

**BE READY – 3**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**INTRO:** The next event to occur on God’s timeline is the Rapture of the Church (**JOHN 14:1-3; 1 COR. 15:50-52; 1 THES. 4:15-18**). The Church is in Heaven for seven years before returning with Christ to fight the battle of Armageddon.

**“Come Up Hither” REV. 4:1-11**

While God’s wrath is poured out on earth, three things take place in Heaven: The Bema, Marriage Supper, Preparation for Armageddon.

- **REV. 6:12-17** God’s wrath is poured out on Earth.
- **REV. 5:1-14** Only Jesus is worthy to take the book and open the seals.

**The Bema – 2 COR. 5:7-10**

Six Questions: Who, what, when, where, why, how? Who participates, what is it, when does it take place, where does it take place, why does it take place, how do we prepare for it?

**Who? 2 COR. 5:9**

Every believer will appear in court. Daniel Webster was asked what was the most important thought he ever had. “My account-ability to God”. **JOHN 5:22-23** Jesus will be our judge.

**What?**

It’s not the Great White Throne Judgment (**REV. 20:11-15**). The Bema was a raised platform and official seat of the judge. **ROMANS 14:10-12** explains what it’s for. The Corinthians understood what the Bema was used for: Court of Justice; military discipline or awards; Olympic games. **DAN. 12:10** It involves receiving a refining judgment. We are purified, made white and refined by fiery judgment.

**When?**

After the Rapture (**LUKE 14:12-14**). The Resurrection is the rapture. **1 COR. 4:5** The Lord comes at the Rapture. That’s when our heart’s motives will be judged. **REV. 22:12,16**.

**Where?**

In the heavenlies (**1 THES. 4:17. 2 COR. 5:8** When we leave the body, we go to the Lord’s presence where He judges and refines us.

**Why?**

**2 COR. 5:10** “So that” we can be recompensed for our deeds, not to determine our salvation. **REV. 4:3** God sees us through the Blood of Jesus. The rainbow is

an emblem of mercy, peace, and reconciliation. It represents the covenant of grace.

- **1 COR. 3:10-15 NASB** To evaluate the quality of our building materials. The inferior will burn up, the superior will remain. Remember **MT. 6**? If we give, pray or fast to be seen of men, we get no rewards from God.
- **2 TIM. 4:6-8** There are five crowns that reveal what's most important to God.

### **How?**

- 1.) How we treat others (**HEB. 6:10**).
- 2.) How we use our God-given talents and abilities (**MT. 25**).
- 3.) How we steward our finances (**PR. 3:9-10**).
- 4.) How we use our tongue (**MT. 12:36**).
- 5.) How we handle temptation (**JAMES 1:12**).
- 6.) How we deal with persecution (**MT. 5:11-12**).
- 7.) How we run our race (**1 COR. 9:24-27**).
- 8.) How we view witnessing (**DAN. 12:3**).
- 9.) How faithful we are in small things (**LK. 16:10-12**).
- 10.) How hospitable we are to the needy (**LUKE 14:12-14**).

**Conclusion:** **1 PET. 5:4** Paul used the word Bema to motivate us to live out our Christian life with purpose and strive for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ. Let's all do a self-evaluation to make certain we are running our race with gold medals in mind.