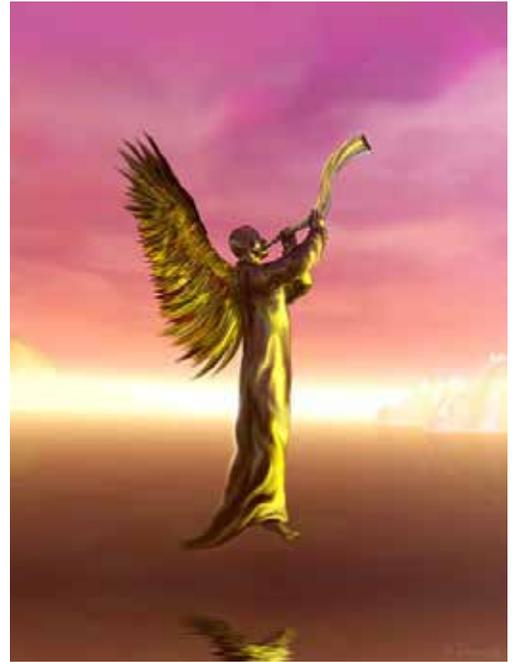


*“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no Hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For The Lord Himself Shall Descend From Heaven with a Shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these Words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV*



Believers are the reason for Christ’s return. He is coming to claim His inheritance! You think you can’t wait to see Him? God has been planning and anticipating this reunion in the sky since “before the world began!” Three things will alert us to His arrival; a Shout, the Archangel’s voice, and the Trump of God. (Bet you didn’t know God played the trumpet.) I believe the Shout will be His Command to open the graves of those believers asleep in Christ, who have gone on before us into Glory. At that instant believers shall all, dead and alive, be transformed into Heavenly beings. “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the Last Trump: for the Trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” Many think we shall rise instantly, but that isn’t what it says. It says we shall be “CHANGED, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” I believe our ascent to the clouds with those resurrected will be like Christ when He ascended up after His resurrection from the Mount of Olives. “And when [Jesus] had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? 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.” I’m not sure how fast Christ ascended, but it was slow enough to watch Him disappear into the clouds. Just imagine, if you will, suddenly believers worldwide changing into heavenly beings right in front of everyone! This is why I don’t think planes and vehicles driven by believers will crash. There will be time to bring them to a stop. And then we will all rise together into the clouds “to meet the Lord in the air!” Unbelievers will be standing around with their mouth open as this event unfolds. They’ll probably be recording it on their phones!

Oh, what a Day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see!  
When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His Grace!  
When He takes me by the hand and leads me to the Promised Land,  
Oh, what a Day, glorious Day that will be! ~Jim Hall

PERHAPS TODAY?

*“Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His Appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8 KJV*