

# **FAST Lesson 5A: Real Men Look beyond This Life – A New Destiny**

John Kain, 2010

- I. Our view of the “end game” impacts the way we live each day. What happens to us after we die? (Our bodies are burned or they decay in the ground, but our soul goes on living.) Since the future of our body is known to all men, the real issue becomes the future of our soul.
- II. For believers in the saving work of Jesus Christ, the destiny of our soul is clear and is positive. Our soul may be thought of as the spiritual essence of our consciousness and personal will. Although it is distinct from the physical body, it is the real “you.”
- III. As the spiritual and essential part of us which continues to exist after the body dies, our soul’s destiny is important. As Christians, we believe that by making a choice to accept the new life that God offers us in Jesus Christ, we become part of his family and look forward to being at home with him in heaven. Unfortunately, those who have rejected Jesus will not simply be gone. Their souls live on, separated from God, with no hope of restoration.
- IV. The destiny of a new life with God includes the unification of heaven and earth in ages to come – an exciting and action-packed future that eventually includes restored bodies for our souls. This opens up the hope of what we may do in our heavenly existence. Whether it is music, sports, rest, travel, worship, deep contentment, incredible beauty, and sincere love - those activities that stir your soul in a good way, consistent with God’s word - that’s a taste of heaven.
- V. A wild ride of future events (commonly referred to as “end times”) is described in the bible in ways that are difficult for us to put into sequence or associate with historical and current events – many have attempted to do so, but for 2,000 years they have not been able to accurately put a timeline on God’s program.
- I. What is clear is that the current order of things here will be radically changed with the end times. Until that future phase when Jesus

returns and heaven and earth are made compatible again, the souls of believers are united with Christ when our bodies die – going to the heavenly place in which God dwells today. Everything we do here on earth should be colored by this rich understanding of our destiny with Christ, a future that is anything but dull.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. **Trust in God**; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I am going there to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "**I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**" At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices; they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**" Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." **When he had said this, he fell asleep.**" (Acts 7: 55-60)

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.** Therefore encourage each other with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

"**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21: 1-4)