

JESUS THE REAL THING

Jesus Christ
THE REAL THING

BECOMING A CATEGORY OF ONE.

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT THE BEST RELIGION; IT
IS A DIFFERENT CATEGORY ALL TOGETHER... IT
IS UNDENIABLY SUPERNATURALLY TRUE**



BLESSED PALM SUNDAY!!!!

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18 NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

- **16 FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A **A**SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF *THE* ARCHANGEL AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD, AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. 17 THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE, WHO REMAIN, WILL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR, AND SO WE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD. 18 THEREFORE, **B**COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.**
- **WE CELEBRATE THIS DAY WITH PALMS, WHEN PEOPLE LEFT THE CITY TO MEET THE KING...**

Moses took 2 of each animal on the ark.

TRUE or FALSE?

Moses built a small ark, but Noah had the animals come on the ark (boat).

*Isaiah Mentions Cyrus by name 150 years
before he took Power and released the
Jews from Captivity*

TRUE or FALSE?

*This is like someone from George
Washington's time telling him about
Putin...*

A Stadia (Mentioned in Luke 24 and Revelations) is about the Size of block? Where blocks are set up in a grid) $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of a Mile (200m)

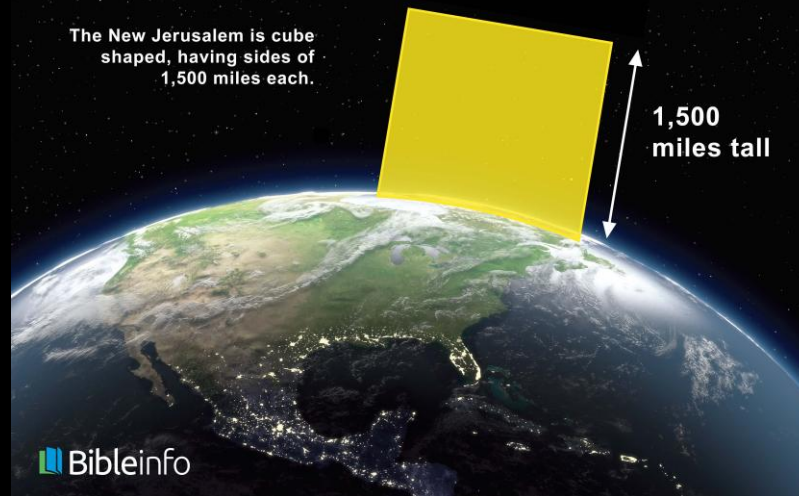
TRUE or FALSE?

Luke 24:13: Emmaus was 60 stadia from Jerusalem. About 7 miles
New Jerusalem is 12,000 Stadia,
about 1500 Miles Cubed.

So the New Jerusalem is about the same size of our Moon?

TRUE or FALSE?

It is about the size of Pluto, only 2/3rds the size of the moon.



Sixty stadia is an ancient unit of measurement, totaling approximately 7 miles or 11 kilometers (roughly 185 m or 600 feet) famously used in the Gospel of Luke (24:13) to describe the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus. It represents a walking distance of about 1.5 to 2 hours in antiquity.

- A stadia is $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of a mile about 600-660 feet. We use it to this day! A block is a Stadia (at least one in Chicago).
- The other times Stadia is used in the New Testament is to describe the distance Jesus had to walk on Water (25-30 Stadia ~ 3 miles), The wine Press of Blood Stretching 1 600 Stadia and the size of New Jerusalem, 12,000 Stadia Cubed.
- It is about the Size of Pluto... A little smaller than our moon.

Will We Meet him in the Air?

"We shall be caught up to meet him" is a phrase from 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (KJV), describing the biblical "rapture" event where living and resurrected believers are gathered to meet Jesus Christ in the air. This event aims to comfort Christians, ensuring that both the dead and living will be with the Lord forever.

•**Context of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:** Paul writes to reassure believers that those who have died ("fallen asleep") will not miss the Lord's return, but will rise first, followed by the living.

•**The Meeting in the Air:** The phrase signifies the resurrection of believers and their sudden gathering with Christ upon his descent from heaven.

•**Symbolism:** In the ancient world, when a king visited a city, citizens went out to meet him to escort him back to the city; similarly, believers meet Jesus to accompany him back to Earth.

•**"Caught Up":** The Latin Vulgate translates this as *rapiemur*, from which the term "rapture" is derived, meaning to be carried away or snatched up.

This passage is intended to comfort Christians, assuring them that they will "always be with the Lord".

The main thing... He's Coming Back... Not clear how,
Like the Jews not knowing how he was coming... the
first time... ALWAYS PUT GOD FIRST.

You should have led with that...

AN Empty Tomb

► Luke 24:50-53 **The Ascension of Jesus** NIV

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and **was taken up into heaven**. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

What is going on in this Chapter:

1. We see that **Jesus is in a category of one..**
- 2. **People are hungry for Physical, Authentic, Diverse, tested connections**
- 3. **People are more than just physical beings. God is not looking to punish people, but to give them a purpose.**
- 4. **Jesus is**
 - **A. More than a Teacher**
 - **B. An Authentic King**
 - **C. A Sacrifice for all.**
 - **D. the first of the Resurrected..**
 - **E. He then Leaves so he can return**
- THE QUESTION Then is this... What/Who is in our Cup when we get bumped?
 - More than teachings,
 - a King Bigger than any Giant we might face,
 - Someone Who Knows our sin, and Died for us anyway,
 - Someone who will Resurrect our bodies.
 - Someone who left the Holy Spirit for us.
 - Someone with giving hope that no matter what happens to our cup, He is Coming back

To Know Our identity, we need to Learn Jesus' Identity

- ▶ Jesus' Name makes it clear his purpose. **Satan Means Adversary** to God His eternal plan, **Jesus means God is Salvation-** Deliverance from and Enemy. Our Enemy comes to kill, steal and Destroy... SO Jesus comes to give life, give good gifts and to build us up.
- ▶ Disciples are NOT just students... Budha had students. Jesus had Disciples who are more like enthusiastic Soldiers or as I mentioned before volunteer first responders. Disciples by their choice, and nature
 - ▶ Authentically Trust, love and FOLLOW Jesus on his terms (this is Eternal Life... Following Jesus John 17:3), His work is finished... so we don't do things to gain points but to authentically love others.
 - ▶ They are transformed by him... They Get the gift of transformation, and become more like Him...
 - ▶ They find their purpose in building his kingdom! In His community and Body.

Our Identities impact our choices... Like with Gen Z and the Church, but also like the early Disciples who saw Jesus risen.



NOT GOOGLE

Like Jesus we are more than Physical beings... The Soul of Man, angels, Nephilim, Ghosts and the 4 levels of the Waiting areas and Prisons?

1. We are beings that live beyond our physical bodies. The enemy of the Physical Body is Death
2. We are limited in power but not in authority. We have the Authority to Follow Jesus or Not.
 - A. Authority (has responsibility attached to it. We must Choose. To serve the community and pay taxes... or not, like many rich people... Jury Duty, Driving the Speed limit... Other Adult Choices? And Adult connections to the community choices?
 - B. Responsibility had accountability attached to it,
 - C. Accountability with beings that are more than Physical, but because of past choices must deal with Death has to have some staging areas for long term accountability.

What does Authority Look like...? Having power to make leadership decisions. Word comes from Author... The person who wrote the book... They know how things work and as a result can lead others in the process of doing tasks based on that knowledge.

Matthew 7:29 because he taught as one who had **authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 8:9

For I myself am a man under **authority**, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Matthew 9:6

But I want you to know that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

Matthew 9:8

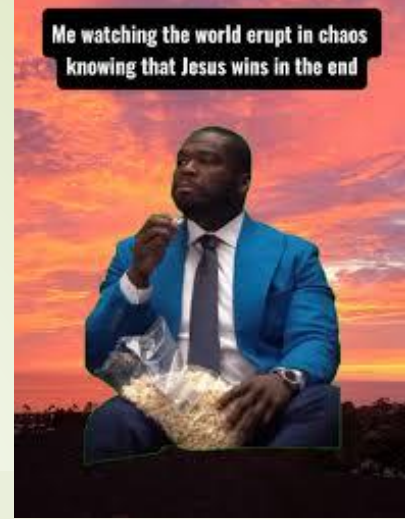
When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such **authority** to man.

Matthew 10:1

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them **authority** to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

The 2-3 Main ways people look at Christian End times



● Premillennialism

Church Age → Tribulation → **+** Second Coming → **■** Millennium → Final Judgment → Eternal State

Rapture Occurs (Pre, Mid, Post Tribulation)

Christ returns **BEFORE** the Millennium

● Postmillennialism

Church Age → **■** Millennium → **+** Second Coming → Final Judgment → Eternal State

Christ returns **AFTER** the Millennium

● Amillennialism

Church Age / **■** "Millennium" (symbolic now) → **+** Second Coming → Final Judgment → Eternal State

Christ Just returns No "Rapture" We will be caught up to meet him, but symbolically as people going to greet a coming King.

Who Believes what..

Estimated Distribution of Views

Premillennialism

~25–35% of Christians worldwide

- Very common among:
 - Evangelicals
 - Baptists
 - Pentecostals
- Especially strong in the [United States](#)

Postmillennialism

~1–5% (very small minority today)

- Historically more popular in the 18th–19th centuries
- Held by some Reformed/Calvinist groups
- Declined after major global conflicts like [World War I](#) and [World War II](#)

Amillennialism

~60–70% of Christians worldwide

- Dominant view in:
 - [Roman Catholic Church](#)
 - [Eastern Orthodox Church](#)
 - Many Lutheran and Reformed traditions

Why Amillennialism Is So High

It's the official or dominant teaching in the largest Christian bodies, especially:

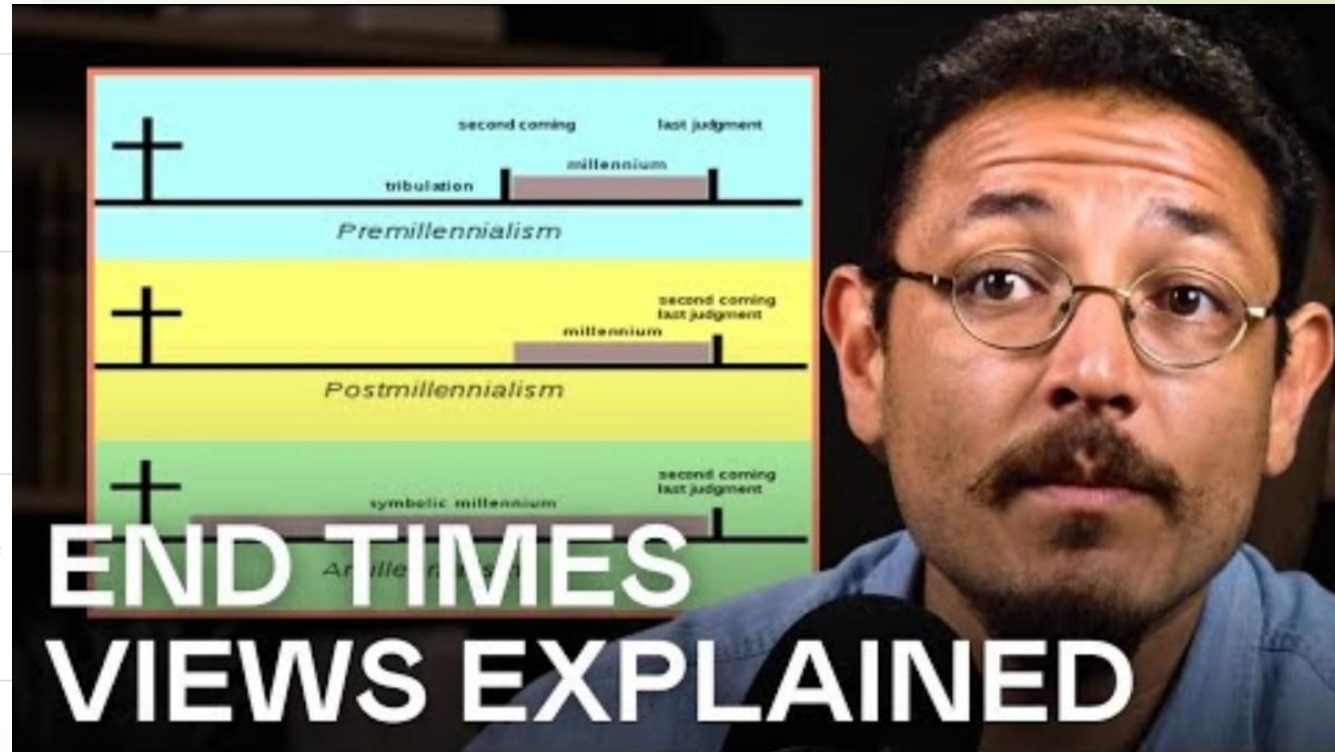
- [Catholic Church](#) (~1.3 billion members)
- [Eastern Orthodox Church](#)

That heavily skews the global percentage.

Important Context

- Many Christians don't explicitly identify with a label ↓
- Some churches avoid taking a formal stance

+ Ask anything





Icebreaker, Questions and Answers

- Icebreaker
- What Questions do you have or think people have about – The resurrection, End times, The Rapture (will it happen), What we should be doing today?
- What is Satan's impact on the world today?
- What does it look like to have God fill our cups when trials come, and how does that help define who we are?

4 Levels of Death, Watchers, those who do not choose



We are in the End Times... and we should have an urgency and expectation of What God is doing

- ▶ God Hardens People's Hearts... Like Pharaoh, Like the Jews which saddened Paul.
- ▶ [Exodus 7:3](#) But I will **harden** Pharaoh's **heart**, so that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.
- ▶ [Ex. 9: 12](#) But the LORD **hardened** Pharaoh's **heart**, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.
- ▶ [Joshua 11:20](#) For it was of the LORD to **harden** their **hearts** (the cities of Canaan) , to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
- ▶ BUT WE HAVE A CHOICE.. [Hebrews 4:7](#) He again sets a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT **HARDEN** YOUR **HEARTS**."

Paul Lamented over the unbelief of the Jews (though there was always a remnant) But understood that God used it to bring in the Gentiles Romans 9-11

ROMANS 9 And David says, "MAY THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

10 MAY THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS CONTINUALLY."

11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? **12** Far from it! But by their wrongdoing salvation *has come* to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. **13** Now if their wrongdoing *proves to be* riches for the world, and their failure, riches for the Gentiles, how much more *will their* fulfillment be! **14** But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry **15** if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them. **16** For if their rejection *proves to be* the reconciliation of the world, what *will their* acceptance be but life from the dead? **17** If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are as well.

18 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, **19** do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you. **20** You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **21** Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; **22** for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. **23** See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off. **24** And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. **25** For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?

This is like Abraham Lincoln Or a prophet of that time talking about Putin... God's Sight is better than ours. Why don't people believe these Miracles?

God Uses Cyrus

- **45** This is what the LORD says to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And [a]to undo *the weapons belt on the waist of kings*; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:
2 "I will go before you and make the [b]rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.
3 I will give you the [c]treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

David And Goliath as the
Example of Category of one-
God was in David's Cup



How is Jesus different than other Religious leaders?
He wasn't better... He didn't compliment them he was a category of one.

1. **He has a miraculous origin Story**... but he also occurs before his Birth!
2. **His was a Story Connected to thousands of years of History**. The messiah was an integral part of a line of People
3. **He Preaches not to gain students, but to push many away, but those who are his are drawn to him anyway**. Jesus said eat my flesh, and many turned away... Some came for healings, but they stayed for purpose.
4. **He Heals the Sick in defiance to the worldly traditions**. His Miracles were seen by many in light of his calling... but notice he only went to those who had faith.. Woe to Corazon. If Sodom had the same miracles they would have repented...
5. **He was born to Die, as a sacrifice and be resurrected**. No other religious leader can say that. His absent body is a testament to his resurrection. People try to keep things, even his burial shroud... the bronze serpent, etc. He wasn't trying to reach Nirvana, to please fickle gods, etc. He was fulfilling the sacrifice rituals of the Jews.



Is America better or worse than other countries in our Religion?

What are some of the Top Religions in the World?

Top Religions in the United States

The U.S. is the most religiously diverse nation among those with populations exceeding 120 million.

•**Christianity:** 62–64% of the population.

•*Protestantism:* ~40%.

•*Catholicism:* ~19–21%.

•**Judaism:** ~2%.

•**Islam:** ~1%.

•**Buddhism:** ~1%.

•**Hinduism:** ~1%.

•**Other Religions:** This includes groups like the Bahá'í Faith, Sikhism, and various folk or new religious movements, collectively making up about 1–2% of the population.

Note: The **Religiously Unaffiliated** comprise approximately 29–30% of the U.S. population, including those identifying as atheist (4–5%), agnostic (6%), or "nothing in particular" Wicken

Witchcraft comparison...

Voodoo and other natural religions are also common

Comparison Table

Feature 	Witchcraft (Modern/Wicca)	Caodaism
Global Population	~2–5 million (identifying) / 1B (believing)	~4–6 million
U.S. Population	~1.5–2 million	~13,000–30,000
Primary Location	U.S., UK, Europe	Vietnam
Growth Trend	Rising rapidly in the West	Stable; growing in diaspora