

# **REVELATION**

## **Overview of Eschatology**

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## *An Overview of Eschatological Events*

### **I. THE RAPTURE AND FIRST RESURRECTION**

- A. *Definition.* “Rapture” means literally “to be caught up.” It refers to the meeting *in the air* of believers in Jesus Christ when he returns for His Church. The first resurrection refers to the raising of the bodies of those who are believers in Jesus Christ who are dead when he 1) returns for his church (prior to the tribulation period and simultaneous with the rapture) and 2) at the Second Coming prior to the millennium.
- B. *Scripture* passages related to these events.
  - 1. The rapture. John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:1-8.
  - 2. The first resurrection. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6

### **II. THE REWARDS OF THE BELIEVER**

- A. *Definition.* The believer will be judged according to his works and will receive rewards based upon those works. This takes place sometime after the rapture at “the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- B. *Scripture.* Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Pet. 1:9-11; 1 John 2:28

### **III. THE RETRIBUTION OF UNBELIEVERS (THE TRIBULATION)**

- A. *Definition.* This is a period of seven years when God’s judgment on unbelieving man will be intense and fulfilled. It will be specifically related to Israel but will include all the earth. It is also known as “Daniel’s seventieth week,” the time of “Jacob’s trouble,” and the “Day of the Lord.”
- B. Parenthesis – “Day of the Lord.”

The “Day of the Lord” is the future period of time when the Sovereign Lord will judge Israel and the nations of the earth for their pride and will establish His kingdom on the earth. The “Day of the Lord” is a time when God will judge totally and destroy all the nations who have resisted him and who have been against Israel (God will honor the cause of Israel). Man’s pride will be judged and idolatry will be done away. God alone will be Lord. It is characterized as a time of judgment, death, destruction and restoration. It will be a fearful time—worse than any other period of previous or subsequent history. Despite the ominous nature of the period, it will also be a time of worshipping God—God’s Spirit will be poured out and many will call on the name of the Lord and will be saved. The “Day of the Lord” thus includes the blessing of God promised and realized in the millennium.

Isa. 2:12-21; 13:1-22; 22:1-25; 34:1-17; Jer. 46:1-12; Ezek. 7:1-27; 13:5; 30:11-19; Joel 1:15; 2:1-11, 28-32; 3:9-17; Amos 5:18-20; 8:8-9; 9:5-6; Obadiah 15-21; Zeph. 1:7-8; 2:1-3; 3:8; Zech. 14:1

- C. *Scriptures* relating to the period in general. Dan. 9:27; 12:1; Matt. 24:1-25:46; Rev. 6-19; 20:1-6; Jer. 30:4-7; Luke 21; Zech. 13:8-9.

D. *Specific events of the period.*

1. The period will begin with a 7 year covenant being made between Antichrist and Israel. The covenant will reestablish sacrifice in Israel. Dan. 9:27
2. The covenant will be broken at the midpoint (3 ½ years) and Antichrist will set himself up to be worshipped as God. This will take place at the midpoint of the seven-year period. Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Matt. 24:15ff.

E. *The judgments of the period.*

1. The Seal judgments. Rev. 6:1-8:5.
2. The Trumpet judgments. Rev. 8:6-11:19.
3. The Bowl judgments. Rev. 16:1-21.

**IV. THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST (The Second Coming)**

- A. *Definition.* This refers to the bodily return of Jesus Christ *to the earth*. This return will be a great and glorious return in power. It will take place at the end of the tribulation period and the millennial kingdom will immediately follow. The enemies of Christ will be defeated at this return.
- B. *Scriptures.* Zech. 14:1-9; Matt. 24:29-25:26; Mark 13:26-37; Luke 21:27-36; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Rev. 19:11ff.
- C. *The specific and precise time of the Second Coming is unknown to man.* Acts. 1:7; Rev. 3:3; Matt. 24:36ff.; Mark 13:32ff.

**V. THE REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS**

- A. *Definition.* The millennial Kingdom is that 1,000 year period in which Jesus Christ rules over the earth as the promised Messiah, the seed of David. This reign will follow the revelation (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) and will be an intermediate stage of the eternal kingdom. Jerusalem will serve as His capital.

The eschatological kingdom refers to that time, which is yet future, when God will sovereignly reign over all the earth through the person of his divinely appointed and anointed mediator, Jesus Christ—the Son of God, the son of David (Messiah). The eschatological kingdom will be a time of restoration for the nation of Israel. She will be returned to her land and will live there in safety, never to be removed again. There Messiah will reign over his people. The extent of the eschatological kingdom will be universal. All nations will voluntarily submit to Messiah’s authority. Even the wildlife of earth will live in peace and tranquility, posing no threat to other animals or mankind. The earth itself will be fruitful. The reign of Messiah will be characterized by justice, righteousness, peace, safety, and wisdom; the earth will be full of the knowledge of God and the people will obey the laws of God. The sovereign reign of God will last forever. The eschatological kingdom will be a time of rejoicing. Isa. 9:6-7, 11:1-10; Zech. 9:9-10; Amos 9; Psalm 110

- B. *The reign will last 1,000 years and the saints of Christ will reign with him.* Rev. 20:1-5.
- C. *Satan will be bound for the duration of the 1,000 year reign.* Rev. 20:1-5.

## **VI. THE RELEASE AND REVOLT OF SATAN**

A. *Definition.* This event will take place at the end of the millennial reign. Satan will be released from his prison. He will deceive many on the earth, fight against God, and be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire.

B. *Scripture.* Rev. 20:7-10

## **VII. THE SECOND RESURRECTION (DEATH)**

A. *Definition.* This refers to the second resurrection of the dead. It is actually called the “second death.” In the first resurrection, believers will be resurrected to life; here unbelievers will be resurrected to judgment and eternal damnation.

B. *Scripture.* Dan. 12:2-3; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:5-6.

## **VIII. THE RENOVATION (THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH)**

A. *Definition.* This is the renovation of the present heavens and earth. This will be the eternal abode of the saints of God.

B. *Scripture.* Rom. 8:19ff; Isa. 65:17-25; 66:22-23; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-4.

## **IX. REMORSE (ETERNAL DAMNATION)**

A. *Definition.* This refers to the eternal punishment of unbelievers. They will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be punished forever.

B. *Scripture.* Rev. 20:14-15; Rev. 19:20; 20:10; Mark 9:43-48; Matt. 5:29, 30; 10:38; 18:9; Luke 12:4-5; Rev. 14:10-11; Matt. 25:41.

## **“The Righteous Rapture of the Redeemed”**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
(cf. I Cor, 15:50-58)**

- I. The Rapture Is An Event of Controversy. 4:13
  - 1. Partial Rapturism
  - 2. Pre-wrath Rapturism
  - 3. Post-tribulationism
  - 4. Mid-tribulationism
  - 5. Pre-tribulationism
  
- II. The Rapture Is An Event For Christians. 4:14-16
  - 1. There is a promise to the disciples of Christ. 4:14
  - 2. There is a privilege for the dead in Christ. 4:15-16
  - 3. There is a proclamation of the day of Christ. 4:16
    - a. Heaven shouts.
    - b. The archangel speaks.
    - c. The trumpet sounds.
  
- III. The Rapture Is An Event of Celebration. 4:17
  - 1. We will celebrate in the clouds.
  - 2. We will celebrate with Christ.
  - 3. We will celebrate continuously.
  
- IV. The Rapture Is An Event of Comfort. 4:18
  - 1. We comfort one another personally.
  - 2. We comfort one another with His promise.

**THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST COMPARED**

PHASE ONE (THE RAPTURE)	PHASE TWO (THE SECOND COMING)
Christ comes to receive His church in the air.	Christ returns with His bride and angels to the earth.
The seven year tribulation begins shortly after the rapture of the church.	The millennial kingdom (1000 years) of Christ is established after the second coming
The event is imminent; it could happen at any time.	Numerous signs precede this event (cf. Rev. 6-19)
This is a message for comfort for believers.	This is a message of judgment (and warning) for unbelievers.
The church is of primary importance.	Israel is of primary importance.
The rapture is a mystery.	The second coming is predicted in both the Old and New Testaments.
The judgment seat of Christ for believers occurs. (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The sheep and goats' judgment occurs (Matt. 25:31-46).</li> <li>2) Antichrist and the world are judged (Rev. 19:11-21).</li> </ol>
Only believers are affected.	All people are affected.
The church is taken into the Lord's presence in heaven.	All believer's are brought into the millennial kingdom to reign with Christ on earth.