

The Bema Seat of Christ-Its Nature and Necessity-Pt. 2

The Bible is composed of just under 30% prophecy. There are 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, totaling 1,817. These prophecies are contained in 8,352 of the Bible's verses. Since there are 31,124 verses in the Bible, the 8,352 verses that contain prophecy constitute 26.8 percent of the Bible's volume.

Prophecy in the Bible can be divided into two broad groups: _____
_____. Some prophecies have a _____, one nearer to the time of the prophet and one further in the future.

Generally speaking, future prophecy usually also has a _____. In other words, in light of the future fulfillment of prophecy, how should we live today? Here are some examples from the NT.

D. The period of the Bema Seat-

Putting all these verses together, I have come to the conclusion that this event occur at the Rapture but before we enter Heaven following the Rapture.

E. The prizes at the Bema Seat-

The NT describes 5 possible crowns/rewards that a believer can win based on his or her participation in service, godly living. All such rewards are given to the believer based on faithfulness to God, glorifying Him. God is interested both in why we do what we do as well as what we do for Him. Let's glance at these possible rewards.

1. The crown for faithful victory in self-control-I Cor. 9:24-27

Here's a reward for keeping our physical bodies under control by not habitually misusing our Christian liberty. In other words, practicing moderation in all areas of our lives. If you or I expect to receive this crown, we have to refuse to yield to the lusts, indulgences of the flesh and learn the godly art of saying "No!"

2. The crown for faithful victory in soul-winning-I Thess. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1

Merely winning someone to the Lord does not automatically guarantee that a person receives this crown. To be sure that we do receive it, we must make certain that our motives, methods are Scriptural, ordained of the Lord. There are way too many unscriptural practices being used in evangelism today!

Do you have a God-motivated desire to share the Gospel with others and see others saved? We need the kind of burden that sees man's lost condition as it really is: hopeless, helpless, hell-bound!

Hell is a terrible, tormenting place. People need to be rescued from perishing and spending forever there. Do you care for the dying? Are you willing to throw them a lifeline and snatch them in pity from hell and the grave? If you were a lost sinner, wouldn't you want someone to rescue you?

3. The crown for faithful victory in service-II Tim. 4:7-8

Paul, at the end of his life, asserts in what could be his epitaph, that he had been...

**Faithful to the _____ -

**Faithful to the _____ -

**Faithful to the _____ -

I want to be able to say the same thing at the end of my life. Do you? Notice in v. 8 that this crown is reserved for a special class of believers: those who habitually love the soon appearing of the Lord Jesus. Do you want the Lord Jesus to return? For the right reasons? Some want Him to return so they can escape their troubles or trials. They love their disappearing more than His appearing!

May I encourage you to _____ for His appearing, _____ for His appearing, _____ for His appearing, _____ His appearing! So, how do we do that? By living as if it could happen 1 second from now. By living in constant anticipation of its occurrence. By living in such a way that we won't be doing anything shameful when He returns.

4. The crown for faithful victory in sacrifice-James 1:12; Rev. 2:10

The previous crown will be awarded to those who love Christ's appearing, but this crown...the crown of life, is given to all those who love Christ Himself.

**For _____ -being willing to endure the hardships of life, knowing that the Lord always has a purpose for allowing trials into our lives.

**For _____ -going all the way by paying the supreme sacrifice, dying for Christ.

5. The crown for faithful victory in shepherding-I Peter 5:1-4

Here is the crown for faithful, obedient pastor-teachers. Often, faithfulness in pastoral ministry is sacrificed on the altar of _____, _____.

When we receive our rewards and get to heaven, God is going to give us the awesome privilege of giving our crowns back to the Lord Jesus, for he alone is worthy to receive them.