

## Week 15 | Salvation & Eternity

### What will happen at the end times?

So what are the end times? That's a pretty loaded question. We will barely be able to scratch the surface of that question today.

1 Corinthians 2:9 says, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."*

We won't fully grasp everything about the end of times until the return of Christ. There are a number of places in the Bible that talk about future events. The book that most focuses on them is the book of Revelation.

### Three themes of the book of Revelation...

*CHRIST (chapter 1), CHURCHES (chapters 2-3), and CONSUMMATION (chapters 4-22).*

Chapter 1 is where the author of Revelation, the apostle John, encounters Jesus and receives the divine revelation that he records in the rest of the book. In chapters 2-3 there is a special message from Jesus for seven specific churches, though the content of those messages are important for us today as well.

But really, the heart and soul of the book of Revelation is found in chapters 4-22, where we see the ultimate consummation of all things. In chapters 4-22 we can begin to develop a timeline of end time events.

Before these events occur, the Rapture must happen first. The word rapture is not found in the Bible. It's Latin for "\_\_\_\_\_."

While the word is not found in Scripture, it is very much described in Scripture. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18...

*"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."*

The day that Jesus returns can be any moment. Notice, we meet the Lord in the air. After Jesus comes, we will then \_\_\_\_\_ to heaven with Him.

Those who did not receive Christ as Lord and Savior will remain on earth for a seven year period of time known as the Tribulation. Daniel 9 talks about this period of time. It is prophecy about a number of future events.

Many of them have been fulfilled but there is still a 7 year period not yet fulfilled, this is the tribulation. In fact, the vast majority of the book of Revelation is talking about this period of time. Chapters 4-18 deal with the Tribulation.

The Tribulation involves 3 sets of judgments on the earth. The first one is the \_\_\_\_\_ judgments found in Revelation 6. This involves the rise to power of the Anti-Christ, a time of war and famine where many on the earth will die.

Many who come to Christ during this period will be martyred and there will be a number of catastrophic events, including a great earthquake, the sun being darkened, the moon becoming red as blood, and meteor showers.

The second set of judgments will be the \_\_\_\_\_ judgments described in Revelation 8-9. It will include hail and fire, mingled with blood, and a third of the earth burned. Parts of the sea will turn to blood and parts of shipping destroyed.

Water will be polluted and some type of poisonous locust and scorpion like creatures will be unleashed on the earth. One fourth of the world's population will die and then later on an additional one third. And an army of horsemen numbering 200 million will invade Palestine.

The third set of judgments will be the \_\_\_\_\_ judgments found in Revelation 16. Painful sores will plague many people. Water will turn to blood and the creatures of the sea will die. The sun's strength will be heightened and scorch the people.

The Euphrates River will dry up, facilitating the crossing of the rivers by the armies of the kings of the East (also recorded in Daniel 11:44). This will prepare the world for the Battle of Armageddon.

The Tribulation will be "\_\_\_\_\_ on earth." Now maybe you're thinking, "Why would God come up with such a thing?" Three reasons...to P\_\_\_\_\_ sin, to P\_\_\_\_\_ Israel, and to P\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.

God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God and this seven year period will be the time He pours out His righteous wrath on a world that has rejected Him and have lived in d\_\_\_\_\_. Also, it is the way God will purge His chosen people, the Israelites. Many of them will finally recognize Jesus as their \_\_\_\_\_.

And in the midst of judgment, millions upon millions will end up giving their lives to Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_, God is demonstrating His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



### **Whole Group Discussion**

*Go back and re-read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What are the different elements involved when Jesus returns? Which description is most exciting to you?*

*What are your feeling about the Tribulation? How can God still be loving if He is going unleash so much wrath on the earth?*

In God's grace, He will end the Tribulation after seven years. What ends it is the 2nd Coming of Christ which is talked about in Revelation 19-20.

Christ will return with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, which includes all of us who are followers of Christ. Jesus will come as a Conquering King and destroy the rebellion led by Satan and the Anti-Christ at the Battle of Armageddon.

This will then usher in the \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom. Millennium is Latin and means a thousand years. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ year reign of Christ upon the earth. Many of the Old Testament prophecies are actually referring to this period of time.

## **Quote by J. Dwight Pentecost about Old Testament prophecies...**

*"A larger body of prophetic material is devoted to the subject of the Millennium, developing its character and condition, than any other subject."*

Think of the Millennium as the "Front \_\_\_\_\_" of Heaven. If the Tribulation was "hell on earth," the Millennium is "heaven on earth." Jesus will be there ruling as king (Isaiah 60:1-14).

Of course, \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus will be there. There will also be \_\_\_\_\_ there who were born during this time and will try one last rebellion at the end of it (Revelation 20:7-10). And there will be \_\_\_\_\_ living in perfect peace there (Isaiah 11:6-9).

This time will be marked by Peace (Isaiah 2:4, 9:4-7, 11:6-9). It will be marked by Joy (Isaiah 9:3-4, Jeremiah 30:18-19). It will be marked by Holiness, Justice and Righteousness (Isaiah 9:7, 11:1-5, Ezekiel 37:23-24). And it will be a time of glorious Worship of God (Isaiah 45:23, Zephaniah 3:9, Malachi 1:11). Heaven on earth, indeed!

And after this glorious thousand years, God will usher in the New Heaven & Earth. Revelation 21-22 describes this eternal magnificent home for all of us who bow a knee to Jesus.

We will live there with our new resurrected bodies. The capital city in heaven will be the \_\_\_\_\_. According to Revelation 21-22 the walls of the city will be 216 feet thick and 1,500 miles high (approximately 7 million feet). The 12 Gates to the city are made of pearl and each one is inscribed with the twelve tribes of Israel.

Each of the foundation stones are made from precious stones and each one inscribed with the names of the twelve \_\_\_\_\_. The Main Street in this holy city will be made of pure \_\_\_\_\_, so pure it's like transparent glass.

A river that brings eternal r\_\_\_\_\_ runs through the city and God will sit upon the throne as the King of Heaven. The holy city is 1,500 miles on each side, equally 2.25 square miles, enough to accommodate \_\_\_\_\_ billion people in the city at one time.

What will we do in heaven? We will \_\_\_\_\_ & play (according to Hebrews 4:1-11). We will pursue perfect f\_\_\_\_\_ with each other (according to Revelation 21:3-4, 1 Corinthians 13:10-12).

We will \_\_\_\_\_ God together (according to Revelation 1:5-6) and \_\_\_\_\_ God together (according to Revelation 19:1-10). And I'm sure there's a lot more we will do.

What won't we do? We won't \_\_\_\_\_, mourn, sin, or experience pain or \_\_\_\_\_. And sadly, it will be the opposite in Hell. It will be an eternal torment.

The last chapter of the Bible gives us three applications as it relates to the end times.

#1 Live with e\_\_\_\_\_ in mind and you will be blessed (vs. 6-11).

#2 Think Biblically and b\_\_\_\_\_ about the end times (vs. 18-19).

#3 Live like Jesus is coming back \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12-21). The hope of heaven brings joy. Let's live today with eternity in mind!



## **Small Group Discussion**

*If we live with eternity in mind we will be blessed. We are to be balanced in our approach to the end times. And we need to live like Jesus is coming back today. Which of these did you need to be reminded of? How so?*

*Read Revelation 21. What do we learn about heaven in this chapter? What are you most excited about in heaven (besides seeing Jesus)?*



## **Prayer Focus**

Are you taking time to live with eternity in mind? Take time to ask God to reveal ways you could use your time, talents, and treasures for eternal good.