

**The Book of Revelation**  
**The Great Tribulation & the Rapture**  
**Lesson VIII**  
**Revelation 6-18**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. These chapters describe events just prior to the Return of Christ to this earth. This event we identify as The Revelation of Christ. The Second Coming of Christ. The Second Advent.
2. These chapters describe terrible events. Events the world “has not seen as yet” cf Hebrews 11:7
3. Because of Matthew 24:29,30, we believe these chapters are a description of the coming Tribulation on earth.
4. Because of Matthew 24:15 and Daniel 9:24 we believe this tribulation will last for seven years. Have you ever heard anyone say: “If there is a God in Heaven, why doesn’t He do something about the evil that is in this world? There are those who seem to say, ”there is so much social-injustice in the world, and we are doing everything we can about it, and if there is a God WHY doesn’t He do something about it? There is so much cruelty. These abortions, why doesn’t God intervene? etc.

One of my uncles said to me, “I know He is up there, but I can’t believe in Him, because there is too much trouble in the world.” Revelation 6-18 tells us exactly what God has planned to do about all the evils in this world. And it is not a pretty sight! BUT the same men who cry against injustice, rebel and refuse to believe that God means it when He says He is going to *pour out His wrath* on this world of evil men. As the world population is now multiplying on the earth as in the days before the flood, it is rather difficult for us to realize that for every person who has lived since the flood, there will soon be one alive on earth for every one who has died. In other words, resurrect every one since the flood, and we would only double earth’s population! It is on this mass of rebellious humanity, God has revealed ,in no uncertain terms, the judgments He will bring upon it. Vengeance belongeth unto Him. He will repay. Hebrews 10:30

We do not need special “revelation” to understand the Book of Revelation, but we do need faith to believe it. The message of this hour is that of John the Baptist.- , repent or perish!

Before we again consider Revelation 6 to 18 let me state the following points:

1. The Rapture of the Church is not the theme of the Book of Revelation. But we believe the Rapture is implied by what happens to John in Revelation 4:1 Here, John is removed to Heaven as one day the Church will be. The Rapture is the NEW hope of the Church. 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18 It has nothing to do with the hope of Israel.

2. Over 50 years ago, the truth of the coming Rapture of the Church, to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, was unquestioned in our circle of fellowship. The blessed Hope was part and parcel of our heritage. It was proclaimed faithfully amongst us. The Coming of the Lord FOR His Church was a major theme of the services ,songs and sermons.
3. At our beginning, the vast majority of pastors and teachers were pre-millennial and pre-tribulationist. Evangelists would be imported from the United States teaching otherwise but the pastors would soon correct their errors. So solid was this teaching when I was a boy I thought that all believers were pre-mill, pre-trib believers. TODAY all this has changed.
- 6 Some no longer believe in a Rapture at all. Others have changed their views as to the TIME of the Rapture. In our opinion, they no longer have a “blessed hope” because they are making preparation for preservation during the tribulation. Some are making covenants with their families, “not to take the mark of the beast” still others do not believe in a coming world-wide tribulation at all. They think all the prophecies of Jesus regarding the Jews were fulfilled in A.D.70 by the Romans.
7. In articles and books I have read recently, the attack against the Rapture begins as follows: “This teaching was unheard of before 1800. When introduced, it was propagated by J.N. Darby of the Plymouth Brethren and made popular by the Scofield Bible.” The writers then proceed to attack these brethren. And of course if it was unheard of before 1800 then it cannot be Scriptural. And if it is ONLY the teaching of men, then it is not Biblical, and therefore can be rejected..
8. HOWEVER it seems strange to me that those who refer to the doctrine of the Rapture as being modern, still know that chiliasm (an earlier name for pre-millennialism) was known to be in the writings of the early Church fathers. But the question should never be, “who” or “when” but rather is the doctrine in the Bible? If it is in the Bible it certainly pre-dates the 1800’s,J.N. Darby and C.I. Scofield.
9. It may come as a surprise to many that the present debate over the FACT of the Rapture, and the TIME of the Rapture has roots in the subject of Israel. We quote from “Ministry January 1982 (a Seventh Day Adventist magazine) “A pre-tribulation secret Rapture of the Church is not the teaching of the New Testament (neither explicitly nor implicitly) but is based rather on the pre-conceived doctrine of a separation of Israelites and Christians.” (I wonder what the writer does with Rom. 10:1?)
10. My comment: Although that statement is not totally correct, it is basically a true analysis. We have often said, “if the doctrine we hold regarding Israel is false, then many other doctrines we hold, are equally false. But if our doctrine regarding Israel is true then related doctrines are equally true. These statements we make on the basis of Paul’s letter to the Romans in. 11:25 Ignorance of Israel’s blindness today, or during this age, will result in being wise in ones own ideas. That is a solemn statement!
11. What we hold as being true about Israel will determine what position we will hold on other matters, including the Rapture. It is true, a Rapture, a pre-tribulation Rapture, is

deeply rooted in Pre-millennial teaching. THEREFORE to depart from basic pre-millennialism will of necessity produce a departure and or, confusion as to the Rapture question. Make no mistake here. Pre-millennialism is a system of Bible interpretation. It is based on a method of Bible study that has a chain reaction. If one believes the basis of the teaching, it is easy to follow on to the super-structure. But please also remember, A-millennialism, Post-Millennialism, Modernism, Seventh Day Adventism, or whatever, are all systems of Bible interpretation. They too must follow a chain connection in doctrine.

12. The root of the problem re the Rapture, is the doctrine of the difference between Israel and the Church.
13. We believe that this Church age began with the Resurrection and will conclude with the Rapture.
14. Before the Cross there was an age of the prophets, all were of Israel and sent to Israel. Acts 3:24 the age was from Samuel to John the Baptist Hebrews 1:1 Christ came at the end of the prophetic age and was introduced by John, the last prophet of his kind.

15 Because Jesus was a minister of the circumcision Romans 15:8 ( a fact overlooked by many) He had a great deal to say to Israel about the Kingdom.

16 Perhaps it sounds so right to read this a-millennial comment, “The Kingdom of God is the message of Jesus Christ.” But that quote, that sentence alone does not tell all the truth. In fact it is misleading. To be correct the statement should be, “the kingdom of God is the message of Jesus Christ TO ISRAEL ,as promised in the Old Testament. See Mark 1:1,2

17 Because of these facts, the Rapture is not to be found in Matthew, Mark or Luke. The return of Christ to earth , a doctrine which primarily has to do with promises to Israel is the subject matter of the gospels. The Rapture is not there because it is a doctrine primarily to do with the Church.

18 THEREFORE the parables of the Kingdom, the returning of the King, the marriage supper in Matthew have to do with the return of Christ to this earth. By way of example; Matthew 22 is not the Rapture. Matthew 24 is not the Rapture. Matthew 25 is not about the Rapture.

Briefly Matthew 22: Note verse 1-4 the invitations are sent out to the wedding dinner, not the wedding. 22:10 both good and bad enter in. This cannot be Heaven 22:20 the wedding dinner is furnished with guests. Brides do not receive invitations to their wedding nor their wedding feast. Matthew 22:11, The King comes to see the guests. This feast must be on earth when the King comes back. We the church are not guests any more than a bride is a guest at her wedding!

Briefly Matthew 24:32-44

The ungodly are taken away as in the days of Noah. 2 Peter 2:5. 2 Thessalonians. 1:7-9 tells us that the ungodly will be removed by the returning Christ, who will send Angels to take out the bad. This in preparation for the kingdom of the Heavens to come to earth.

Matthew 24:15, it is significant that Daniel’s weeks will not be fulfilled until the King returns. Now as we have seen, Revelation 2 and 3 mention the Church over and over

again. But from Chapters six to eighteen the Church is not mentioned at all. The tribes of Israel appear again in Revelation 7 and again in Revelation 14. The Temple. area and Jerusalem are again in the spot light in Revelation chapter 11. It is evident .the Church is not seen as on earth in Chapters 6-18

And we must remember, it was in connection with the promises to Israel regarding His return to earth, Jesus taught the lesson about the Great Tribulation in Matthew 24 and 25.

## 1 WE REPEAT, REV.6-18 ,THERE ARE THREE GROUPS OF SPECIFIC JUDGMENTS

The seven seals. The seven trumpets. The seven vials of wrath. None of these have been fulfilled in the past. None of these are being fulfilled today. ALL belong to the future. Keep that in mind when you read **books** on Revelation.

### 11 THE SEVEN SEALS (in Chapter 6)

1. Remember WHO it is who is breaking the seals.
2. Notice, when each is broken in Heaven, there is a result on earth
3. The results are literal.
4. Revelation 6:16-17, men think the end has come. They cry to the rocks. They do not call on God.

### 111 THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (Chapters 8 and 9)

1. Revelation 8:1 the seventh seal when opened ,introduces the seven trumpets. Revelation 8:2. Surely there is a chronological order here. These are more severe than the seal judgments.
2. Revelation 8: 7-12 , the first four trumpets and the results.
3. Revelation 8:13 “woe” “woe” Woe”. Revelation 9;18 one third or one billion die. Revelation 9:12 The first woe is past. Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past. Revelation 12:12 The third woe ends with Revelation 20:1- To make the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet the Rapture is to mix apples with oranges.

All these trumpets are blown by angels. At the Rapture it is the trump of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The Rapture is an act of grace, all these trumpets are judgments,“woes”.

## IV THE SEVEN VIALS

- 1 Psalm 75:8 in the Lord’s hand is a cup. cf. Revelation 14:10 the cup of His indignation. Revelation 15: 1,7, the cup is full of His wrath. Revelation 16:1 these vials or cups of wrath are poured out on the earth. Revelation 16-2-21 describes in detail, all seven vials of the wrath of God. Cf Romans 2:5, Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 The Church is not appointed to wrath. This wrath will be on the world of the ungodly. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, Isaiah 63:1-6, Psalm 2:8-9.

### CONCLUDING Verses on JUDGMENT:

Rev 8:1, Habakkuk 2:14,20, Rev 8:2-4, Micah 7:18, Rev 8:5