

Revelation

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

Lesson #10: Revelation 9:1-21

Introduction

Rapture Review

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

Different Views of the Rapture

- (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.

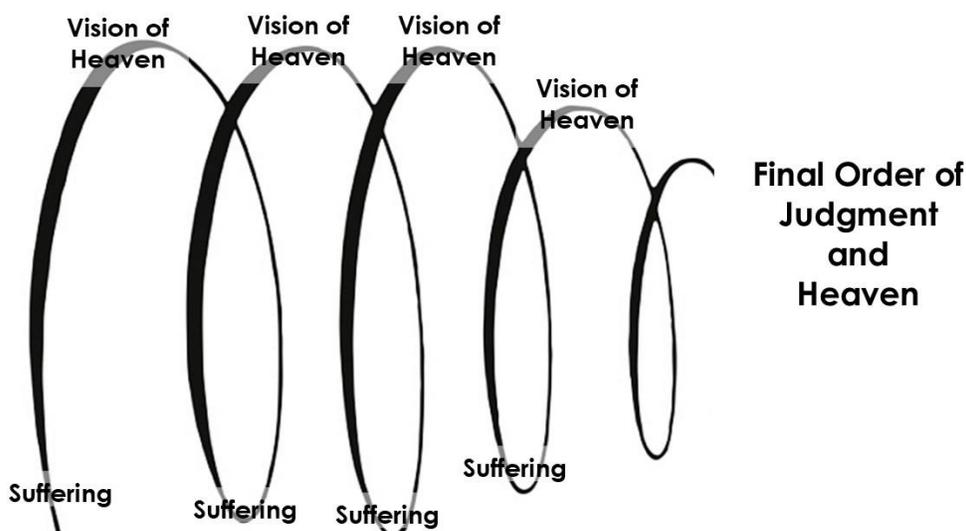
According to Jesus' teaching about the second coming and God's judgment, it is actually the lost who are "taken" and the saved who are "left behind".

Matthew 24:37-41 (Days of Noah)

Matthew 13:30 (Weeds and the Wheat)

Cyclical Approach to Revelation

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 – An interlude

Chapter 8 – The opening of the seventh seal introduces the seven trumpets.

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)

Revelation 9 – More Trumpets

Verse 1

a star – used to describe the message of the angel. (Compare to chapter 1)

pit of the abyss – abundant room to offer judgment from God.

Verses 2-3

The figure of locusts as instruments of God's judgment is not new. (Joel 1:4; Joel 2:3-5)

Verses 4-6

harm – to render judgment

seal – representing a right relationship with God

five months – representing “full judgment”

agony like a scorpion sting – doesn't kill you but you wish you were dead (vs 6)

Verses 7-11

Description of these supernatural locusts

war horses - power

crowns/human faces - God ordained

hair - glory

teeth of lions - mighty

breastplates, chariots - war imagery

scorpion tails - can provide a hurting (the five month kind)

angel of the abyss - in charge of this 'army'

Abaddon - destruction

Apollyon – destroyer

Verse 12

Sure and full judgment is brought by the power of God upon those who are not “sealed.”

Verses 13-16

horns of the golden altar – originating from God

great river Euphrates – boundary where Israel's enemies would likely come from

twice ten thousand times ten thousand – two hundred million cavalry force

Verses 17-19

The horses are the main actors in this scene, not the horsemen.
breastplates (fiery red, dark blue, sulfur)
heads of lions
smoke, fire and sulfur
tails like snakes with heads

This is a _____ image of God's judgment.

Verses 20-21

These are the unrepentant kind.

There is an interlude between trumpet six and seven.

Observations

The judgment of God is _____.

The judgment of God is _____.

The judgment of God is _____.

One is either _____ or _____, an overcomer or one overcome.