

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 3 - Basic Flow of *The Chronology of End Times*

September 20, 2016

### THE RAPTURE

The rapture of the church is the event in which God “snatches away” all those “in Christ” who have been placed into the body of Christ by the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus). God will resurrect all believers “in Christ” who have died, give them glorified bodies, and take them from the earth, along with all living believers, who will also be given glorified bodies at that time.

The rapture is described primarily in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50–54 and in John 14:1–3.

The rapture appears to be the next event in the eschatological timeline. The rapture is imminent; no other biblical prophecy needs to be fulfilled before the rapture happens.

The second coming of Jesus is in two “phases.” The rapture is to be distinguished from the physical second coming of Jesus. At the rapture, the Lord comes “in the clouds” to meet us “in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). At the physical second coming, the Lord descends all the way to the earth to stand on the Mount of Olives, resulting in a great earthquake followed by a defeat of God’s enemies (Zechariah 14:3–4).

The word *rapture* does not occur in the Bible. The term comes from a Latin word, “rapturo,” which is simply a translation of the Greek word *harpazo*. The Greek word *harpazo* (found in I Thess. 4:17) means seize by force; *snatch* up, suddenly and decisively – like someone seizing bounty (spoil, a prize); to take by an *open display* of force. The concept of the “carrying off” or the rapture of the Church is clearly taught in the NT and we see foreshadowings of the rapture in the OT (Enoch; Lot and his family; Ruth)

### FOLLOWING THE RAPTURE/IN HEAVEN:

#### THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST/THE BEMA SEAT

Rom. 14:10–12 - *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ....* <sup>12</sup> *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

II Cor. 5:10 - <sup>10</sup> *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

In context, it is clear that both passages refer to Christians, not unbelievers. The judgment seat of Christ, therefore, involves believers giving an account of their lives to Christ.

Believers, when standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10), will be judged according to their works. This judgment does NOT determine whether they are saved or lost. That has already been determined by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf (1 John 2:2) and our faith in Him (John 3:16). Our sins – the sins of those who have placed

their trust in Jesus – were judged at the cross. All of our sins are forgiven, and we will never be condemned for them (Romans 8:1).

This judgment will determine the reward or loss of reward for service on the part of each individual believer. Worthwhile eternally valuable activities will be rewarded (and that includes motivation!!); useless activities will suffer loss (I Cor. 3:15 - *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*)

### THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

According to Revelation 19:7, the bride, (the Church/the body of Christ) makes herself ready by having gone through the Judgment Seat of Christ. In Revelation 19:8 she is given fine linen which is said to be “the righteous acts of the saints.” She has made herself ready for the marriage of the Lamb. The marriage (marriage ceremony) takes place in heaven after the Judgment Seat of Christ, directly before the second coming.

### FOLLOWING THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH/ON EARTH:

#### THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST

After the church is taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:7–8), a satanically empowered man will gain worldwide control with promises of peace (Rev. 6:1-2 – first seal...one who sat on a white horse with a bow and no arrows and a crown [laurel wreath not a diadem or a royal crown] on his head; Rev. 13:1ff – the beast (the antichrist) arises from the sea; Daniel 9:27 – makes a covenant with the many). The antichrist will be aided by another man, called the false prophet, who heads up a religious system that requires worship of the antichrist (Revelation 19:20).

#### THE TRIBULATION

A period of seven years (Dan. 9:27) in which God's judgment/wrath is poured out on the entire world (Rev. 6 through 18) - on sinful humanity – for rebellion against God (Zeph. 1:15, 17, 18; Joel 3:12-14; Rev. 6:16-17). It is a time of intense trouble (Dan. 12:1) “such as never was”! The Tribulation will be unprecedented in its affliction, and will be culminated by the personal return of Jesus Christ to earth (Rev. 19).

The antichrist's rise to power is associated with this time period.

During the Tribulation on earth, the Church will be in heaven. It appears that at this time the Judgment Seat of Christ will occur in heaven followed by the Marriage Ceremony of the Lamb.

It is a time of God's wrath or indignation and the vindication of God's holiness (Zeph. 1:15, 18; Rev. 6:17; 1 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 14:7, 10; 19:2). God's wrath against man's sin and rebellion will be withheld no longer. The Tribulation will begin with the signing of a peace treaty with Israel by the antichrist, the man of sin, the beast of Revelation 13 (Dan. 9:26-27)

### THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

At the midway point of the seven-year Tribulation, the antichrist will break his covenant with Israel. The antichrist will set himself up in the Temple in Jerusalem exalting himself and demanding worship (Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4)

The remnant of Jewish people will flee into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God (Petra? Isa. 63:1 – Bozrah/Edom in the Jordan). “They” shall feed the Jewish people there one thousand two hundred and sixty days – 3.5 years (Rev. 12:6). A great persecution breaks out against all those who believe in Christ (Daniel 12:11; Mark 13:14; Revelation 12:17).

### THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

At the end of the Tribulation, all the nations of the world will gather for war against Israel (Zech. 12:1-9; Zech. 14:1-3; Rev. 16:12-16) with the intent of destroying Israel. Armageddon means “Mount of Megiddo,” referring to a location approx. 60 miles north of Jerusalem. This is the site for the final battle of mankind prior to Jesus’ second coming. The battle of Armageddon involves multiple phases

(Armageddon is not the last war on earth. The final war in history will be the final revolt of Satan (Rev. 20:7-11) which will occur at the end of the Millennial Kingdom)

### JESUS’ PHYSICAL SECOND COMING

The second coming is a major theme of both the OT and the NT. Jesus will return to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords at His second coming. He will fulfill prophecy. He will proclaim the day of vengeance of our God (Isa. 61:2). He will engage in battle against those coming against Israel. He will judge the Gentile nations. He will restore the nation of Israel (the 1/3 left). He will bind Satan. He will set up His kingdom on earth.

### THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

Christ will judge the survivors of the Tribulation, separating the righteous from the wicked as “sheep” and “goats” (Matthew 25:31–46). The righteous will enter the Millennial Kingdom in mortal bodies; the wicked will be cast into “everlasting punishment.”

### THE BINDING OF SATAN

Satan will be bound and held in a bottomless pit for the next 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1–3).

### THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

At Jesus’ second coming, following Armageddon and the judgment of the nations, Jesus will establish His kingdom in Jerusalem. Jesus will reign from King David’s throne in Jerusalem for 1,000 years. The Millennial Kingdom will be a time of relative peace and prosperity on earth (Psa. 2; Isa. 11; Isa. 60-62; Revelation 20) Memorial sacrifices will be offered in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40–48).

### THE LAST BATTLE

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released from his prison (bottomless pit) for a short time. He will deceive the nations once again. A rebellion against the Lord will ensue; however, the rebellion will be quickly defeated (Revelation 20:7–10). Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, never to reappear.

### THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

All non-believers in the grave will be brought forth. All the wicked from all eras of history will be resurrected to stand before God in a final judgment (Revelation 20:11–15). The verdicts are read, and all of sinful humanity is cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14).

### THE ETERNAL STATE

God completely remakes the heavens and the earth. It is at this time that God wipes away all tears and there will be no more pain, death, or sorrow. The New Jerusalem descends from heaven, and the children of God will enjoy eternity with Him (Revelation 21–22).

### QUESTIONS

ASK!!!!

### STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread the handout

Fill in the chart with verses and arrows and lines

Ask God to give you an understanding