

Bible Prophecy and the book of Revelation, Lesson 9

The Prominence of Prophecies yet to be fulfilled in the Scriptures.

- 1845 references to Christ rule on the earth in the Old Testament.
 - 17 Old Testament books give preeminence to this event
 - Of 216 chapters in the New Testament, there are 318 references to Christ's second coming.
 - Christ's second coming is mentioned in 23 of the 26 New Testament books.
 - For every prophecy of Christ's first coming, there are about 8 prophecies of His second coming!
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Chapter 4 - Entering into the 3rd of 3 sections in Revelation (1:19) - don't ignore the God given outline.

- "After these things" is the way Chapter 4 begins...after what things? -- After the age of the Church.
- Beginning with Chapter 4 and running through the end of the book, the Church is never mentioned again.
- From Chapter 4 on, the book takes on a very Jewish flavor.

There is a scene shift here that will be maintained through the rest of book:

- **Chapters 1-3** – John is on the isle of Patmos receiving 7 letters to 7 churches that existed at that time.
 - **Chapters 4-22** – John is in Heaven before God's throne.
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Remember, this has historically been a very controversial book with many different interpretations coming from it.

- The only chance to come to a correct interpretation:
 1. Good, thorough knowledge of the Old Testament. – 404 verses in Revelation but over 800 allusions to the Old Testament.
 2. Resist the temptation to speculate.
 3. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible - let the Bible speak for itself!
 - Your best answer, until you have studied and stewed for years, is: "I'm not totally sure."
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V. 1 – In my opinion, we must have the rapture (catching up) of the church in view here.

- Interesting that his call up is with the sound of a trumpet.

Two comings of Christ yet to be accomplished:

1. To remove His people - Only for the Church, before the time of Wrath, only His own will see Him, "caught up to be with the Lord in the clouds".
 2. To remove from the earth the usurpers – return with His Bride and angels, in culmination of God's wrath, every eye will see Him.
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The Rapture – No way to predict because there is nothing prophetically that proceeds it.

The Return for Vengeance—is very easily predicted, in fact, that is the purpose of the remainder of Revelation.

- A key way to delineate between these two is the issue of immanence.
 - Consistently, out New Testament writers speak of the immanent return of Jesus (can happen at any time and requires no previous events).
 - This return is for the church but *not for judgement*.
 - We know this because of the glaring absence of immanence in the Revelation scenario.
 - Revelation requires scores of events to take place before Jesus' return.
 - In fact, is marks off for us exactly 7 years to the day starting with a particular event that starts the clock ticking.
 - From that event until the return of Christ, we can know there is exactly 7 years - that's not immanence!
 - On the other hand, the rapture is spoken of as immanent – requiring no prior events or time span.
 - **Rapture: I Thessalonians 4:13-end, I Corinthians 15:51-54, John 14:1-3, Isiah 26:19-20.**
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God's practice in Judgement throughout time is to remove some, bring through some, and to kill the rest.

1. Noah, Enoch, Antediluvians
2. Daniel, 3 friends, Nebuchadnezzar
3. Sodom, Lot
4. Promised Land invasion, Rahab saved, Gibeonites

This is the scenario or Revelation: remove the church, bring the Jews through, kill the rest.

V. 2 – God is on His throne here; always was and always will be.

- "Throne" - occurs 45 times in the Revelation--occurs only 15 times in the rest of the New Testament.

V. 3 – What color is God? The stones described here possess every conceivable color. (jasper is a clear stone: **Revelation 21:11**)

V. 4 – Who are these?

- Elder = Presbuteros in the Greek == where we get our word Presbyterian from.
 - Highest offices in the Church or leaders in Old Testament times.
 - What we have is the church and possibly Israel combined represented by these 24 elders
 - Crown = stephanos not a ruling crown (diademata), but an earned crown (never promised to angels, but to saints)
 - **Revelation 2:10, II Timothy 4:8** (earned therefore, not our salvation)
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These elders are in no other throne room scene in the Bible:

- **Dan 7, Isiah 6, Ezekiel 1 and other chapters in Ezekiel**. You never find these elders present., but you do in **Revelation 4, 5**.

V. 5 – “Lightnings, thunders, sounds” – very similar to what preceded the giving of the 10 commandments which came with great fear.

V. 6 – Every aspect we have seen thus far has its symbolic representative in the Tabernacle of the wilderness

- Throne == Mercy seat
- 7 Lamps == Menorah
- Sea of glass == The Bronze sea – represents the word of God

V. 7 – Living Creatures mimic the four standards of Israel’s camp in the wilderness: Judah=Lion, Reuben=Ox, Ephraim=Man, Dan= Eagle –the same as the 4 faces of these creatures.

V. 8 – Same thing said about them in **Isiah 6. VV. 9-11**
