

9/3/23

Jesus Is Coming For His Bride

Rev. 4:1-2; 6:1-2

We have stated that the apostle John had a vision of heaven on the Island of Patmos, after being sentenced for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus' name.

1. There are a number of visions in the third major division of the book. Rev. 4-22
2. This first group of visions runs from chapter four to chapter eight, verse one, comprising of three visions.

Remember chapter four and five comprise the first vision which is in two parts. Rev. 4-5

1. In chapter four John saw the awesomeness of God's throne and the Father worshipped as Creator.
 2. In chapter five John saw the awesomeness of God's Son who was worshipped as the worthy Redeemer to loose the seals and open the scroll.
- * The four living creatures, the twenty-four elder and the myriad of angels worshipped the Lamb and the twenty-four elders cast their crowns at His feet.

And those who sang a new song said, "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Rev. 5:9-10

We noted this can only identify the church that was raptured up to heaven, kept from the hour of testings that will come on the whole world. Rev. 3:10

The attention of John was captured. Rev. 4:1-2

1. The time of the event is declared to be, "After these things", what things? vs. 1a
 - a. John has just finished the messages to the seven churches that represents the church during the church age to the close of the church age.
 - b. The phrase "after these things" is "meta tauta" marks the third division. Rev. 1:19; 4:1a-g
2. The apostle John looked and saw a door open in heaven. vs. 1b-c
 - a. A door often represents opportunity, access or entry, the scene is heaven.
 - b. The church is translated to heaven and is no longer found on earth.
 - c. The word "church" is not found after chapter three until the last chapter. Rev. 22:1
3. John heard a voice like a trumpet saying, "Come up here". vs. 1d-f
 - a. This is a simile, "like a trumpet" not a literal trumpet, John understood the voice. vs. 1d

* John identified the voice for us, it is the same one in chapter one, Jesus. Rev. 1:10
 - b. The message was "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." vs. 1e-f
 - 1) What things which must take place after this.

- 2) The tribulation and Great Tribulation with the opening of the Seal, Trumpet and Bowl judgments. Matt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21
- c. The phrase, “Come up here” corresponds to the voice promised to the church. 1Thess. 4:16-17
4. John testified to what took place. vs. 2
- a. “Immediately I was in the Spirit”. vs. 2a
* This is repeated. Rev. 1:10; 17:3
- b. John was transported to heaven by the Spirit, “and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.” vs. 2b-d
5. John was consoled from his weeping over no one found worthy to loose the seals, in heaven, earth or under the earth, able to open the scroll, or to look at it.
* “But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” Rev. 5:5
6. The first seal is opened by Jesus, the only One worthy to open the book and loose the seals in heaven. Rev. 6:1-2
- a. John is commanded to come up to heaven, “Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” vs. 1
- 1) Literally it says “come”, not see, it is not in the text. Rev. 6:1
- 2) Usually people take the command to “come” as directed to John, but the text does not say

- that, the word “come” is addressed to the horsemen “come”.
- 3) The voice of the cherub like thunder is symbolic of authority and judgment to come.
- b. John saw the vision of the first seal opened, “And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” vs. 2
- 1) The appearance of the Anti-Christ to take peace from the earth.
- 2) He conquors by diplomacy, he has a bow with no arrows.

So once again, the judgments of God and wrath of the Lamb precludes the church being present on the earth, yet some people insist the church will go through the seven years of Tribulation and Great Tribulation.

1. The only woman we find between chapter 6-19 is the woman ready to give birth to the Messiah, which is Israel, the church is a virgin bride! Rev. 12
2. Chapter 6-19 covers this seven year period.
3. God’s wrath and judgment is poured out in seven seals, seven trumpets and seven vials or bowls.

So in view of all this we want to look at the imminent return of Jesus Christ, the fact that Jesus can come back at any moment for His bride as He taught His disciples and should be the heart felt passion of every believer!

Yet, I don't see this passion in much of the church today, I see compromise and complacency by Christians, and an incredible amount of heresy being taught in the church today!

1. The Scriptures clearly teach the imminent return of Christ: Proclamation.

* "I am coming quickly, suddenly, speedily, any moment." Rev. 22:7, 12, 20

2. The imminent return of Christ is the greatest incentive for holy living. Purification.

* "Behold what manner of love. . . everyone who has this hope is purified..." 1Jn. 3:1-4

3. The imminent return of Christ is being attacked by the many confusing teachings of our day. Perversion.

* "My Master delays His coming." Matt. 24:48

Three things will reveal to us the imminent return of Christ for His bride before the seven years of Tribulation.

- I.** The promises of Jesus.
- II.** The parabolic teaching of Jesus.
- III.** The prophetic teaching about Jesus.

I. The promises of Jesus.

A. Jesus promised His disciples that he would return to receive them unto Himself. Jn. 14:1-3

- 1.** I will come again is the promise.
- 2.** I will receive you to Myself is the benefit of the promise.

* To return to receive His church is different and distinct from returning with His church at the Second Coming!

B. Jesus promised the Jewish nation that he would return again. Matt. 23:37-39

- 1.** He wept over Jerusalem, for her blindness.
- 2.** He pronounce desolation to their house.
- 3.** He declared their future acceptance of Him.

C. Jesus promised His church that he would keep her from a specific hour of adversity that would come upon the whole world. Rev. 3:10

- 1.** The reason is her obedience to preserver.
- 2.** The promise is to be kept from the very specific hour.

D. Jesus promised that a special group of people would be before Him prior to the pouring out of His wrath. Rev. 5:8-10

- 1.** The prayers are of the raptured saints.
- 2.** The ones able to sing new song describes the church.
- 3.** The ones singing reign with Christ.

E. Jesus promised that He would pour out His wrath on the earth. Rev. 6:16-17

- 1.** Man will attempt to hide from God's wrath.
- 2.** No man will be able to stand before God's wrath.

- F.** Jesus directed His promises always to three groups, Israel, the church and the world.
1. The church received Him, He will receive the church to Himself, in the age of grace.
 2. The nation of Israel rejected Him in His First Coming, they will receive Him at His Second Coming, this is the time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7
 3. The world hated Him at His First Coming and it will hate Him at His Second Coming, this is at the setting up of the Kingdom.
* Paul said, "Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 1Cor. 10:32

Illustration

A promise is only a good as the person making the promise.

Application

1. Do you believe all that the Bible says or do you attempt to exclude some of the warnings?
 - a. Taking what is convenient.
 - b. Believing what is in line with your thinking or understanding, subjectively.
 - c. Rejecting what is offensive to you or seemingly unfair.
2. Do you make a distinction between Israel and the church?
 - a. If you don't you will interpret prophecy wrong.
 - c. If you don't you will contradict the Bible.

3. Do you believe that God is through with Israel as so many teach today, or do you believe what God says about Israel?
 - a. Israel is the divorced wife of Yahweh, who will be reconciled to God by the Remnant for the Kingdom Age.
 - b. Israel is blind until the fullness of the Gentiles is come.
 - c. The church is not "spiritual Israel" and the promises of Israel are not to be attributed to the church, called "Replacement Theology".
4. Do you distinguish who the promises are made to in context, or do you simply claim them all?
 - a. Is the promise to Israel?
 - b. Is the promise to the church?
 - c. Is the promise to the individual believer?
 - d. Is the promise to the unbeliever?

The promises of Jesus are true and valid regarding His Coming!

II. The parabolic teaching of Jesus.

- A. The parabolic teaching served a two-fold purpose according to Jesus in the Parable of the Sower. Matt. 13:10-15
 1. To reveal truth to those it was given to and the mysteries of the Kingdom. vs. 10-12
* To those who were sincere seekers, light was given!
 2. To hide truth from those with hardened heart. vs. 13-16

* To those who were skeptical and unbelieving, greater darkness fell!

3. The word “parable” means to throw alongside, taking something commonly known and placing it alongside something unknown, in order to illuminate and give understanding about the unknown.

B. The principle of the majority of the parables regarding the return of Jesus dealt with the imminent return of the master to His servants.

* The three parables that follow deal with the Jews and Israel at the Second Coming, not the church in their context, yet the principle of immense is taught for the rapture of the church due to the fact that **both** are said to be a thief in the night! 1Thess. 5:1-5; Rev. 16:15

1. The parable of the faithful and evil servants is centered on faithfulness and the imminent return of the master. Matt. 24:45-51
 - a. The faithful servant was doing his master’s business. vs. 45-46
 - b. The evil servant said in his heart, “My master delays his coming”. vs. 48
 - c. The master’s return was imminent, “At an hour he is not aware”. vs. 50
2. The parable of the ten virgins centers on watching being ready for the imminent coming of Jesus, the bridegroom with His bride to set up the Kingdom. Matt. 25:1-13

- a. The five foolish virgins were not ready, having no oil. vs. 3
- b. The five wise virgins were ready with oil in their lamps. vs. 4
- c. The bridegroom came at midnight and those who were ready went into the wedding and the door was shut. vs.10

* This is not the rapture, but the Marriage Super of the Lamb on earth!
3. The parable of the talents centers on accountability and reward at the imminent return of a man traveling in a far country. Matt. 25:14-30
 - a. The servants were all given responsible duties according to their ability. vs. 15
 - b. The man returned after a long time. vs. 19
 - c. The servants were rewarded for their wise and faithful stewardship, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” vs. 21, 23
 - d. The wicked and lazy servant buried his talent in the ground, “But his lord answered and said to him, `You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. `So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have

received back my own with interest. vs. 25-26

- C. The key verses and words of these parables center on the certain and imminent return of Jesus.
1. The words heart and delaying. Matt. 24:48
 2. The phrases, “will come, not looking, not aware.” Matt. 24:50
 3. The words delayed, all slumbered and slept. Matt. 25:5
 4. The phrases, “the bridegroom came, who were ready, door was shut.” Matt. 25:10
 5. The word “watch” and phrase “know neither day nor hour.” Matt. 25:13
 6. The phrases, “after a long time, Lord came.” Matt. 25:19

Illustration

What an eye opener it was as many Christians were soon shaken in mind and heart and troubled believing all the horror stories about y2k or the lies and propaganda of the evil globalist about the Plandemic of Covid-19 and so called Christian teachers, who did irresponsible prophetic teaching believing the lies, when we as believers know we are to occupy till He comes, knowing Jesus is in control of our lives!

* If we respond no different than the unbeliever, then we are no different, but just like them!

Application

1. Deception is natural for man, due to the condition of his heart. Jer. 17:9
 - a. Stick to the Scriptures, the mere truthful facts.
 - b. Don't be deceived through newspaper theology, the progaganda of the Globalist, the CDC, the Who, the Medical doctors, the evil news or the Universities that are nothing but re-educational camps, like those in Maos cultural revolution.
2. Not everything in a Parable is to be interpreted.
 - a. Parables have one main central message.
 - b. Parables either compare or contrast.
 - c. Parables should only be interpreted in their details, when and if they are interpreted in the parable itself.
 - d. Parables have a punch-line.
 - e. Many parables are taught wrong and misapplied, like the Parable of the judge who neither feared God nor man, giving to a persistent woman her request for justice, therefore it is used to teach **persistency in prayer**, when in reality it teaches the faithful justice of God to punish the wicked. Lk. 18:1-8
 - 1) The Parable is teaching a contrast not a comparison.
 - 2) If we make it a comparison, then we must make God unwilling to give to His children and He gives only to get them of His back.
 - 3) The parable teaches a contrast, though this man who did not fear God nor regard man had to be pestered by this woman to be

avenge of her adversaries, God does not have to be pestered.

- 4) Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said, **“And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” vs. 7-8

3. Jeremiah lived among many false prophets of his day and he did not remain silent, “How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” Jer. 23:26-29

4. Peter say, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.” 2Pet. 2:1-2

The parabolic teaching of Jesus confirms the promises regarding His Coming!

III. The prophetic teaching about Jesus.

- A. Distinguishes the church from Israel. Acts 15:13-17
1. Jesus is now choosing His bride of the Gentiles. Acts 15:14
 2. Jesus will return after to rebuild the Tabernacle of David, Israel, and the prophets agree. Acts 15:15-17
 3. God will allow the blindness of Israel, until the fullness of the gentiles has come in. Rom. 11:25-27
- B. Declares the imminent return of Jesus.
1. The Corinthians were to be eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 1Cor. 1:7
 2. The Thessalonians turned from idols; serve the living God and wait for Him from heaven to be delivered from the wrath to come. 1Thess. 1:9-10
 3. The Thessalonians were told by Paul that the Day of the Lord would come as a thief in the night. 1Thess. 5:2
- C. Describes the believer as being caught up.
1. Lord will descend in the clouds and the church will be raptured and always be with Him. Jn. 14:1-3; 1Theas. 4:16-17

- a. The word caught up “harpazo” means to seize, claim for one's self eagerly, snatch away, carry off by force, appearing thirteen times in the New Testament.
- b. The Latin counterpart is rapere, where we get the word “rapture”.
- 2. The word “harpazo” appears consistently with this meaning in the New Testament of a sudden and jolting removal.
 - a. Philip was “harpazo” by the Holy Spirit as he baptized the Ethiopian eunuch and taken to Azotus. Acts 8:39-40
 - b. Paul was “harpazo” to the third heaven. 2Cor. 12:2
 - c. Satan “harpazo” the word of God sown in their hearts that man not believe. Matt. 13:19
 - d. The woman’s child, Jesus, is “harpazo” to God. Rev. 12:5
- D. Deliberately gives us signs to watch for.
 - 1. A likeness to the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - 2. A move to world global unity and ecumenicalism.
 - 3. A coming ten nation confederacy to be ruled under a one world ruler.
 - 4. A time of ungodliness, wickedness and lack of family love.
 - 5. A cry for peace and safety that will result in sudden destruction.

- 6. A return of the Jews to the land of Israel as a nation once again.
- E. Dogmatically tells us the day of the First and the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth to set up the Kingdom, but the inability to know the day He comes for His bride, the church.
 - 1. Daniel tell us of the day of the first coming of Jesus, 483 year to the day, from the command of Artexerxees to Nehemiah to restore and rebuilt Jerusalem, on March 14, 445 B.C. Dan. 9:24-26 (Sir Robert Anderson, The Coming Prince)
 - a. The years are predicated on a 360 day calendar as in Genesis, 173,880 days which arrives at the 6th of April 32 A.D.
 - b. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that very day, in fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy. Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21
 - c. Jesus lamented over the fact that the Jews had not recognized his coming as He wept over Jerusalem, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” Lk. 19:41-42
 - 2. Daniel again tells us of the day of His Second Coming, from the setting up of the abomination that causes desolation, counting down, 1290 days. Dan. 12:11

- a. Jesus gave this as the sign marking the middle of the tribulation. Matt. 24:15
 - b. Paul says the Antixhrst will declare himself to be God in the Temple that he will rebuild. 2Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2
 - c. The time is given in 1260 days, 42 months and years, time and times and half a time. Dan. 12:14; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6,14
3. The church will be coming back with Jesus. 2Thess. 1:10
- a. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Heb. 10:28b
 - b. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Col. 3:4
 - c. The church accompanies Jesus to set up the Kingdom, coming on a white horse, every eye shall see them in the clouds as lightning out of the east and every eye shall see Him. Rev. 19:11-16; Lk. 21:27; Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7
4. The Day the rapture of the church occurs, simultaneously the “Day of the Lord” and wrath will begin. 1Thess. 5:8
- a. The Seventieth Week will result in the removal of the church. 2Thess. 2:7
 - b. The first three and a half years will be a time of false peace, known as Tribulation. 1Thess. 5:3

- c. The last three and a half years will be a time of God’s wrath, known as Great-Tribulation. 2Thess. 2:9-10

Illustration

There was a young prophet sent by God to proclaim judgment on Jeroboam as he stood at the pagan altar and he was given specific instructions not to return to same way or eat with anyone, but an old prophet came to the young man and told him that he was also a prophet as he and an angel had sent him to come to his house and eat. And as they were eating the spirit of God prophesied through the old prophet, that the young man would die and he was slain by a lion as he left, yet his donkey was not harmed. 1Kings 13

Application

1. Whenever anything taught contradicts or destroys what I know to be true and foundational to my faith in the Scriptures, I hang on to what I know as truth.
 - a. The Law warned about false prophets and that God would be testing His people’s love for God by it. Deut. 13:1-3
 - b. The severity of attacking God’s word was indicative by the penalty of death, to deter others. Deut. 13:8-11
 - c. The believer is to be a good Berean. Acts 17:11; 1Jn. 4:1-3
2. Walk through your mind and think of all the deception that has come into the church in the last 50 years, contrary to Scripture.

- a. The shepherding doctrine, the positive confession, health and wealth doctrine and imagery, visualizing your healing.
- b. The signs and wonders movement, exalting experience as valid and Scriptural, becoming very mystical, seeing “oras”, demonizing of Christians, teaching to raise the dead!
- c. Barking and laughing in the spirit, the second and third wave of prophets, etc.
- d. The Church Growth Movement, the Seeker Friendly Church Movement of Rick Warren, who has been kicked out of the Southern Baptist Association for ordaining women, the Emergent Church Movement and the New Apostolic Reformation. Etc.
 - * “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” 2Thess. 2:1-3
- e. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious

- appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Tit. 2:11-13
- 3. Weigh out the importance of doctrine, what cannot be compromised and essential for salvation and holy living, as Paul told Timothy.
 - a. “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.” 1Tim. 1:3
 - b. “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” 1Tim. 4:16
 - c. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” 2Tim. 4:3-5
 - d. Paul said, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” Rom. 13:12-14

- e. Peter says the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious watchful in your prayers. 1Pet. 4:7; Gal. 1:8-9

The prophetic teaching about Jesus is based on the promises of Jesus and will be the fulfillment of His parabolic teaching!

Conclusion

These three things reveal the imminent return of Christ for His bride before the seven year Tribulation, exactly what is taught in Revelation.

1. The promises of Jesus, He promised to return for you at any moment, that you might escape the wrath to come!

* Jesus said, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Lk. 21:36

2. The parabolic teaching of Jesus, teaches that no man knows the day or the hour of the catching up of the saints!

* In such a time as you think not, as a thief in the night. 1Thess. 4:17; 5:4

3. The prophetic teaching about Jesus agrees, distinguishing between the church, Israel and the unbelieving world!

a. God has not appointed us, the church, to wrath but to obtain salvation. 1Thess. 5:8

b. Maranatha, the Lord come or will coming! 1Cor. 16:22

- c. Are you ready and looking for the Lord to deliver you from the wrath to come? 1Thes. 1:10