

Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

Lesson #9: Revelation 8:1-13

Introduction

What's the deal with the rapture?

Rapture: Generally understood as the event where both dead and living believers are caught up together in a moment to meet Jesus in the air.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52)

Different Views of the Rapture

The different views of the rapture center around the timing of what is known as

the _____. (Daniel 9:27)

- (1) *Pre-Tribulation Rapture*: Jesus comes secretly to rapture (gather) the church prior to a seven-year Great Tribulation that precedes the return of Christ.
- (2) *Mid-Tribulation Rapture*: Jesus comes secretly to rapture (gather) the church after the first three-and-half years of tribulation. Then the Anti-Christ assumes power. (Revelation 13:5)
- (3) *Pre-Wrath Rapture*: Holds that the rapture will occur toward the end of the tribulation before the outpouring of God's wrath with bowls of judgment (Revelation 16) and prior to the return of Christ.
- (4) *Post-Tribulation Rapture*: The rapture occurs simultaneous to the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

The most commonly held view in popular culture and Christianity is Pre-Tribulation.

Is the idea of the unsaved being 'left behind' what the Bible describes?

Consider Matthew 24:37-41 and Matthew 13:30

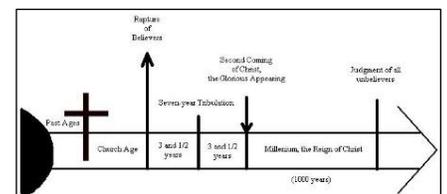
In this passage, who was taken away, the faithful or those being judged?

What We Know

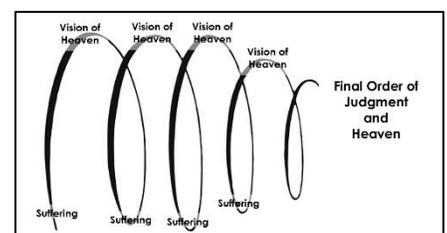
- (1) Jesus WILL Return (2 Peter 3)
- (2) All the dead will rise. (Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29)
- (3) Both the saved and the unsaved will experience a rapture. (Matthew 13:30)
- (4) The rapture will be public, not secret. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Two Approaches to the Timeline of Revelation

Chronological: Revelation represents a linear timeline of end-time events.



Cyclical: Revelation contains a series of repetitions leading up to the final judgment of the lost and restoration of the saved.



So Far in Revelation

Chapters 1-3 - Introduction and Jesus' letters to seven churches in Asia Minor.

Chapters 4-5 - Vision of heaven, the scroll with seven seals, and the Lamb who is worthy to break the seals.

Chapter 6 - The Lamb opens six of the seven seals.

Chapter 7 - After several bleak images are presented in chapter six, the vivid scene in chapter seven serves as a refreshing interlude.

God's People Are Identified As

Sealed Servants

The 144,000

Countless Multitude Dressed in White

Revelation 8 – The Seventh Seal & Transition to the Trumpet Message

Verses 1-2

Silence in heaven – dramatic pause

The seventh seal reveals another series of seven.

Verses 3-6

What is about to be seen is the answer to the prayers of the saints.

Verse 7 – Trumpet #1

It is implied that what is happening is from God.

One-third - Indicating devastating, earth-changing disasters

Verses 8-9 – Trumpet #2

There is nothing connected to the sea that escapes the peril of the “one-third” judgment.

Verses 10-11 – Trumpet #3

Wormwood means _____.

Jeremiah 9:15; Lamentations 3:15

This describes the contamination of the water supply.

Verse 12 – Trumpet #4

The area receiving judgment here is the sources of light.

First Four Trumpets

#1. Hail & Fire Mixed with Blood (one-third of earth/trees destroyed)

#2. Burning Mountain in the Sea (one-third of the contents of the sea destroyed)

#3. Blazing Star (Wormwood) on the Rivers (one-third of water supply contaminated)

#4. Sun, Moon, and Stars turned dark (one-third of the source of light is taken out)

Verse 13

Announcement by the eagle, “Hold on, you ain’t seen nothing yet.”