

RAISED WITH CHRIST FOR SALVATION



(Ephesians 2:6; 7:11, 12)

The wonderful book of Ephesians is without a doubt, a treasure for the believer in Messiah YAHSHUA. The first chapter is full of blessings from the beginning to the end: We are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and set apart as blameless; we are adopted as His own through our Lord YAHSHUA; in him we are redeemed and in Him we were made heritage and have obtained an inheritance; we have been stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit as a guarantee, an anticipation of our redemption (Ephesians 1). The beautiful thing here is that we have all of these blessings now, while in our corrupted body. Also, we have been raised with Christ and He has made us to sit down together in the heavenly sphere with Him (2:6). That's where we are spiritually speaking; that's the position God has given us now and forever that *He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable riches of His free grace in His*

kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Messiah YAHSHUA (2:7). The believer has become in Him children of Light. YAHSHUA is the light of the world. His light is reflected in all believers. We were marked for our redemption through the seal of the Holy Spirit, as Israel was when the door post of their houses were marked with the blood of a sacrificed lamb for their salvation.

Our Lord YAHSHUA was raised from the dead and we who believe in Him were given the power to be raised with Him also. It is difficult to grasp the meaning of this blessing while we are dressed in our body of corruption and carrying the curse of iniquities. But it is good to understand that it is not the flesh that will be saved, but the spirit, for *We are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Messiah YAHSHUA the Cornerstone (2:20).* We are the bride of Christ, His messengers, His servants, His praise and ultimately His wife. The seal of His Holy Spirit confirms and guarantees our salvation from His wrath to come. As His children, we have a relationship with Him that leads us to faith and obedience. Opposed to the time when we were sinners and alienated from His presence and blessings, as Paul said, *You were separated from Christ, utterly estranged and outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the promise, and you had no hope, you were in the world without God (2:12).* In other words, we were destined to suffer under His wrath, for we were heirs of His indignation. Heirs of God's indignation is a position for all those who reject Him. The wrath of God will fall on the unrighteous and disobedient. The coming wrath is destined not for the righteous; nowhere in the Bible do we read it to be reserved for the righteous. Paul confirmed that the anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (Col. 3:6b). But all believers have died with Christ in God, said Paul. We became members of Messiah's body whose Spirit indwells us. We have been raised with Christ to a new life, sharing His resurrection; we are His firstfruits, the result of His travails. On the cross YAHSHUA rid of the sting of eternal death from all His saints and gave them eternal life.

If we are raised with YAHSHUA the Messiah, therefore, there will be no more condemnation destined toward us; our sins, He blotted out and He remembers them no more (Psalm 103). He has brought us to life together with YAHSHUA and forgave us all our transgressions. *He personally rescues and delivers us from the wrath which is coming and **draws us to Himself** (1 Thess. 1:10).* He will rescue us by drawing us to Himself. That means through the rapture. There is absolutely no

space and room in God's plan for His bride in the tribulation, or in His wrath. Since we are raised with Christ, we will continue being raised with Him to eternity. The reality of the unseen will happen when He calls His bride home through summons, the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God (I Thess. 4:15-18). We have been raised with Christ not for condemnation, but for salvation. Otherwise, there would be no need for Him to raise us up with His Son YAHSHUA, since we continue under His wrath. The likeness of a believer to be thrown from his position in Christ to the wrath of God is like that of God throwing Noah and his family into the waters of His wrath, and Lot and his family into the fires of Sodom and Gomorrah.

If you believe that there will be a great tribulation, you must believe also that there will be an escape, or rapture, which is the means for which the bride of Christ will be delivered. There will not be rapture without a tribulation. In fact, the tribulation is the reason for the rapture of the true church of God. Our salvation has been purchased by the blood of our Savior, YAHSHUA. By the deliverance of His bride, He will demonstrate the infallible love He has for her, and the fulfillment of His promise. Do you really believe that in a deep relationship YAHSHUA has with His bride, He will punish and reject her under His wrath for no reason, and then pick her up again, that is, if she makes it, when she is to come back to earth with Him? No my friend, we are the recipients of His reward of the new life He shared with us, and not of His wrath He reserved for the wicked, including primarily the nation of Israel. Isaiah prophesied the great tribulation long time ago when he uttered: *the land and the earth mourn and wither, the world languished and withers, the high ones of the people languish; the land and the earth also are defiled by their inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, disregarded the statutes, and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the land and the earth and they who dwell in it suffer the punishment of their guilt. Therefore the inhabitants of the land and the earth are scorched and parched [under the curse of God's wrath], and few are left (Isaiah 24: 5,6).* This chapter is a mini Apocalyptic book of Revelation.

Raised up with YAHSHUA our Messiah, we no longer walk in darkness, stumbling and staggering here and there as a drunken person does. We have peace, the true Peace given us in the moment of our reconciliation with God through the death of His Son on the cross and our accepting Him. We do not look for peace the world offers, for it is a peace which will be confronted and destroyed when destruction

will come upon the people of the earth. The children of darkness will be found surprised and without means to escape. The Bible says that it will come to them suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child. Yes, they were appointed for that day and for that destruction, because they rejected Truth. But the bride of YAHSHUA continues secured sited at the right hand of the Father with YAHSHUA in view of her position in Him. Nothing in this world will cause her to perish and fall out from the promise of God. *Since it was YAHSHUA Who vindicated, and put her in right relation to Him; no one can accuse her, for it is YAHSHUA who acquits her; no one will condemn her for it is YAHSHUA Who died for her and is interceding for her; no one can separate her from His love, His redeeming love, for He purchased her with His precious blood and gave her life eternal with Him. It is done forever and ever!*

The mercy seat was sprinkled with His blood when He hung on the cross. Today, this truth stands high proving the veracity of His existence, death and resurrection. What a beautiful picture of God's love for the nation of Israel and the world! One can still receive mercy before His wrath is poured out. The blood shed over two thousand years ago, still has life to offer to all who will receive His gift of life, salvation and the escape from God's wrath. What is your position my friend?