

## 6 Reasons to Cherish your calling as Firstfruits Pentecost 2019



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**Summary:** *Do you have a dream? God has a dream for you too: He is calling you to be in the First resurrection, which has everything to do with Pentecost. What does that mean? WHY is it called the “better resurrection” in Heb 11:35? WHO will be in that resurrection? I pray this teaching will re-excite God’s children to their high, high calling and help us protect and cherish it. See the connection to PENTECOST. Especially if you need to be re-motivated in the things of God, this sermon is for you.*

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Note: I often use the Hebrew name Yeshua for Jesus.

Hello everyone.

**What’s your dream? In the musical “Les Miserables”,** one of the most beautiful songs, and yet one of the saddest words in the end was the song by Fantine in “I dreamed a dream” -- she’s dreaming of a wonderful life with a wonderful man, but her dream had come to naught. It’s a hauntingly beautiful melody and the words prick your soul.

The song begins “There was a time when men were kind, when their voices were soft and their words inviting; there was a time when love was blind and the world was a song, and the song was exciting... there was a time, then it all went wrong. ...”

She continues: “there was a time when life was worth living; I dreamed that love would never die....” Then the song goes into a melancholy part – “But the tigers come at night, with their voices soft as thunder, as they tear your hope apart, as they turn your dream to shame....”

And then the song hits a low – “I had a dream my life would be, so different from this hell I’m living. So different now from what it seemed, now life...has killed the dream ... I dreamed.”

How sad.

And yet that very same song became a dream fulfilled for Susan Boyle, who sang it beautifully on “Britain’s Got Talent” – and went on to be a well-known singer. Her initial performance is so moving and inspiring. Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnmbJzH93NU>

What’s *your* dream? Without a vision the people will perish. We’ve got to have a dream that drives and motivates us.

Opening Prayer: **Let’s pray now and ask God to open our hearts** to the dreams and to the promises he has made those of us being called now; those who persevere to the end.

Well, greetings once again, you fabulous members of God’s household and friends from all around the world. Welcome to Light on the Rock, where our Father is God Most High, and our brother Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus the Christ) is our Savior and Redeemer.

I welcome you from Russia, from China – from where so many of you are coming to know your God in heaven and Savior Jesus Christ – and all of you in Germany, The USA, Britain, Canada – from usually over 50-70 countries, welcome. And please let your friends know about this website.

Most of you on this sermon with me frankly are not the mighty ones of the world. You’re not Donald Trump or Queen Elizabeth. You’re not millionaires or listed in the Who’s Who of the world. Most of you, and me too, are just average Joe and average Jane – or whatever your name is in your country – and in this world you and I will probably never make the big headline news for winning the Nobel Peace Prize or the award for Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

***But you ARE being called to something huge! And the reason for this sermon is that I feel so many of us can begin to lose our excitement for our calling, the dream God’s called us to.***

***If Pentecost this year “snuck up” on you, for example, that’s a sure sign you’re not taking your calling seriously enough.***

**So what’s *your* dream?**

- Some dream of being “called” as one selected for West Point, or Annapolis Naval Academy
- Some basketball players dream of playing in the NBA, or making it to the Finals, or – many hoped they could be chosen for the DREAM TEAM that played in the Barcelona Olympics. Michael Jordan, Magic

Johnson, Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, Clyde Drexler, Scottie Pippen, Karl Malone, John Stockton, Charles Barkley, David Robinson and 1-2 more. Can you imagine being on such a “Dream team”?

*Do you realize YOU are being groomed to be on God’s team, which will blow away everything else ever done before?*

- Some dream of being invited to “America’s Got Talent’ or the equivalent ones in UK and Asia and elsewhere... or to be selected to go to the finals. What a great thing that would be for some people.
- Some hoped to become a Navy Seal – though the vast majority of even those allowed to “try out” don’t make it.

What’s your big dream? Get married, have several healthy children, have a beautiful home out in the suburbs with a 3-car garage and a boatload of money in your retirement funds?

Or is it more simple – just to have a healthy and happy life and know you are in the good graces of Almighty Father in heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ?

Though you’re not likely to be a super gifted person of this world right now – *you have been gifted with a calling so high, so grand, that most of us don’t keep in front and center in our hearts and minds!*

**You ARE a person whom God the Father himself decided to call and bring to his Son Jesus Christ (Yeshua) to work with and to bring you to eternal salvation through God’s Son.** God the Father basically said, “I know you; I know who you are, and frankly because you are a nobody of this world, I want you, I’m choosing you; to glorify what happens to mere mortals when the God of Heaven and earth picks you... and works with you... when you respond to me.”

**Remember, it is Jesus’ Father who picks those being called now.** It’s not even something Yeshua (Jesus) does. The Father does! (John 6:44 – “NO ONE can come to me (Yeshua speaking) unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day”. Also John 6:65.) Imagine that! You may have been passed over for a promotion or job pay increase, but someone in the universe knows you and has hand-picked you.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 CJB**

“Just look at yourselves, brothers — look at those whom God has called! Not many of you are wise by the world’s standards, not many wield power or boast noble birth.

27 But God chose what the world considers nonsense *in order to shame the wise; God chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong; 28 and God chose what the world looks down on as common or regards as nothing in order to bring to nothing what the world considers important;*

29 so that no one should boast before God.

30 It is his doing that you are united with the Messiah Yeshua. He has become wisdom for us from God, and righteousness and holiness and redemption as well! 31 Therefore — as the Tanakh says (as it's written) — “Let anyone who wants to boast, boast about Adonai (our Lord)”

He continues, “I want to become your real FATHER. I want you to know how much I love you and care for you and about you. I know every hair on your head, every thought, every fear, every event you have in your life. And I want to be in relationship with you.”

**You were not selected by mere mortals.** You were not selected by angels. You were not even selected to be called by the Son of God – but by the Almighty God Most High in heaven, who is the Head of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:2-3), and the GOD of Yeshua, or Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3, 17; John 20:17).

*NOBODY higher in the UNIVERSE could have picked you – but He did!*

You've been called to not just be on a spectator of events around you – but to be formed, molded and shaped by the events God sends into your life. And frankly, we are to be molding some events around us too, by our lives and by God's spirit in us. *He's calling you and me to be among his first children!*

You might want to read **2 Timothy 1:8-12** as well – talking about how God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, “NOT according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus *before time began* .....

You are being among the first of humanity to be selected. So you have a very high calling, a holy calling, and we are to strive to live WORTHY of that calling (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Thess 1:11).

Yeshua (Jesus) is the FIRST among *many* siblings – brothers and sisters.

**Romans 8:28-29**

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, *He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn **among many brethren.**”

**In 2 Corinthians 6:18** it says God is pleased to have you as his “sons and daughters”.

After Christ, those being called in this age are called the “firstfruits”. And this has much to do with what Pentecost/Shavuot is all about.

*I think way too many of us lose sight of this high calling. And that's what I want to talk about today – 6 reasons to cherish, guard and protect this very, very high calling you have.*

And by the way, Paul says in **Romans 11:29**—“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable”. They can't be withdrawn. Let that sink in.

You and I will sin, stumble and fail from time to time, as everyone has, except Christ. But that doesn't revoke your calling.

Let's not be like the first Israelites being called out of the world, out of Egypt -- who didn't cherish their calling to be a holy nation (Ex. 19:6) and all of those older than 19 years of age died in the wilderness as a result.

Nor like Esau – who sold his firstborn birthright blessings for a bowl of lentil soup. The descendants of Esau were called Edom, red earth, and Edomites were a constant enemy of the descendants of Jacob, who was renamed Israel.

**Genesis 25:29-34**

Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

**31 But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."**

**32 And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"**

33 Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day."

So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. **Thus Esau despised his birthright.**

Could we ever be like Esau and despise OUR birthright? Could we end up not appreciating the calling WE have? Or sometime in future be willing to give it up – for some temporary gratification?

Later on, Esau was furious when Jacob actually did get the birthright blessings 2 chapters later – in Genesis 27.

Neither should we be like **Reuben** – Israel's firstborn, who desecrated his firstborn status for some easy sex with his dad's young concubine Bilhah (**Genesis 35:22; 1 Chronicles 5:1 explains it well**). The double portion was moved over to Joseph, the first born of his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Rachel. In this case, Reuben had disqualified himself from the double portion blessings he should have and could have received. (**Gen. 49:3-4; 49:22-26 Joseph**).

I DON'T know if we're doing any better today. Are we protecting and cherishing our calling to be first fruits – or forgetting it much of the time?

In Hebrews 11, the Faith chapter, those God was calling in the Old Covenant times **looked for a BETTER resurrection**. The First Resurrection to which we've been called IS that better resurrection!

**Hebrews 11:35** “Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might **obtain a BETTER resurrection.**”

### **WHAT IS YOUR CALLING? WHY were you called?**

***To be the first*** God is working with -- **SPRING HARVEST – after Christ, the wavesheaf of barley firstfruits. The VERY first to be harvested after the barley wavesheaf pictures Yeshua.** The holydays of God, all shown in Leviticus 23, are clearly revolving around the harvest seasons in the Promised Land.

Then *the rest of the spring harvest* is brought in – barley, and then the wheat.

- *After Christ's resurrection, the rest of the SPRING harvest pictures US* – those being called now.
- *After that, the rest* of humanity is pictured by the much larger FALL Harvest. We're the SPRING harvest. In Israel that's when they harvest the barley and early wheat.

**James 1:18** says “WE are to be a kind of FIRSTFRUITS of His creatures.”

**Revelation 14:4** talks about 144,000 in heavenly Mt Zion as also being *“firstfruits to God and to the Lamb”*. Are you getting it? That's those of us in this age who are being called now by God.

**So Pentecost is about you and me – and we're in the first batch of those being called out of the world right now.** Take your calling SERIOUSLY, my friends. I'll throw this in too: Paul refers to the brethren in certain parts of the world as “the firstfruits of Achaia” etc Romans 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15.

So probably most of you listening to this right now, can be called “first fruits of China” or “firstfruits of Germany” or of Iraq or Israel.

And guess what? God's firstfruits get along with each other, whether we're from Arab states or Israel/America or India/Pakistan, etc.

### **When is the first resurrection?**

**So Pentecost pictures the early harvest, the first harvests, and the first fruits of the harvest. The Wavesheaf day pictured the resurrected Christ exclusively**, presenting himself to God the Father “to be accepted on your behalf”, and then after that happened, the rest of the early harvest could proceed. (**John 20:17; Lev 23:11**).

And so indeed, on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the rest of the harvest began and continues to this day.

#### **1 Cor. 15:20-24**

“But now Christ has risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...v.22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. V.23- but each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at his coming.”

**WE are also called “firstfruits” as I showed you – James 1:18; Rev. 14:4; Romans 16:5.** So we've often called Yeshua the “first of the firstfruits” when you put all these verses together.

So when we study the harvests of Israel, it's clear that the spring-summer harvests of barley-wheat picture those being called first in this age. The Fall harvests picture the rest of humanity when they will have their minds opened.

**So if the first resurrection is about those who are being called and worked with right now, their resurrection should occur on the day that pictures them! *Pentecost!*** And it makes sense in the timing. See Jeff Niccum's sermon and my sermon “I go prepare a place for you” that explain all this.

**I truly believe the first resurrection only makes sense being in the spring holyday seasons,** because the first resurrection is about the EARLY HARVEST people – you and me and all those called and chosen before Christ returns.

**I believe those being called from Abel until Christ returns will be changed or resurrected around or just before Pentecost.**

**I can't prove this sentence, but I personally believe it makes sense the first resurrection of the just, will itself take place on Wavesheaf Day,** after Passover, because though Wavesheaf Day pictures Christ, *we are ONE with him*; we are his BODY WITH HIM. He is the Head; we are the body. And then we count 50 earth-days to the wedding day of the Lamb – that many of us have preached on for many years will probably happen on Pentecost. I know no one else preaching this, and I mention it as possible speculation – but it makes sense to me.

My friends believe the resurrection itself occurs on Pentecost – and they believe we then go straight into the Wedding. But without prior orientation? I believe we are resurrected on Wavesheaf Day, go to heaven and then count the *50 days before the wedding – and use those 50 days to get oriented* to heavenly Jerusalem and all the people we need to meet. It will be a very, very exciting time.

**Then on Pentecost Day – get married** to our Fiancé -- Yeshua, the Son of God, who himself is also God, King of kings and Lord of lords.

**Yes, I truly believe the wedding supper will be ON Pentecost.** That's about the time God married Israel at Mt. Sinai, the time of Ruth and Boaz' wedding, picturing the church and our Redeemer, and the time God's down-payment of his love was given through His Spirit on Pentecost in Acts 2.

In the meantime, armies are gathering on earth to fight the returning Christ. So then we all return with King Yeshua (Jesus the Christ) on the Feast of Trumpets to land on the Mt of Olives and begin the 1000-year rule of Christ.

**The first resurrection provides the highest reward... but it is also requires the toughest commitment of all the resurrections, because** those being called now have to contend with a world still ruled by Satan, as Christ is not ruling the world yet. So it's much tougher. You could lose your job, or even be killed for being a follower of Yeshua, or Jesus, right now.



So that's another reason I'm giving this sermon – so you don't give up when the going gets tough. Someone who dreams of being in the Olympics has to work a lot harder than the average person.... (Examples in audio)

This calling now is also to show glory to GOD – who will make something magnificent even out of you – and even out of me. Incredible but true. That's what the last half of 1 Cor. 1 is all about. That no flesh should glory in itself – but should glory in Yeshua.

**IN the end, you and I are being called to be the older children, after Christ, in the Family of God, helping the younger kids of God who come along later.** I've read already how he is the first of many brethren.

**To Provide God's TEAM, his family, ready to set up Christ's rule**

Look what John the Baptist's commission was, and this will be the same commission when the 2 Witnesses start preaching.

**Luke 1:16-17**

“He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**”

*Christ's body is being molded into HIS image.* We are to grow daily to look and act and speak more and more like our Master. We are learning to be totally compatible with our coming Husband Yeshua. We will, after all, be his helpmeet, his assistant and even the one he will confide with.

And our lives should be changing so much now that God can show how He and Christ can take the base of the world, not the elites of the world, and still somehow forge a new spiritual nation out of these people...you ... and I.

Those being called now also are to **PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF Jesus Christ and his kingdom and to teach all nations**, get the word out, bring people to Christ. **Matthew 28:18-20** Not called to just sit back quietly but to be involved in bringing people to know Yeshua is the son of God, their Savior, and their king.

**6 REASONS TO CHERISH OUR FIRST FRUIT CALLING.**  
**WHY is it better to be in the first resurrection?**

**1. IT'S THE FIRST resurrection. FIRST is so often better than 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

- **The dead in Christ rise first; then we who remain alive at his coming will be changed (1 Thess 4:16-17). So WE get to WITNESS and PARTICIPATE in the greatest series of events in world history, the liberation of this planet from the evil tyrant Satan, the adversary, watch the resurrection, watch Christ returning. Wow!**

**It is so clear now that King Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus the Christ), comes back in 2 stages.** First in the clouds, to have the angels gather up his elect Bride. (**Mark 13:26-27; Matthew 24:29-31**). And Matthew 24:29 clearly states it's all AFTER the Great Tribulation.

Those in later resurrections will be composed of people who are mostly dead already when Christ returns, and they'll miss all this! So first resurrection people get to be a PART of this very exciting time.

We go to the clouds to meet him in the air. (**1 Thess 4:16-17**) Then we obviously go on from there BACK to heaven to meet our Father who puts on the wedding for us (**Matthew 22:1-10**).

That was pictured by the servants of Abraham who left Abraham (Picturing God the Father) to find a Bride for Isaac, who pictures Christ. God led the servant to Rebecca and her family. Remember how Laban, her brother, was all a part of this? But they took Rebecca back to where ISAAC was -- who was at his father's house (**Genesis 24:60-67**) and then Isaac consummated their wedding in Sarah's tent (**Gen 24:67**), which pictures the heavenly Jerusalem. (**Gal 4:22-28**).

Ponder that last paragraph and look up the scriptures!

I go through all this in detail in my sermon "I go prepare a place for you."

**Wedding supper. See Rev 19** – when you read it carefully, it says over and over that the wedding is in heaven. More on that in a minute.

In fact, the elect are shown walking on the Sea of Glass in front of GOD'S throne **in Revelation 15:2**. And even before that, in **Rev. 14:3** – the 144,000 saints are singing "before the throne and the 4 beasts and the elders" around God's throne! Where are the 4 living creatures and elders? In heavenly Jerusalem, where God's throne is.

Children of God: that's where we're going to go get married! In heaven.

So they're up there in heaven, and so far, Christ and his saints have not returned back to earth yet!

After the Wedding, and after the armies on earth have had time to gather after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, Christ comes back again, with his saints and angels on spirit white chargers!

Remember after the 7<sup>th</sup> trump – when we're resurrected – there are still 7 last plagues being poured out on earth, while we're in heaven! Christ has returned once already to gather his Bride and Elect – and then returned to Heaven. On earth, Satan is stirring up a huge gathering of armies to fight Christ when he comes back with his angels and Bride to rule the earth.

**Revelations 19:1, 11, 14-17** – the saints (Christ's armies and his angels also) are described clearly as being in heaven as they prepare to “mount up” on spirit chargers and come back to earth.

14 Armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen clean and bright, followed him on white horses.

**So point 1, is that the first resurrection is better, first of all because it is FIRST. First is better than 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. First is better because we get to participate in things and in events that those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection will only HEAR about!**

**2. FIRST BORN GETS A DOUBLE PORTION of the inheritances and rewards. That's what ESAU and REUBEN scorned. Christ is the Firstborn; we are his Bride. He shares everything with His Bride and those being called now. (Co-heirs with Christ)**

**You can see the law of the double portion going to the first born in Deut 21:15-17**, even if the firstborn of a man with 2 wives is firstborn of the unloved wife, he is still to have the double portion.

Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac – because God did not really see Ishmael, or the children of other concubines, as a valid first born from Hagar (**Gen. 25:5-6**). At this point, Abraham sent away his concubines and sons.

**Who IS GOD'S FIRSTBORN? It is Jesus Christ! Yeshua the Messiah! Rom. 8:29.** He is first of many. **Colossians 1:15, 18** say Christ is the firstborn over all the creation. When God the Father brought the Word of God into the world as Jesus Christ, God commanded the angels to worship him – even as an infant. Certainly the wise men did a while after his birth (Matthew 2:11). Many worshiped Christ – the healed leper (Matt 8:2), his disciples did

(Matthew 14:33); the healed blind man did (John 8:38), etc. And Yeshua allowed it, because he was God in the form of a man and it was OK to worship him (Hebrews 1:6, 8).

**And WE are the called the church of the Firstborn (Hebrews 12:23).** We also hope to be his BRIDE, his WIFE. *What happens with a Bride? She gets to share in everything her husband has! How exciting is that?* Christ is not getting married again and again – just once, to one Bride, and that’s the church of the firstborn, those being called out of the world now. So as Bride, we become joint heirs with Christ, who inherits ALL things!

**Romans 8:15-16** – says we are now children of God. **V. 17** – and if children, then heirs – heirs of GOD and JOINT-HEIRS with Christ, IF indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.”

**Hebrews 1:6, 8**, -“But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him.’” V. 8—But to the Son he says: ‘your throne O GOD, is for forever and ever....”

How and when did Yeshua officially become the firstborn Son of God, and not just the Word, the Companion of God Most High, working together as ONE? Though God Most High was his Father while he was a mortal on earth, scripture teaches that he officially was the Son of God at his resurrection, when he was changed to glory and spirit. Flesh and Blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50)

**Romans 1:3-4**

“...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to **the flesh**, 4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the **Spirit** of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**”

We TOO, will officially be like God, see him as he is, and be born of Spirit at the resurrection (**1 John 3:1-2; John 3:6**).

**3. Those in 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection WILL BE AT THE WEDDING SUPPER – either as an attendant or as the Bride “herself”.**

We all – male and female – spiritually are one. **Gal 3:26-28** says there’s no more male or female when we’re changed to spirit. And ALL of us who are called to be part of the Bride will be there as the bride – the helpmeet, the executive assistant, the wife of the King of Kings.

NOT all in the first resurrection will be part of the Bride. Some will be attendants. Some will be the “10 virgins”, 5 of whom go in to the Wedding. The Virgins are not called the Bride. They are more likely attendants to the Bride.

**Those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection will NOT be offered the chance to be the Bride. Only those in the first will.**

I’ve spoken briefly already about the wedding supper. But guess what? There’s only 1 wedding of the Lamb and his bride, just one Bride made up of a body of people called the “called out ones”, the “ekklesia”.

This wedding supper of the Lamb, put on by God the Father the KING over all will surely be beyond anything I could even attempt to describe. I want to be there. Don’t miss it – for anything! Don’t let sins you are living with stop you. We must be overcomers, remember.

#### **4. We will be given our special NEW NAMES – plural.**

Please hear my whole sermon on just this point – our exciting new names. <https://www.lightontherock.org/message/our-exciting-new-names-in-the-kingdom1.html?highlight=WyJuZXciLCJuYW1lcyIsIm5ldyBuYW1lcyJd>

#### **Revelation 3:11-12 Yeshua speaking:**

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

I will write on him **the name of My God** and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”

You will be identified as – your new name, of the city of heavenly Jerusalem, firstfruit child of God the Father – by the names given you. Don’t let anyone – or anything – disqualify you or take your crown. Other verses indicate the name could be on our foreheads (Revelation 22:4) and it does say here “I will write on him the name...”

The High Priest used to wear a crown that had inscribed on it “Holiness to YHVH”. Others who come in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection will probably be given new names too, but theirs will not include the name of heavenly Jerusalem and probably will be different type of names from ours. But we know our God likes to rename – Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Simon to Peter, and so on.

**You are getting a new name too.**

**Imagine the ceremony that will accompany that. (Audio)**

**5. JERUSALEM ABOVE WILL BE OUR CITY, our home, our headquarters, our base of operations.**

Those in succeeding resurrections will have their own cities on the new earth in the new heavens/new earth, but the heavenly city that comes down to the new earth will be OUR city. That's why even the city itself is called "the Bride".

I have a sermon on this very topic also. Here's the link. I hope you'll listen to it. It makes the point we should take "ownership" to OUR God, OUR city, etc. <https://www.lightontherock.org/message/our-god-our-father-our-kingdom-our-city.html?highlight=WyJvdXIiLCJjaXR5IiwiaY2l0eSdzIiwib3VyIGNpdHkiXQ==>

My point is this: remember we just read that one of our names will be the name of the New Jerusalem as part of our name? WHY? Because it will become OUR city. And – the New Jerusalem itself is called "the Bride" because that is where the Bride will DWELL. It's her city (Revelation 21:2, 11).

See what it says about Abraham and Sarah – Hebrews 11:8-11, 16

**Hebrews 11:10**

for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**Hebrews 11:16**

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY for them."

In that city, you will have your own house –or home. It will be so perfectly gorgeous, that it is unimaginable to us today. God knows your heart and your home will be perfect for YOU.

*Even when Christ sets up the kingdom here on earth for the 1000-year rule, I believe strongly that you and I will still be able to zip up and down from Heaven often and we'll be able to commune with God our Father – in person. I'm sure Abba above will love seeing you in person from time to time.*

The rest of the dead are not resurrected, we're told, until the 1000 years is over (Rev 21:5). So being first also means we'll have a thousand-year head start on all others. Maybe we'll need it. We're not not-so-great after all....

There are SO many reasons to cherish your high calling. Here's one more...

**6. You're being called and groomed to be KINGS AND PRIESTS WITH Jesus CHRIST (Yeshua); MORE RESPONSIBILITY, in other words.**

We are being called to rule, teach, guide, shepherd and help all those who will come after us. Not everyone can be a king and a priest. I'll have to give a whole sermon on just this huge point.

**Revelation 20:4-6**

**And I saw thrones**, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

5 (But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.) **This is the first resurrection.**

**6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**"

Pretty clear. Walk worthy of the calling you've been given. Ephesians 4:1

**Philippians 3:12-14**

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** 1

3 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 **I press toward the goal for the prize** of the upward call (the high calling) of God in Christ Jesus."

I look forward to this. I look forward to meeting my personal Savior and King – and my heavenly Father – 1000 years ahead of everyone else who has died without confessing the Lord Jesus.

**Let's look forward to the time we will meet our Savior Jesus Christ. HOW will you feel?** Here's how we're told we're supposed to feel like at that moment of supreme awe and amazement:

**Hebrews 9:27-28**

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who EAGERLY wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

**HE is my righteousness, he is my life, and he is my dream. And this dream – I have locked up in the guarantee, the earnest money, of his Holy Spirit.**

And he who started something in me has committed to finishing it (**Philippians 1:6** – “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”)

My brothers and sisters, some dark days will come just before the return of our Messiah. It will be a time of worst trouble the world has ever seen. But if we seize hold of what lies beyond this life, we can endure it, get through it, just like Yeshua did on the cross. Just like the early people of God did, as revealed in Hebrews 11 – who wandered in goat skins, hid in caves, were stoned, sawn in tow, were slain with the sword; people of whom the world was not worthy.... But they did it, for the better resurrection! (**Heb 11:32-40**).

God said they would not YET receive the promise, as we'll all receive it together, “that they should not be made perfect apart from us” (v. 40).

I can't wait for the first resurrection. I cherish it. I want to keep studying it. I want to rekindle the first love I once had. And like Jesus, ... well, let's read it, right as Heb 11 ends, we go into Heb 12. See how he endured the cross:

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Cherish your first resurrection calling. Cherish it. Tie it to your chest and let it be the beat of your heart. Let's fight sins as never before. Let's show God we love his calling, and we absolutely are coming out of this Babylon of this world. Remember “come out of her my people” we're commanded! Let's obey that. Let's be more diligent and zealous for God as never before. Let's put first things first in our lives.



And if we all do this, in Christ – I'll see you there, as we hear the shout from heaven, on this day, "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

And when we return with Christ – on white chargers after the Wedding Supper in heaven – who will be there?

**Revelation 17:14**

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and ***those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.***"

Be there. Let's all be there. And let's all glorify our great God in heaven and his SON, the King of kings. He's included you in his DREAM. It's a dream, unlike Fantine's in the beginning of this sermon, your dream can come true.

You're slated to be in-- the BETTER resurrection. The FIRST resurrection. Cherish it. Guard it. Love it. Speak of it. And be there!

Closing prayer.