

Riding the Clouds



Look up at the sky.

Are there lots of clouds?

Did you know there are different kinds of clouds?

- ❖ Some look like huge puffy cotton balls – these are called **cumulus** clouds.
- ❖ Others form flattish layers that sweep across the sky – they're the **stratus** clouds.
 - ❖ **Cirrus** clouds often look like thinnish curls of smoke.
- ❖ **Nimbus** clouds are the rain clouds – heavy, dark, and foreboding.

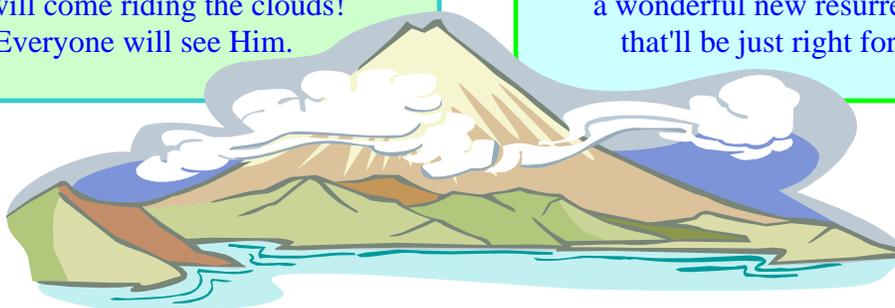


If you've ever been in an airplane, high in the air, you've probably ridden above cirrus clouds – these are always very high up. It's a good thing the clouds don't just drop onto us... or we'd get awfully wet! All clouds are made up of water. When they're up high, the water is in the form of ice crystals. Lower clouds are usually made up of liquid water droplets.

God put a lot of thought into how He made the clouds.
He understands why they hold together so well and don't just fall apart.
God made them so interesting that we love to look at them!
Clouds are always changing and moving.
And they're so peaceful too – so soft and smushy
we feel we could just curl up into one.

God has an extra special job for His clouds. One day (we don't know when), the Lord Jesus will come back to gather all the people who believe in Him. And He will come riding the clouds!
Everyone will see Him.

And He'll take us to see His home in heaven. Jesus will raise all the dead who had put their faith in Him as their Saviour from sin. He'll give each person a wonderful new resurrection body that'll be just right for heaven.



And those believers who are still alive will also be lifted up to meet Him in the air – they too will receive perfect new bodies.

"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." – 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17



And what about those clouds? Well, they'll be the Lord's special chariot. Will Jesus use cumulus clouds? Maybe stratus clouds? Or a curly cirrus cloud? We don't know. Perhaps He'll create a new kind of cloud just for that event.

But for the unfortunate folks who have to stay on earth (because they didn't trust in Jesus as their Saviour), those clouds may as well be nimbus clouds – because there will be some very rough and stormy times to come.

Can we know for sure that our Lord will come back?

Yes!

God's children will celebrate when we see Jesus that day. Of course, some of us may already be in heaven if we die before that day. Either way, we get to be part of the celebration.

Jesus said, *"But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven".*
– Matthew 26:64

Jesus is coming! It will be a surprise, so we need to be ready for it. Today, we can decide to be His child. That way, we'll get to ride the clouds with Him!

"Sing to God, sing praise to His name, extol Him who rides on the clouds – His name is the LORD – and rejoice before Him."
– Psalm 68:4