11/20/22

Sunday pm

Last Days Series: “What Should We Expect?”

Sermon: “The Return of Christ”

Revelation 19-20:6

Layout of series:

When Death Comes (8/28/22)

Signs As We Near the End (9/4/22)

The Rapture, p1 (9/18/22)

The Rapture, p2 (9/25/22)

The Post-Rapture Church (10/16/22)

Tribulation Overview (10/23/22)

Tribulation, p2: 144,000 and 2 Witnesses (10/30/22)

Tribulation, p3: Antichrist (11/6/22)

The Return of Christ (11/20/22)

The Millennial Kingdom (11/27/22)

Last Battle/Resurrection of the Lost/Great White Throne Judgement (12/4/22)

New Heaven and New Earth (12/11/22)

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Recap:

By a plain, chronological reading of the book of Revelation, as well as from other scriptures, we see that the rapture, or “snatching up”, is the next event on the prophetic timetable. The church will be removed, individually transformed in a moment into glorified, eternal bodies, and snatched up to be with the Lord. The bodies of those dead in Christ will be resurrected and transformed into glorified, eternal bodies, and reunited with their spirits, who have been with the Lord since death. We will all meet Him together in the air and be with Him where He is. Following the rapture, each believer will stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ, where rewards will be given for works done in the body.

Following the rapture of the church, there will be a time of tribulation on the Earth, to a degree that the Earth has never seen before. The tribulation will be a 7 year period (the last week of the 70 weeks of Daniel’s prophecy) of God’s wrath poured out on the Earth that will result in death, destruction and the turning of many to Christ. The antichrist will ascend to world power at the beginning, make a covenant with Israel and break it 3 ½ years into it. The tribulation will culminate in the Return of Christ to bind Satan and establish His millennial kingdom on Earth.

144,000 of Israel will be sealed by God and be witnesses during the Tribulation. There will also be 2 witnesses that have supernatural protection and power during their ministry. At the end of their ministry, the Lord will remove their protection and the Antichrist will kill them. People of the Earth will rejoice. Three days later they will be resurrected and ascend to Heaven.

* Scene in Heaven 19:1-10
  + Hallelujah = “Praise the Lord”
    - Occurs 4 times in the NT, all in this chapter; occurs many times in the OT
    - Often used with a view to God’s justice and deliverance
* The Lord is bringing the justice that has been long waited for
  + Desired by saints (Rev 6:9-11)
  + Dreaded by the lost (Rev 6:15-16)
  + Pure justice, not perverted
    - There is a general desire for justice, but by a standard made in our own image
      * Babylon/the great prostitute = economic and religious systems of idolatry
* Satanic-inspired rebellion and opposition to God. When no others will turn to the Lord, the armies of the world will gather against the Lamb…at the place called Armageddon, led by the Beast…Antichrist.
  + 16:12-16
  + 17:12-14
* The return of the Lord 19:11-21
  + The One who ascended and has been at the Father’s right hand will return “just as they saw Him go”
  + He is returning to Earth, not remaining in the air
  + White horse: Purity, victory, strength
  + Faithful and True: He said He was coming back; and in Him is no deceit (as opposed to Satan and the Antichrist)
  + Eyes of fire: penetrating vision, sees all, just judge
  + Name written that no one knows: still mysteries that are not able to be known even by glorified saints
  + Dipped in blood: or “sprinkled with blood” = blood of the battles already won – against sin (priest)
  + The Word: Jesus (John 1, etc.)
  + King of Kings
  + Sharp sword that proceeds from His mouth: His word
    - By it He created everything
    - By it He will destroy the hostile nations that have set themselves up against Him, rejecting Him
  + Armies of Heaven with Him: The church, Trib saints, OT believers, angels. Dressed in white, no need to do any fighting
  + Invitation of the angel (19:17)
  + Capture of the Beast and the false prophet (19:20)
    - Into the lake of fire (the final hell)
  + Killing of everyone else worldwide that worshipped the Beast (19:21)
* The extent of the execution of God’s judgement at Armageddon 14:18-20
* The binding of Satan 20:1-3
* The millennial reign 20:4-6
  + Kingdom established on Earth
  + No activity or influence of Satan (no deception, temptation from him, etc.)
  + Perfect and just ruler, no imperfect politicians