

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### Week 8 – THE PHYSICAL SECOND COMING OF JESUS

March 6, 2018

The SECOND COMING IS IN TWO PHASES:

#### The rapture of the Church

- The Latin translation, *raptizo*, is from the Greek word *harpazo* which is “caught up” in the English.
- The rapture is for the Church. The Church is comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus from the Church Age. When did the Church Age begin? At Pentecost (Acts 2).
- At the rapture, we’ll be meeting Jesus in the air (I Thess. 4:16-17); we’ll be gathered together to Him (II Thess. 2:1).

#### The physical Second Coming

- Occurs after the seven year Tribulation.
- Jesus will physically come to earth.
- He will return to judge His enemies, to end Satan’s deception, and to set up His Kingdom on earth.

Is this what will be occurring at the rapture?

Side note: in Acts 1:9-11 we’re told that Jesus will return in the same manner as He left. *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.* <sup>10</sup> *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,* <sup>11</sup> *who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’* The angels did not prophesy that Jesus would return to the same place but rather in the same manner in which He had left. Jesus left in the clouds of heaven, and according to Matthew 24:30, He will return in the clouds of heaven. Rev. 1:7 - *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.* When Jesus ascended, He was taken up and a cloud received Him. He will come again with clouds.

How does the OT describe the Messiah’s coming? Check out, for starters, Isa. 13:9-15, Isa. 34:1-5, Joel 2:30-32, Joel 3:1-2. The focus is on JUDGMENT!

#### REVELATION 19:1-21

*After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!”* <sup>2</sup> *For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”* <sup>3</sup> *Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”* <sup>4</sup> *And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”* <sup>5</sup> *Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”*

<sup>6</sup> And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!' <sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' <sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." <sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." <sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. <sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The physical Second Coming of Jesus is a literal future event that will take place at a literal moment in literal time, by the literal King of all kings and Lord of all lords. It is the coming back to earth of Jesus Christ to put down all rebellion, to restore the earth, and to rule and reign from His throne atop Zion for literally 1,000 years.

#### PURPOSE OF THE PHYSICAL SECOND COMING OF JESUS

- To fulfill God's promise (Zech. 14:4; Matt. 23:39; Matt. 24; Matt. 25:31; Acts 1:9-11).
- To defeat the antichrist and his armies (Rev. 19:19-21).
- To restore national Israel.
  - God has been physically regathering Jewish people to the land in unbelief (Eze. 36:24-29; Eze. 37:11-14).

○ At the end of the Tribulation, God will pour His Spirit out upon the one-third of Jewish people who are remaining. They will come to faith in Jesus (Zech. 12:10ff).

- To judge the living – the Jews (Eze. 20:33-38; Matt. 25:1-13) and the Gentiles – “sheep and goats judgment” (Matt. 25:31-46).
- To resurrect the dead: OT saints (Dan. 12:1-4) and Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4-6).
- To bind Satan (Rev. 20:1-3).
- To establish His kingdom (Rev. 19:16; Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 2:44; Matt. 19:28; Luke 1:32-33).

Rev. 19:1-3 - *After these things (the destruction of commercial Babylon) I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”*<sup>3</sup> *Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”* *And the twenty-four elders (representing the Church) and the four living creatures (angelic beings) fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”*<sup>5</sup> *Then a voice came from the throne (perhaps an angel), saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”* All glory to God! The focus shifts from Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots to the Bride of Christ in heaven; from the antichrist who will destroy the wicked harlot to Christ, the Messiah, Who will marry the forgiven Bride, from the weeping of kings, merchants, and sailors on earth to the rejoicing of the inhabitants in heaven; from the silence of musicians in Babylon who will witness the city’s funeral to a multitude of musicians at a wedding in heaven!

Rev. 19:6 - *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!* In Rev. 11:15, at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment, we read of the kingdom having arrived. Why? Psa. 93:2 - *Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.*

Rev. 19:7 - *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.* Their gladness and rejoicing is because the marriage of the Lamb has come. The marriage ceremony occurs directly before Jesus physical Second Coming to earth. His wife – betrothed woman – has made herself ready. The redeemed of the Church has already come before the Bema Seat – the Judgment Seat of Christ. We will be made ready to reign with Christ during the Millennial Kingdom.

Rev. 19:8 - *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.* The body of Christ has already appeared before Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ where Church Age believers are going to be evaluated for rewards (NOT for salvation) based on the eternal value of their works (II

Cor. 5:10). Because of the Bema Seat, the Bride of Christ will be clothed in the “righteous acts of the saints.”

Rev. 19:9 - *Then he said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’* The Bride, NT saints from the Church Age (who were raptured)...the Bride does not need an invitation to the marriage supper. Scripture speaks of guests, not the Bride/not NT saints, being invited to the marriage supper as guests. The marriage supper of the Lamb looks forward to a future time – in the Millennial Kingdom. After the Second Coming the OT saints will be resurrected.

Dan. 12:1-2 - *At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble (Jer. 30:7 – time of Jacob’s trouble), such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

And, after the Second Coming the Tribulation saints who have died during the Tribulation will be resurrected.

Rev. 20:4 - *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

It appears that the resurrected OT saints and resurrected Tribulation saints will be the invited guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb in the Millennium. What about the Tribulation saints who survived the Tribulation and will be going into the Millennial Kingdom with natural bodies? It seems that they would be invited as well.

There are some New Testament passages that speak of eating and banqueting in the kingdom.

Matthew 8:11 - *And I say to you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (OT saints) in the kingdom of heaven.*

Luke 22:15-18 - *With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

It appears that the marriage supper/feast begins the Millennial Kingdom. Isa. 25:6 - *And in this mountain (kingdom) the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.*

Rev. 19:11 - *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

Jude 14-15 - *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,"<sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."* Enoch, who was translated – taken to heaven without seeing death, was the first to prophesy of Jesus returning with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on the ungodly.

Jesus returns on a white horse and He is in the process of fighting. Military victors in ancient times rode white horses after their victory as a symbol of their conquest. Jesus will ride a white horse in anticipation of victory. Horses from heaven? Check out II Kings 2:11 and II Kings 6:15-17.

Rev. 19:12 - *His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.* Jesus' fiery eyes reveal His insight, knowledge, and righteous anger. He has full knowledge of each individual and their sins (Heb. 4:12). Jesus is wearing many crowns. It was customary in the ancient world for the victorious warrior king to collect the crowns of the defeated kings (II Sam. 12:30). Jesus has many names. When He returns He will wear a special name known only to Himself! This name of Jesus appears to be greater than our understanding!

Rev. 19:13 – *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. Isa. 63:1-4* - *Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel...<sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?<sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.<sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.* Jesus has already been at war as His robe is dipped in blood.

Rev. 19:14 - *And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.* The armies are comprised of the Bride – clothed in fine linen, white and clean. Scripture tells us that the angels will accompany Jesus when He returns (II Thess. 1:7-10).

Rev. 19:15 - *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.* At Jesus' return there is no gradual removal of evil! (Num. 24:17-18; Dan. 2:31-35).

Rev. 19:16 - *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.* Jesus is the supreme King of Kings and the supreme Lord of Lords. All the empires and the crowns we have seen in Scripture will be crushed by our sovereign LORD (Dan. 2).

Rev. 19:17-18 – the great bird supper feasting on the carnage of all (see The Campaign of Armageddon/Week 6 lesson)

Rev. 19:19 - *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Many appear to escape the bird feast. The antichrist and the kings and their armies come against Jesus and His army (perhaps just the angels). Result:*

Rev. 19:20-21 - *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

A careful study of all Biblical references to the Second Coming clearly shows that the Rapture and the physical return of Jesus to the earth are two separate phases of His Second Coming.

#### RAPTURE

Christ comes for His own in the Air (I. Thess. 4:17)

Christians are taken to the Father's house (John 14:1-3)

The Church will be in heaven (John 14:3)

It could occur at any moment (I Thess. 4:1-18; I Cor. 15:50-54)

There are no signs preceding it (Rev. 22:20)

It affects believers only (I Thess. 4:13-18)

It is a time of joy (I Thess. 4:18)

#### PHYSICAL 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING

Christ comes WITH His own to the earth (Rev. 19:14)

Resurrected saints remain on earth (Rev. 19 & 20)  
Non-believers are removed from the earth (Matt. 24:37-44)

Christ sets up His kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:4-6; Isa. 2:1-4; Zech. 14:4ff)

It cannot occur until the end of the seven-year Tribulation (Matt. 24:29-31)

There are numerous signs preceding it (Matt. 24:3-33)

It affects all humanity (Rev. 19:11 – Rev. 20:15)

It is a time of mourning (Rev. 19:11 - Rev. 20:15)

It occurs before the day of wrath  
(I Thess. 5:9)

It occurs after the  
Tribulation (Matt. 24:29-30)

There is no mention of Satan

Satan is bound in the abyss for 1,000  
years

The judgment seat of Christ occurs  
after the rapture (I Cor. 3:9-15;  
II Cor. 5:9-11)

There is no mention of the  
judgment seat of Christ at  
His physical second coming  
See Rev. 4 – the 24 elders have rec'd  
their crowns/rewards. Tribulation  
begins in Rev. 6.

There is the marriage of the Lamb  
(Rev. 19:7) in heaven while Trib.  
occurring on earth

His bride descends w/ Him  
to earth (Rev. 19:9, 11-14)

Only Christ's own will see Him  
(I Thess. 4:13-18)

Every eye will see Him  
(Rev. 1:7)

The Rapture occurs some time before  
the Tribulation

The physical second  
coming occurs prior to  
the Millennial reign of Christ

I Thess. 5:2-10 - *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord (day of judgment) so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren (believers in Jesus), are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.* Just as a thief catches a household by surprise, Jesus will catch the unbelieving world by surprise when He returns in judgment.

#### QUESTIONS:

Do you grasp the distinction between the rapture and the physical Second Coming?

How would you briefly explain the difference?

How does this chapter impact you and your walk with the Lord?

#### STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread lesson with Bible references.

Share what you've learned with someone.

Continue writing in your journal.

Read handout for week 9 when you receive it.