warnings, air and sea traffic control and safety, and other scientific investigations."

For those and other reasons NASA is training women for future roles they may fill in space.

There are some who might ask—"What is the purpose of all of this training? If man can't get along with his neighbor down here, how can he get along up there?"

Arthur C. Clarke, a British writer, comments: "There is always a fear, of course, that men will carry the curse of their animosities into space. But it is more likely that in the long run, those who go out to the stars will leave behind the barriers of nation and race that divide them now." He adds: "There is hopeful symbolism in the fact that flags will not wave in a vacuum; our present tribal conflicts cannot be sustained in the hostile environment of space."

"Whether we like it or not," he notes, "our children will find new loyalties when they set foot on the moon, or Mars, or the satellites of the giant planets. They did so in these United States a hundred years ago; they will do so on the United Planets in the centuries to come."

Well, man may succeed in building and inhabiting space. But unless he has a change of heart he will not be able to dwell in the city of God so vividly described in the book of the Revelation. This is the holy city that John saw coming down from God out of heaven.

Here's what we read:

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven." (Verse 2a)

Verse 27 tells us: "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

The question we would ask is—"What about your destiny? Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life?"

Our Space Program has some basic requirements for those who want to be selected as astronauts.

At least, here are some of the initial considerations: one needs to be a university graduate with a degree in the physical sciences, in engineering; one needs to be a graduate of one of the military test-pilot training

schools with at least 1500 hours of flying time; a person needs to be younger than 40 years, and not taller than 5 feet 11. One must also be in superb condition with the physical and psychological characteristics best suited for space flights as determined by NASA.

Now, in order to enter God's kingdom—heaven—the city of God, there are likewise basic requirements.

First, we need to admit that we are sinners. We are simply not good enough to go to heaven. If we thought we were good enough, then Jesus would not have had to come and die on the cross for our sins.

The Bible says: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Second, we need to receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour. That is the reason He came to earth. As the Apostle Paul declared, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (1 Tim. 1:15)

Paul, who killed Christians, said he was the chief of sinners. So there is room for you. If you will only receive Christ as your Saviour He will take away your sin if you'll but ask Him.

Third, when you receive Christ as your Saviour, you will want to tell others about Him. (This, too, is a part of salvation.)

In Romans 10:9-10 we read: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The next verse says, "For whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed."

Have you received Christ as your Saviour?

Then, why not do it now?

Remember, you need to admit you're a sinner. Then invite the Lord into your heart and life. And, openly confess Him before others as your Saviour.

That is how you make preparation for that space trip to the City of God.

You will need to read God's Word. The Bible is like a map. It will give you the necessary instructions as to how to live for the Lord.

Then you need to pray. Prayer is talking to the Lord.

Should you fail the Lord you will want to confess it to Him so that everything is right between you and God and your fellowman.

In 1 John 1:7 we read: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It is by walking in the light of God's Word and in obedience to His Will that we have peace in our heart.

1 John 1:7 reminds us, "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Hallelujah.

Isn't this what you want?

Then pray this prayer: "Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you died on the cross for my sins. I now receive you as my Saviour. Come into my heart right now. Amen."

In John 1:12 we read, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Did you receive Christ as your Saviour? Then you are in the family of God.

If you are NOT in the family of God, then you will not be able to take that space trip when our Lord comes again.

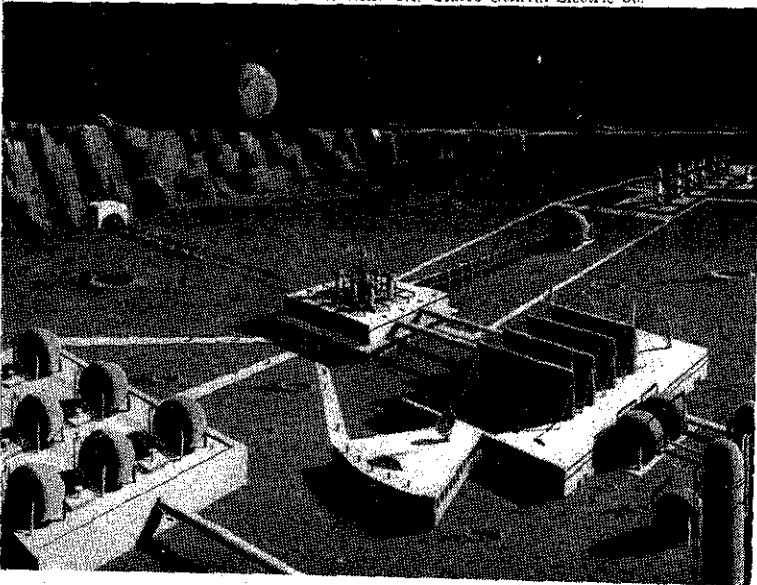
It's that simple.

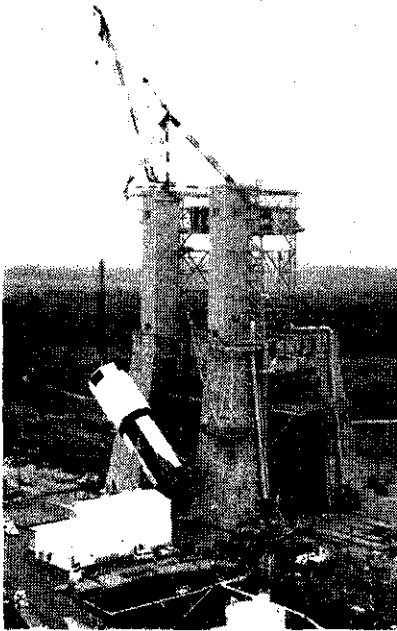
You had no choice about the present family you were born into, but you can choose to be "born again," born into God's family.

If we can be of further help to you, write us today.

And remember, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour that ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

Illustrations: Roy Scarfo-General Electric Co.





Huntsville, Ala.

“MANY CALLED... FEW CHOSEN”

Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, the director of research projects at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville, Alabama, once said: “No basic law of physics forbids us to go even as far as the fixed stars.”

Other well-known scientists have made similar assertions.

The late Wernher von Braun visualized that in the next hundred years, “...the moon will have been divided by the major powers into spheres of influence...voyages to the moon will be commonplace. Expeditions of explorers will have gone to Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. And, the whole world will be surrounded by whole families of man-made moons. The Cosmic Age,” declared von Braun, “will have dawned in all its power.”

Talk of harvesting minerals on the moon; locating tourist resorts which will be pressurized and air-conditioned to make up for the lack of atmosphere; the building of weather relay stations; spacious television towers located in outer space, relaying programs over a vast world-wide network; satellites serving as passenger and mail carriers...all these are envisioned by our scientists.

Will man be able to accomplish all these feats? What does the future hold?

So much is happening in our universe that arouses the curiosity of man.

For instance, Dr. J. Allen Hynck, who once doubted the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects, is one of their chief investigators. “UFOs,” says Hynck, “may be probes from some cosmic NASA.”

According to a report that we have received, UFO's were seen on the moon during one of the Apollo missions.

The transcript of the conversation from the space ship to the ground is as follows:

ALDRIN: Look over the ridge. What's that? Yes, now we see a brilliant light in the crater.

HOUSTON: Can you tell what it is?

ALDRIN: No, but there is some kind of activity down there. There! Those babies are huge and enormous.

HOUSTON: No, no, that's field distortion.

ALDRIN: Oh, God...you wouldn't believe!

HOUSTON: What's the matter with you?

ALDRIN: Roger...we are here but have found some visitors...they've been here for quite some time judging from the installations.

HOUSTON: Repeat! Repeat!

ALDRIN: I'm telling you, there are other spacecraft over there. They are lined up in ranks on the far side of the crater...let's get that orbit scanned and head home...my hands are shaking so bad...the cameras are clicking away up here, did you get any of it?

HOUSTON: What's this uproar over UFO's?

ALDRIN: They are set up there.

HOUSTON: The mirrors...did you set them up?

ALDRIN: They are in place but whatever built those craft will probably come over and pull them out tomorrow.

Well, so much is happening so fast—science is unable to keep up with developments.

Scientists envisage the construction of a **SATELLITE SPACE CITY** as man seeks to live and work in space.

SPACELAB is a mini-short-stay **SPACE STATION** that is operated from the cargo bay of the Space Shuttle. **SPACELAB** is a cooperative venture of **NASA** and the **EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY—ESA**.

Of course, **SPACELAB** does not begin to compare with the **HOLY CITY** which John saw in space. The **BIBLE** tells us of a city foursquare which the Apostle John saw coming down from God out of heaven, "...with the foundations of the wall of the city garnished with all manner of precious stones; the streets of the city of pure gold as it were transparent glass; and having twelve gates which were twelve pearls."

As to the size of this city in space—it was 12,000 furlongs. We're told, "The length and the breadth and the height are equal." That's roughly 1320 miles square, or the distance from Tampa, Florida, to Minneapolis, or New York to Dallas, Texas.

If you were trying out as a candidate to work in space...do you think you would make it?

Well, according to the Bible, we will all one day travel in space, providing we know and love the Lord and we're ready when He comes!

In 1 Thes. 4 we read: "For the Lord 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."

This is the event we call the **RAPTURE**, when we will suddenly be transported from earth to heaven.

In 1 Corinthians 15:51 we read: "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..." With glorified bodies we will be able to inhabit space.

Today we ask—"Who will be included in the Rapture?"

The answer given is those "In Christ!"

Are you "in Christ"?

We read, "If a man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17)

So, unless we are born-again by the Spirit of God, we won't be able to make this trip into space when Jesus comes.

Another indication as to who will be "caught up to meet the Lord in the air" when He comes is given in Revelation 17:14.

We read that the saints who are raptured are... "Called, Chosen and Faithful!"

We might ask—"When Jesus comes—will you be among the called, chosen and faithful?"

This is a heart-searching question. But if you plan to be included in the entourage of saints when Jesus comes, you had better ponder this question.

Now when it comes to your salvation, "...you are saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!" (Eph. 2:8)

Remember, it is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...(Titus 3:5)

However, when it comes to the Rapture there is evidence of a select group of whom it is said are "called, chosen and faithful!" We would do well to ask ourselves—Are we in this group?

Now our Lord gave a parable of those invited to the marriage feast, which we believe typifies the Rapture, when the saints will sit down at the supper He has prepared for us in heaven. According to the parable, there was a man who appeared as a guest who did not have on a wedding garment. So he was cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Then said Jesus, "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matt. 20:16)

When Jesus comes will we be among the "CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL"?

In the early days of the space program we read of 110 men called from the Air Force, Navy and the Marines to train as astronauts.

Finally, twelve men were selected to take three years of training. Then one man, Alan Shepherd, became our first astronaut to be hurled into space.

So, when Jesus comes...many are invited to be ready to meet Him and ascend with Him to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. But not everyone will be ready! They will be left behind to go through the awful great tribulation when Antichrist will rule this world.

So, it pays to be among the "CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL!"

Concerning the CALLED, God is calling YOU! He wants you to be included. And so He extends the invitation as we find it in Luke 14:17: "Come, for all things are now ready!"

But in this parable you'll find those who made excuses.

The first said, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused."

Do you know—we can become so busy in real estate, homes and property and miss out on heaven?

I invited a man to church. But he said that Sunday was the only time he had to work on his house. Furthermore, he said he believes the Lord smiles on him for providing for his wife and children in this way!

While God wants us to provide for our family, he says: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt. 6:33)

In the parable our Lord gave of those invited to the Marriage Feast there were others who made excuses.

Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them."

Well, he should have tried them out before he bought them.

Again, "five yoke of oxen" speak of power. We find today that we are more wrapped up in our cars with their great horsepower, than we are in God. Instead of going to church, we take a drive through the country or to the beach.

Jesus is coming. And many are not going to be ready because they have turned down the invitation to be ready.

In the parable another offers the excuse, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come!"

Why do marriages fail? It is often because Christ is not invited to become a part of the marriage relationship.

No prayer in the home—how can you expect a marriage to succeed?

It's often so true—"The family that prays together, stays together."

The call is heard, "COME, all things are now ready!" But are you ready?

So, as Jesus says: "Many are called, but few are chosen!"

How SAD for many who will not be ready when Jesus comes!

So, the CALLED are both Jews and Gentiles who are invited to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. As we read in 1 Cor. 1:24: "But unto them which are CALLED, both Jews and Greeks..."

Now, who are the CHOSEN? Are they not those who accept the invitation to receive Christ and today are living for Him?

In Ephesians 1:4 we read: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

Did you hear it?

We're not only called to salvation, but CHOSEN to be holy, and "without blame before Him in love."

Dwight Sylvester, Jr. writes: "To be chosen of God means not only to confess Jesus as Saviour, but to allow Him to become Lord and Master of our life!"

When our Lord comes, those who rise to meet Him are the CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL.

What about the FAITHFUL?

In the parable of the talents, those who invested wisely of their

talents were rewarded for their faithfulness.

Here the Saviour says to those who invested wisely their Lord's money, "Well done, thou good and FAITHFUL servant...Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Mt. 25:21)

But to the servant who hid his Lord's money in the earth, Jesus is heard saying, "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Mt. 25:30)

When given responsibility are we faithful?

In 1 Cor. 4:2 we read: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

Again we ask—When the Lord comes will you be among the CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL?

As our astronauts train diligently and faithfully to be at their best, so may we seek to be at our best when Jesus comes!

The Apostle Paul likens the Christian life to a race, saying: "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." (1 Cor. 9:24)

Is this how we regard the Rapture?

Our Lord, in referring to the coming Great Tribulation, said: "Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

No one is "worthy" to receive salvation. Then we are to pray that we be "accounted worthy" for the Rapture.

G. Campbell Morgan, known as the "Prince of Preachers," once declared: "Personally, I am convinced that not all Christian people will be taken to be with Christ on His Return; but only those who by the attitude of their lives are ready for His appearance."

Just remember—JESUS IS COMING SOON! And, those who are caught up to meet Him are CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL.

With the Apostle Paul let us "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Indeed, there are prizes to be won, rewards to be gained, and works to be evaluated when Jesus comes!

No, we're not saved by our works, and we don't work for rewards. But we live for the day when we can cast any crowns that we may win at Jesus' feet. For He alone is worthy to receive our praise and our worship.

We do read, however, that when our Lord returns He will reward the faithful.

We read in Rev. 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Some have been brainwashed into believing that works are not important. But to each of the seven churches our Lord says: "I know thy works!"

If there are any regrets in heaven, I'm convinced it will be over the fact that we could have done more for Jesus. We could have witnessed more. We could have won more souls. We could have testified. We could have given more and have been rewarded at our Lord's return with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou

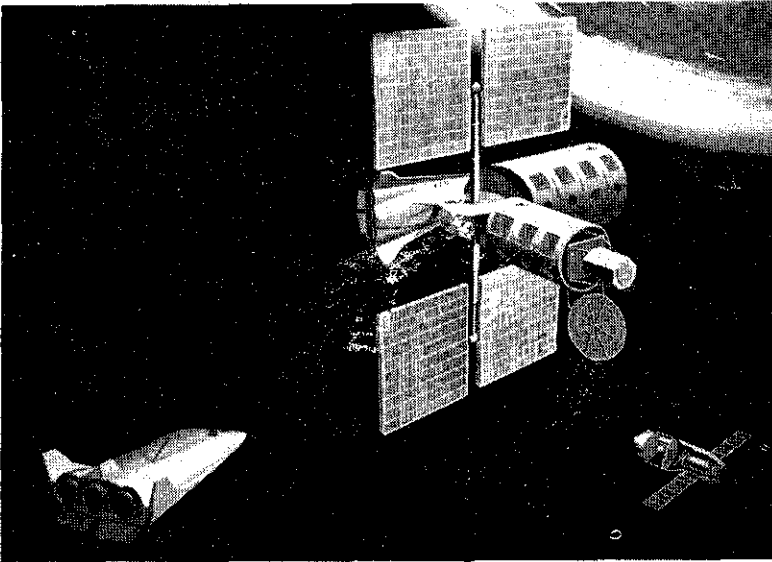
into the joy of thy Lord.”

Surely, it will be worth it all when we see Jesus, and are among the CALLED, CHOSEN and FAITHFUL.

If you've never done so, pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I know you are calling me to be saved. I accept you as my Saviour and Lord, to live for you every day until you come. Forgive me of my sins and help me to live for you. Amen."

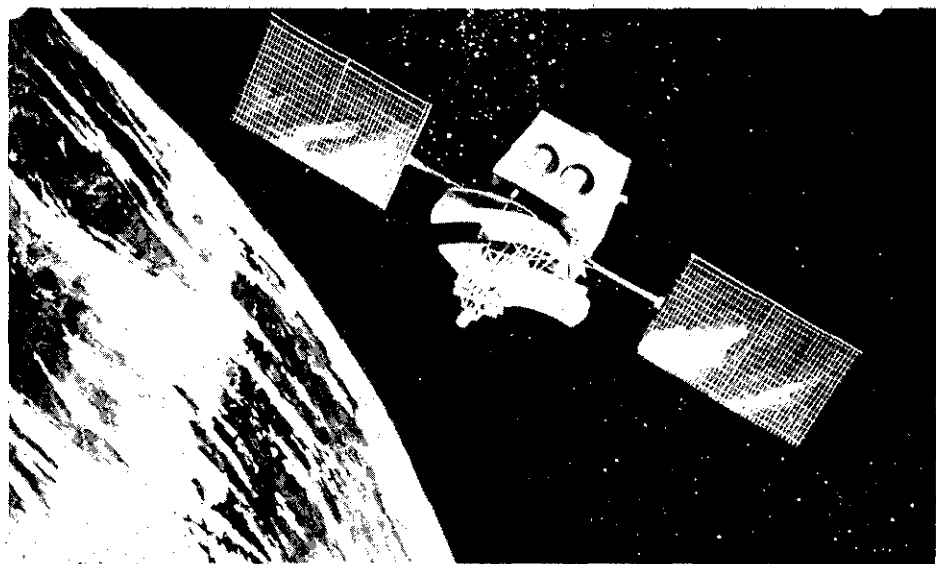
Pray that prayer, mean it, and be among those who are caught up when Jesus comes.

Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"



NASA

ORBITING CAMPUS WITH SHUTTLE



JOURNEY INTO SPACE

According to U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT...the space program "could alter the lives of millions of people everywhere."

Scientists and engineers, including 130,000 technicians responsible for our space program, "have laid the foundation for what may be whole new industries in space."

As Glynn Lunney, a NASA Executive observes: "The major thing that the U.S. has to sell is technology. And our activities in space may be vital to the future. We can't afford to ignore it."

The APOLLO moon-landing mission, for example, contributed an enormous range of new technology—from satellite communications to frying-pan coatings—that has enriched uncounted lives.

The nation's astronauts, now more than 80 in number, are training for the future. They believe SPACE is the fulfillment of man's goals and dreams.

These astronauts were selected from more than 11,000 applications. However, the Space Shuttle is a craft that will permit, as one engineer put it, "almost anybody to go into space."

Studies now being made envision a future of orbiting cities in space where scientists will work for months, and complex satellites can be manufactured to produce such benefits on earth as personal telephones without wires, more precise weather predictions, and electric power drawn from the sun.

As one astronaut noted: "We could move the filth of our factories out of earth's envelope and into limitless space."

The shuttle will be able to haul into space the building blocks for vast structures where people can live and work.

Says Mission Specialist Mary Cleave: "The early astronauts were the explorers. We are the homesteaders."

"Eventually," says Richard O. Covey, "we'll have space stations orbiting the earth and manned by astronauts. I want to be one of them."

Alan Bean, head of the Astronaut Office and a space veteran, believes that in 20 years or less there will be hundreds of men and women in the astronaut corps.

Says Bean: "We're in the process of building a transportation system, and right now it's like it was in the early days of the airlines." He asks: "Who would guess years ago that there would be so many people making a living by flying airplanes?"

That's the way it will be in space."

President Nixon called the flight of APOLLO 11 "the greatest week since the Creation."

Indeed, it was a great exploit for man to conquer space, going to the moon and back. But we will all have to admit CALVARY was the greatest week, when Jesus died and rose again for man's redemption.

Surprisingly, one Russian author has called Jesus "the first cosmonaut."

Our Lord did leave the throne of God in Heaven to come to this sin-cursed earth. He came for one reason only—to redeem man.

In his book THE MOON-DOGGIE, a noted Sociologist Amitai Etzioni has charged that, "We are using the space race to escape our painful problems on earth!"

Well, maybe we are!

In Colossians, chapter 3, we are told: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

Did you hear it?

Now, in view of the fact that Christ is in Heaven and is coming again for all who are ready, we are told how to live as Believers.

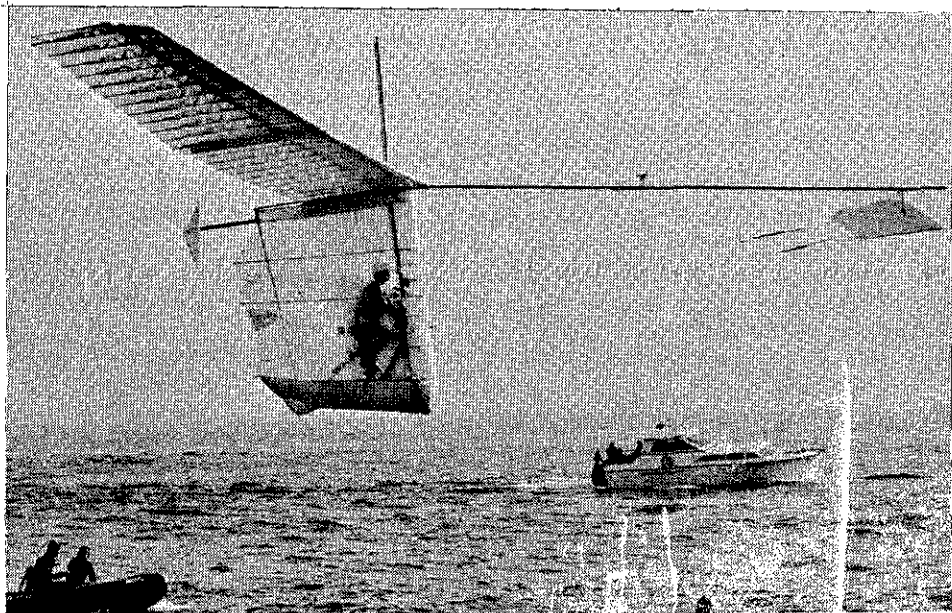
We read: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience."

This is the life lived apart from Jesus Christ. But now that we are born again, we will reflect the new life from above that He gives.

We continue to read: "But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him." (From Col. 3:1-10)

In other words, if you call yourself a Christian, then you'll live like a Christian—not in your own strength, but in the power which He gives.

Man's attempt at accomplishing good in his own strength is like the attempt made to fly across the English Channel. It was an amazing scientific feat to pedal with enough strength to keep the plane aloft. Against the wind currents, and with cramps in both his legs, Bryan Allen became the first man to fly across the English Channel under his own power.



Allen's accomplishment illustrates what man can do. But one thing he can't do is to "fly" to Heaven.

The only way you and I will ever get to Heaven is through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Jesus also said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

By this message today God is drawing you. And, if you will receive Christ, He will raise you up at His coming. You won't ascend to Heaven in your own strength, but by His divine power you will be magnetically drawn into His presence.

Jesus said: "No man hath ascended up to Heaven, but He that came down from Heaven, even the Son of man which is in Heaven." (John 3:13)

Again He declared: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

How wonderful that we can come to Christ, be changed by His grace, transformed by His Spirit, made new!

In John 6:37 He said, "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out."

I remember giving an invitation in a church and a young man just ran down the aisle. He so desperately wanted to be saved.

Shortly afterward he was killed in an accident.

How important to come to Christ when He draws you. And He promises "in no wise" will He cast you out.

What enthusiasm there is among scientists and technicians who are working feverishly, even working overtime, and without pay...to accomplish goals they have set for themselves.

One aerospace executive has noted that there is a current of intensity among workers that is found in few places. "The people look very ordinary if you watch them come through the gate, but they are extraordinary in intellectual capacity and drive. They have a sense of national purpose and of history that's remarkable."

How different from those who put in enough time at their jobs just to get by—but not our space personnel who work long hours and overtime, without expecting to be paid for their efforts.

I read where the chief of an employee-assistance program told of engineers and technicians who work at the absolute limits of their ability to perfect the project they're working on. They often "burn out" at a young age, he said!

I thought of how some Christians think of getting to Heaven by the "skin of their teeth!" They don't want to do more than they have to!

Oh that we might "burn out" for God!

In fact, our Lord declared that when He comes, if He finds us "lukewarm," He will spue us out!

It's time we stop playing church! As we said a moment ago, if we call ourselves Christians, let's live like Christians.

Peter writes: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!"

Isn't that what you want? An abundant entrance into God's kingdom?

Peter had just written that we are to give "all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

Says Peter, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

We related earlier how some of our space scientists, technicians and engineers are dedicated. Though their work is hazardous and strenuous they are putting in long hours.

A government official from Washington who observed their behaviour stated, "The NASA people...have a strong world view. They're mapping plans there for work in space that could revolutionize life on earth!"

Oftentimes when we make an appeal to reach our world with the Gospel, the appeal is not heard. It is met with closed ears. Yet, our Lord said we were to preach the gospel into all the world! O that we might have the vision of some of our space technicians who are working hard to conquer space.

At the Marshall Space Center, in Huntsville, Alabama, an official observed, "You come in on Saturday and there'll be a lot of cars in the parking lot. The lights burn late, too. And it's usually on their own time."

May God help us to have that same devotion to our Lord and His work.

Could we, with the Apostle Paul, say: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

It is believed that the Apostle Paul had the Rapture in mind. For he spoke of being caught "upward" as a prize to be gained.

And he goes on to say, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded."

Is this your determination?

Do you want to be a better Christian today than yesterday?

Do you want to be more devoted to Jesus Christ? Do you want to love Him more, and serve Him better?

We related earlier that out of 11,000 applications, only 80 astronauts have been chosen to train for space activity.

We're reminded again of the parable our Lord gave of the Wedding Feast to which all are invited. His conclusion: "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matt. 22:14)

O that today we would lock arms together and run with vigor the Christian race.

The Apostle Paul declares: "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." (1 Cor. 9:24)

If you have never done so, come to Christ. He has already run the race and has come through victorious when He conquered death, hell and the grave. In Him, we, too, can be victorious.

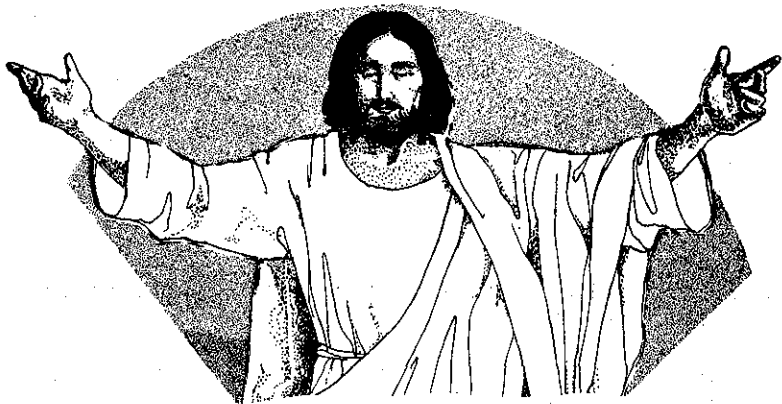
If we will only put our trust in Him, He will see us through. He is the author and finisher of our faith. As we read in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Indeed, if you want to be ready for the SPACE TRIP at the Rapture, you can be ready! Our Lord will see to it. If you mean business, you will be ready when Jesus comes!

Our prayer of benediction would be 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

"Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

ARE YOU READY FOR THE RAPTURE?



“...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11b)

You may have gone through the Great Depression!

You have seen in your life-time two Great World Wars! The unanswered question? **Will you left behind to go through the Great Tribulation?**

JESUS SAID: “The days will come when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it!”

Did you hear it?

The Word of God gives convincing evidence that many will miss the Rapture, and will be left behind when Jesus comes to go through the tribulation.

The **RAPTURE** is one of the days of the Son of man. The **REVELATION IS THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TRIBULATION WHEN OUR LORD WILL RETURN TO REIGN UPON THE EARTH.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE RAPTURE?

It is then, "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."

(1 Thes. 4:16b-17)

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO MISS THE RAPTURE?

We read: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matt. 24:21)

WHO WILL BE LEFT BEHIND TO GO THROUGH THAT AWFUL TRIBULATION DAY?

1. Those who "know God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (See 2 Thes. 1:7-10)

2. Those typified by the five foolish virgins whose lamps began to flicker and go out, while "they that were ready went in with them to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Mt. 25:1-13)

3. Those who failed to put their money into the Lord's work, to whom our Saviour admonished: "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." (Mt. 25:27)

4. The servant who says, "My Lord delayeth his coming," and begins to live carelessly. "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder (cut him off), and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers." (Lu. 12:46)

5. Those who are Laodiceans - "lukewarm," who will be spued out at His coming. "So then because thou are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:16)

6. "A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." It is said of this vast throng, "These are they which came out of GREAT TRIBULATION, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Notice, it is not said they were given robes as when we are saved. Rather, they "washed their robes" which signifies a state of impurity when our Lord returned and found them unprepared to meet him. For our Lord has commanded, "Be ye therefore ready," and reminds us, "every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

HOW CAN I BE READY FOR THE RAPTURE?

1. We need to repent. "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," said Jesus. (Lu. 13:3)

2. We need to believe that Jesus died to save us and forgive us of all our sins. As we read in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

3. We must walk in obedience to the will of God as revealed in the Word of God. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

4. We need to ever be on the alert always so we are not found careless or indifferent or asleep. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: coming suddenly he find you sleeping." (Mark 13:35-36)

5. We need to be constantly under the control of the Holy Spirit whose guidance and direction we need. As recorded in Eph. 5:18, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

6. And should we not pray that we will be ready when our Lord returns and not take it for granted that because we received Christ we are automatically ready for the rapture? For our Lord urged us, saying: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

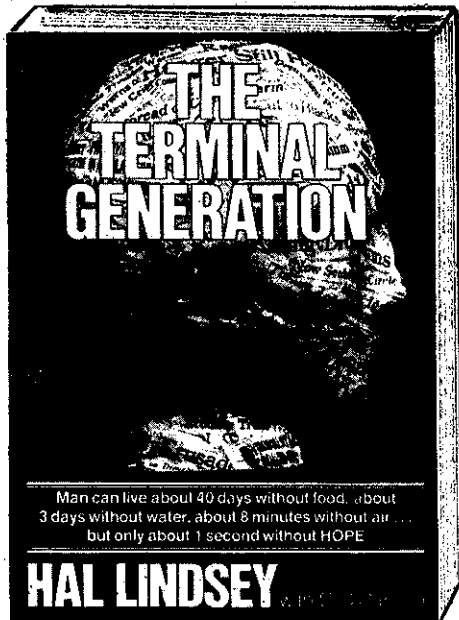
Like an ever-ready flashlight we can be ever ready for our Lord's coming if we will heed the admonitions of His Word. **Hallelujah!**

BELOVED, BE YE THEREFORE READY ALSO, FOR IN SUCH AN HOUR THAT YE THINK NOT, THE SON OF MAN COMETH!"

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