

REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 9

REVELATION 4:1-2

After church age, we are awaiting for the trumpet call of God and I believe the next event is rapture.

He is coming to receive His bride and take us home and keep us safe while all the tribulation unfolds on the earth.

Rev. 1:19 - Different tenses give us an outline of the entire book of Revelation.

“Have seen” = Chapter 1 sees appearance of Jesus.

“Things which are” = present tense. He is writing in the 1st century “church age”.

“Things will take place”, “after this”.

“After this” = Greek word “meta tauta” = Future Events

As we go to Chapter 4, the words “meta tauta” are the words used at the beginning of Chapter 4 and end of Chapter 1.

We are now looking to the future in Chapter 4 - 22.

There will be a few things looking backwards but most of this is future.

Vs 1 - “Meta Tauta” book ends, it’s a transition.

Vs 1 - Is an invitation “Come up here”.

We are in Chapter 4, but Chapters 6 - 18, describe devastating cataclysmic events that will take place on earth at a future time. This is called the “Great Tribulation”.

In Chapters 6 - 18, the number of deaths will literally be in the billions.

Sometimes the path to surrender is not easy.

So this is the “Last Call”.

Where are Christians during this tribulation?

3 Basic Positions

- 1) POST Tribulation - some believe that church will not be taken until after tribulation is over.

They would say we are (church) will go through the tribulation here on earth.

John 16:33 - "In this world you will have tribulation".

- 2) MID Tribulation position. Believe church will go through first 3 ½ years and be taken out of at mid point.

Matt. 24:22

- 3) PRE Tribulation position. Belief that Christians will be taken before the tribulation.

For those that are here often you have heard me speak of this but for sake of those that don't know and those online RAPTURE - not found anywhere in the Bible.

However, the rapture is the blessed hope of the church and it is described in the Bible.

Jesus is going to come suddenly in the clouds and He will snatch Christians out of the earth.

I Thes. 4:15-18

The word “caught up” (in vs 17)

Rapture = “caught up” but in Greek “Harpadzw”.

Harpadzw” = seized or snatched.

When the Bible was translated into Latin, called the “Latin Vulgate” = the word was “Raptus”.

“Raptus” = seized or caught up in Latin.

Who is “them”? “Asleep” = Death in the New Testament.

The believers that have already died will go before us and will get their glorified bodies.

When Jesus rose from dead, He was in a glorified state and so will we.

His physical appearance was the same but His body had transformed.

So 2 parts of this:

1: When trumpet sounds those decomposed bodies turned to dust will be glorified.

God is big enough to put the molecular structure together.

2: “We who are alive and remain”

I Cor. 15:51-52

Paul is talking about there is a generation that will not experience death.

Matt. 24:37-42

I believe this is referencing the Rapture.

In Luke 17 he compares it to days of Noah and the days of Lot.

How are these similar?

You have righteous people, Noah and Lot. They are living in a very unrighteous world and He took the righteous out before judgement came. He spared Noah and Lot before judgement both times.

Also it was sudden!

Go back to Ch. 4 and look at those verses.

Here is why I believe the PRE-tribulation is here.

I see John as part of the Bride and a type of picture of the Church in what happens here.

Everything else John will write is from the vantage point of John being safe in Heaven.

Ch. 4:2 - writes from position of being safe in Heaven with the Lord.

5 Reasons PRE-Tribulation

1) Absence of the Church

2) The Open Door in Heaven

Door is open cause Church is going up!

3) The sound of a Trumpet

4) The invitation to come up!

5) The return of the Saints with Christ

Rev. 19:14

Jude 14:15

I Thes. 3:13, 4:14

I believe Rev. 4:1-2 is a picture of church taken to heaven in rapture and kept safe as tribulation unfolds.

1 Thes. 5:1-11

The problem with POST or MID tribulation views is that it's hard to read 1 Thes. 5 and be comforted.

