

# Let's Go Fishing-Part One

Danny Forrest

*The Bible says in Revelation 20:4b, "and they came to life and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years."*

*The Apostle John's vision of the end times substantiates the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others. These prophets foretold of a righteous kingdom of peace that would be led by Yahweh Himself. Kingdom Stories is not a theological exegesis of these prophecies. Kingdom Stories is my take on what life might be like in the Millennial Kingdom. The stories are fictional but based on a literal interpretation of the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments, including those of Jesus.*

It had been almost 100 years since Jesus Christ returned physically to the earth as He and the prophets had promised. He defeated all the nations that had come against His people Israel in the prophesied Battle of Armageddon. Hundreds of thousands of tribulation saint survivors, Jews and Gentiles, marched into the Kingdom with King Jesus. They were joined by resurrected Old Testament, church, and tribulation saints and martyrs. This story takes place 100 years into the earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Resurrected church saints are serving and enjoying life in the Kingdom.

This is not a Biblical account but based on my understanding of scripture, this is a scenario that could happen in the Kingdom.



Old friends are trying to plan a fishing trip.

"Bob, let's go fishing," said Elmer.

"Sounds good to me, where do you want to go?" asked Bob.

"How about the Dead Sea, I heard the trout are hitting just about anything you can throw out," said Elmer.

"The Dead Sea? When is someone going to change that name? It has been alive and full of life ever since King Jesus returned," said Bob.

"Yep, that's why I want to go there, the fish are plentiful and they are biting," answered Elmer.

"The only problem," said Bob, "is that everyone else likes to go there too, and it will be crowded."

"OK, how about Galilee," responded Elmer. "We could fish out of Peter's boat. That always produces fish."

"Still too crowded," said Bob, "and we don't need a boat, we can just hover."

"Well," answered Elmer, "using that logic, we don't really need fishing gear or bait either, but that would take all the fun out of it."

"I know you won't let that happen," said Bob.

“That’s right,” said Elmer, “It would be like fishing with one of the Old Testament saints. They always want to fish with a net. One cast and we’re done. It’s even worse fishing with one of the prophets. They just want to command the fish to jump into their basket. And the disciples catch one fish and quit, saying they will multiply it to meet the need. Where’s the fun in that?”

“Yep,” replied Bob. “Nothing beats a good 20<sup>th</sup> century bait caster reel for combining fun with fishing.”

“That’s right,” said Elmer. “So where do you want to hover? I mean fish, with that bait caster? We need a place that won’t be so crowded?”

“How about right here in the Gulf of Mexico?” said Bob, “It’s close, not crowded, and I hear the reds are biting.”

“How soon can you be ready to go?” asked Elmer.

Bob quickly responded, “I just need to grab my gear and pick up some bait.”

“Alright,” said Elmer. “Grab your gear, and I will race you to the five-mile buoy off Galveston Island where we caught the specks last year.”

“The fun begins!” shouted Bob, as they flew off in different directions.” They will meet in an hour.

“Where have you been, Bob? Frank and I already have our lines in the water and are waiting on you and the fish,” Elmer proudly exclaimed.

“Hey Frank, didn’t expect to see you out here today,” said Bob.

“When Elmer told me ya’ll were going fishing in the Gulf, I just invited myself,” responded Frank, “and by the way Elmer said you were bringing the bait. What took you so long?”

Bob answered, “I stopped by the marina and bait shop in Galveston and got into a conversation with Jim and Judy Rivers, the couple who run it. They are Gentile Tribulation survivors. Really interesting folks with a great story of how God protected them and their two younger children from the Antichrist and the mark of the beast while they were hiding out in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas. They said they were church goers but never trusted Christ alone as their Savior. They thought that just going to church and living good moral lives would earn God’s favor. Needless to say, the Rapture of the Church woke them up along with many other “church goers.” They were living in rural Arkansas at the time of the Rapture. Almost half of their small community vanished in a moment. Many of their church friends and family members were just gone. Jim and Judy were both resentful at first because they had been left behind. They pulled out their Bibles and began to dig for answers. It was not until a young Jewish evangelist came through town preaching that Jesus is coming back that they put their faith in Christ almost a year after the Rapture. Their 15-year old son John was a young believer and was raptured with us and the rest of the true church believers. You know him, he manages the new construction projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.”

“Yea, John Rivers, I know him well,” said Frank. “He has done a great job helping to rebuild that area. I have met John’s parents a couple of times. How are they doing now?”

Bob, with a somewhat worried look on his face, answered, “Judy is very worried about their son, Joseph, who was born just two years after they arrived in the Kingdom. Joseph is 98 years old and has not accepted Christ as Savior yet. Wanted to know if there was anything we could do to help their son. Joseph is just one of thousands of baby boomers, kids born in the early years of the Kingdom. The Rivers along with other Tribulation saints who were beyond child bearing age began having children again in the Kingdom. Joseph Rivers has six younger Kingdom siblings. Joseph’s mom Judy is mainly worried about him right now because he is fast approaching 100 and has not trusted King Jesus yet.”

Elmer asked, “Did you tell them about the 100th year youth rally coming up next week in Austin?”

“Yes,” answered Bob. “I did better than that. I got a chance to talk to Joseph, who also works at the marina.”

“What did you tell him,” Elmer quickly asked?

“I told him the gospel, how Jesus came to this earth the first time not as a King but as a sacrifice for our sins, suffering an excruciating death on a Roman cross. I told Him, the Jesus you now know as King and Lord of the Kingdom, loved us, loved you, so much He left His heavenly throne and became a man to pay the penalty that we owed for sin. Fortunately for us, God the Father, raised Him from the dead. He returned to Earth almost 100 years ago and established His Kingdom, promised to Abraham and the Hebrew people.”

“How did Joseph respond to that?” asked Frank.

“He listened and was polite but seemed to be hung up on the idea that he felt inferior because of his physical limitations,” said Bob.

“What limitations?” asked Elmer.

“You know! The normal limitations of the physical body. You haven’t been in that resurrected body so long that you have forgotten the pains, the emotions, and the limitations of the physical body have you?” asked Bob.

“Yea, I remember,” answered Elmer. “And I have experienced first-hand some of the jealousy toward the resurrected saints.”

“Where did you leave the conversation? Did he accept King Jesus as his Savior?”

“Unfortunately no,” answered Bob. “I invited him to the Austin youth rally and he agreed to come. I also asked his parents to come and tell their Tribulation survival story. It’s going to be quite a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Kingdom.”

*To be continued.*