

END TIMES – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

THE BIG PICTURE OF THE END TIMES

In order to offer an overview of our study from the beginning, we will take a brief look at the major events of the end times and the principle references in the Scriptures to those events.

I. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

- A. Rapture means _____ away.
- B. The rapture is the _____ and unexpected appearance of Christ to take all those who believe in Him back to our heavenly home.

Mt. 24:36-44 36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Notice that when the Son of Man, Jesus, comes back, some are taken and some are left. This event comes suddenly and unexpectedly.

1 Thess. 4:15-18 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Again, we are looking at the “coming of our Lord.” Here we see that the ones that are taken are those who are “in _____.” The dead in Christ rise first and meet Jesus in the air. Then _____ believers rise and also meet the Lord in the air. Notice that Jesus only appears in the _____; He does not set His feet upon the earth.

II. THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION

Mt. 24:21-22 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

A. 7 Years of great trial, trouble, and _____ upon the earth.

B. The world is ruled by the _____.

C. Characteristics of the Tribulation:

1. War

2. _____

3. Catastrophes

4. Death to more than _____ earth's population

D. Mt. 24:21-22 tells us that the tribulation is a period distinctive from all other periods of history. This is one of the things that tells us that the tribulation must be _____. These words of Jesus could not be descriptive of the Roman period. Neither could they be descriptive of all of the rest of church history.

E. Rev. 6-19 gives us the details of the events that will take place during the Tribulation.

III. THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF CHRIST (THE SECOND COMING)

A. This is the return of Christ to the _____ to conquer the antichrist, bind the _____, and establish His rule "on earth as it is in heaven."

Rev. 19:11-16 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev. 19:19-21 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His

army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

B. The Scriptures above describe the _____ of Armageddon.

IV. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

A. This is the _____ year reign of Christ over the earth. During this period, many of the yet unfulfilled promises God made to _____ and to believers will be fulfilled.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

B. All who have trusted Christ will be given roles of ruling responsibility in the Millennial Kingdom. Those who have been _____ over a little will be made rulers over much!

V. NEW HEAVEN, NEW EARTH, NEW JERUSALEM

A. This is the _____ Kingdom in which believers shall live with the Father and the Son for all eternity.

Rev. 21:1-8 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

B. All believers will live for eternity in the New Jerusalem, on the New _____ in the brilliant presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.