

"After the Rapture"

Part 1

Revelation 6

Introduction: This past week with all that has been happening God placed within my heart to do a message on life after the rapture. To put it another way, "What can you expect if you are not saved and the rapture happens?"

I. The Rapture

I want to begin by explaining to anyone who does not know exactly what the Rapture of the church actually is.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

*¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain **shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The phrase "SHALL BE CAUGHT UP" is all one Word in the Greek language. It literally means "TO BE SEIZED BY FORCE". When this event happens every person, who is saved will be seized by force from the face of the earth and immediately taken into the presence of the Lord. There is also something else that will take place.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53

*⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery: **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,***

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Jesus spoke of the same event in the Gospel of John.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *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.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

So, when the Rapture happens all believers will be snatched from the face of the earth.

Let me remind you of something. After the Rapture there will not be one Christian on the earth for a while. There will be no children on the earth for at least 9 months. Children who are below the age of accountability will be taken in the Rapture. If their parents are not saved the parents will be left on earth and the children taken. Many families will be devastated when the Rapture happens.

If you are not saved you will be left here and that is what I want to talk about now. What can you expect if you miss the Rapture?

II. Unleashing of Evil

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

⁴ *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

⁵ *Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

⁶ *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

⁸ And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Right now, there are restraints upon the Demonic spirits. You can sense today that evil is pushing at the gate. But the demonic forces can only go so far because of the restraints. But after the Rapture the demonic forces will be set free to deceive and terrorize the world.

We think evil is bad today, but this is nothing compared to what will happen in the Tribulation.

Revelation 9:1-6

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

² *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

³ *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

⁴ *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

⁵ *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

⁶ *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

III. The Judgments

A. Seal #1

Notice Revelation 6:1-2

Shortly after the Rapture there will be a man who will rise to power known as the Anti-Christ. He will be Satan's masterpiece and he will be a global leader. This man will be a brutal communist ruler. Those who oppose him will die. He will bring about radical changes to the world system.

Daniel 7:19-25

¹⁹ Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

²⁰ And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

²¹ I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

²² Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

B. Seal #2

Notice Revelation 6:3-4

Shortly after the Rapture war will break out on the earth. Many believe this will be world war three. This rider carries a great sword which tells us the slaughter will be great during this war.

Matthew 24:6-7a

⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

God is bringing judgment upon the earth at this time. Now because God had been rejected the world's population will turn on one another.

Now here is what I want you to see. **When a Nation or the world turns its back upon God one of the judgments is MADNESS which leads to inner turmoil and destruction from the inside out.**

Jeremiah 25:15-17

¹⁵ For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

¹⁶ And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

¹⁷ Then took I the cup at the LORD's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:

The word **MOVED** here in verse 16 means TO BE SHAKEN, TO REEL TO AND FRO. Let me place it in words that we can wrap our minds around. It speaks of instability.

C. Seal #3

Notice Revelation 6:5-6

This rider has in his hand a pair of balances or scales to measure out food. Then in verse 6 we see that one of the 4 beasts announces, "a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny".

The "PENNY" here is a "DENARIUS" which was the wages which 1 man would make for 1 day of work. A "MEASURE OF WHEAT" and "THREE MEASURES OF BARLEY" are each the food required to sustain ONE MAN for ONE DAY.

Now let me explain the situation in the beginning of the Tribulation. When the wars break out and the famines begin food will be so scarce and so costly that it will take ONE DAY'S WAGES to buy enough food to sustain one man. If there would be 4 people in a family and only one man could work people are going to starve.

We have never experienced a famine in the USA so it is difficult for us to get our minds wrapped around what this will be like. Let me show give you a glimpse from the pen of Jeremiah.

Lamentations 4:4-6, 8-10

⁴ *The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.*

⁵ *They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.*

⁶ *For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.*

⁸ *Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.*

⁹ *They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.*

¹⁰ *The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.*

This is what happened when during the time Jerusalem was besieged by the Babylonians. During the Tribulation it will be far worse.

D. Seal #4

Notice Revelation 6:7-8

When the 4th seal is opened one fourth of the world's population will die. There will be four means of death.

1. The sword speaks of death by the increase of the wars on the earth.
2. The hunger spoken of here will be an intensifying of the 3rd Seal Judgment.
3. The death spoken of here refers to DISEASES. There will be an increased spread of disease at this time. Some of this will possibly come from the dead bodies.

4. The beasts of the earth are exactly what it says. Those who survive the war, the hunger and the disease will be too weak to fight off the animals looking for food.

These judgments will be impossible to escape.

Ezekiel 33:27

²⁷ Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

There will be no hiding from these judgments.

Let me show you what Amos records concerning the inescapable judgment of the Tribulation.

Amos 5:18-20

¹⁸ Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

¹⁹ As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

²⁰ Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

Conclusion:

You need Jesus Christ for He is the ONLY means of escaping the Tribulation.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.