

UNCOVERED

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



- A BIBLE STUDY COURSE -

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LESSON 12

THE RETURN OF JESUS

TIMELINE OF EVENTS
THE RAPTURE
THE ANTICHRIST
THE RETURN OF JESUS
INTO ETERNITY

CHART 1 - TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The Bible begins with the statement “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” and because there is a beginning, that means there is also an end. God tells us through His Word that eventually He will allow this world to unravel and be destroyed.

- » 2 Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Before being destroyed, the earth and its inhabitants will descend into a state of Great Tribulation. In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 24, Jesus explained the timeline of events that will lead up to the end.

Matthew 24 - Events Leading to the End

- » v5 - Great Spiritual Deception
- » v6 - Global Warfare
- » v6 - Increase in Natural Disasters
- » v9 - Persecution of God's People
- » v14 - Gospel Message Preached Globally
- » v15 - The Antichrist Begins to Terrorize the World
- » v30 - Jesus Returns to the Earth

Although the exact order of every event leading to the end is not known, there are some absolutes we find in Scripture that will help us in preparing for the future.

CHART 2 - THE RAPTURE

At some point in time around the world's Great Tribulation, God is going to supernaturally remove all believers from the earth to be with Him.

» READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Q. *Do you know where the word 'rapture' comes from?*

A. *The word 'rapture' means 'to snatch or take away'. Rapture is the English translation of the Latin word 'raptus'. Raptus was used in the Latin translation of the New Testament.*

Not all of us will physically die. When Jesus is prepared to return to the earth, He is going to 'rapture' believers directly into His presence to be with Him forever.

» John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

When explaining this event, Jesus was absolutely clear that no man or woman knows precisely when this moment will occur. Believers are simply instructed to walk by faith and continue to grow in God as they watch for the rapture to take place.

» Matthew 24:40-42 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

SIDE NOTE: *The doctrine of the rapture of the church is to be a comfort to believers. No matter what happens here in this world, we will eventually be with Jesus. Whether we die in this life and go to be with Him, or He comes back to rapture us, nothing can separate a believer from the salvation they have in Jesus Christ.*

CHART 3 - THE ANTICHRIST

As the world falls into war and destruction, a global leader will arise and influence the nations to follow him. This leader has been called by several titles: man of sin, the son of perdition, the beast, and the antichrist.

The antichrist will be a man who is filled with the spirit of Satan. While the world is experiencing hardship, the antichrist will rise to power through a message of peace and solution. However, it won't take long before his true colors are revealed.

» **READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

The unveiling of the antichrist is the moment Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24 when He said “when you see the abomination of desolation”. The antichrist will begin as a neutral peacemaker, but will then stand in Jerusalem and demand that people worship him.

Due to his ability to perform great supernatural signs and wonders, many non-Christians will be deceived into following him.

» **READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

The antichrist will establish a new form of government where everyone who follows him will be forced to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead in order to buy or sell. Those who do not worship him or receive his mark will be killed.

» **READ: Revelation 13:15-17**

SIDE NOTE: *During this Great Tribulation period, it will appear as if Satan is in control of all the earth. God is, in fact, in control. God will allow these things to take place as a judgment upon the earth and upon those who choose to reject the gospel message. Everyone who is killed by the antichrist and his system will receive a reward from God for their faithfulness to Jesus Christ.*

CHART 4 - THE RETURN OF JESUS

At the height of the antichrist's reign of terror, he will lead armies into a military campaign to destroy Jerusalem. However, just before he is able to destroy the city, Jesus will return to stop him.

» **READ: Revelation 19:11-21**

Jesus will return to destroy the antichrist's forces by simply speaking a word! Jesus will end the Great Tribulation period and the antichrist's forces will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone for all eternity.

Once Jesus destroys the antichrist, the fallen angel Satan will be locked up in 'the bottomless pit' for one thousand years. This thousand year period is known as the 'Millennial Kingdom'.

During this time, Jesus will rule and reign on the earth. He will teach in Jerusalem and many will come to know the Word of the Lord. It will be a time of peace and restoration, hearkening back to the garden of Eden.

At the conclusion of the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison and will attempt one final time to defeat Jesus.

» **READ: Revelation 20:7-10**

Finally, Satan will be thrown into a place of torment forever and ever!

With Satan out of the way once and for all, Jesus will sit down on His throne to judge the world. All the dead will stand before Him and He will look at the works of their life. Anyone who has not received the gospel message and has not had their name written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

» John 5:29 "...those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

CHART 5 - INTO ETERNITY

Not only will there be a final judgment for each one of us, but God will also destroy this earth and create a new heaven and a new earth.

- » Revelation 21:1 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...”

Believers who have been born again of the water and Spirit and lived a life of faith in Jesus Christ will step out of time and into eternal life.

- » Revelation 21:7 “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

All of the past will be done away with.

- » Revelation 21:4-5 “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...Behold, I make all things new...”

All necessities of life will be freely given.

- » Revelation 22:1-2 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God...and on either side of the river, was the tree of life...”

God Himself will be there and be the source of light.

- » Revelation 22:5 “There shall be no night there; they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

Preach the Urgency of Receiving the Gospel

- » Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me...”