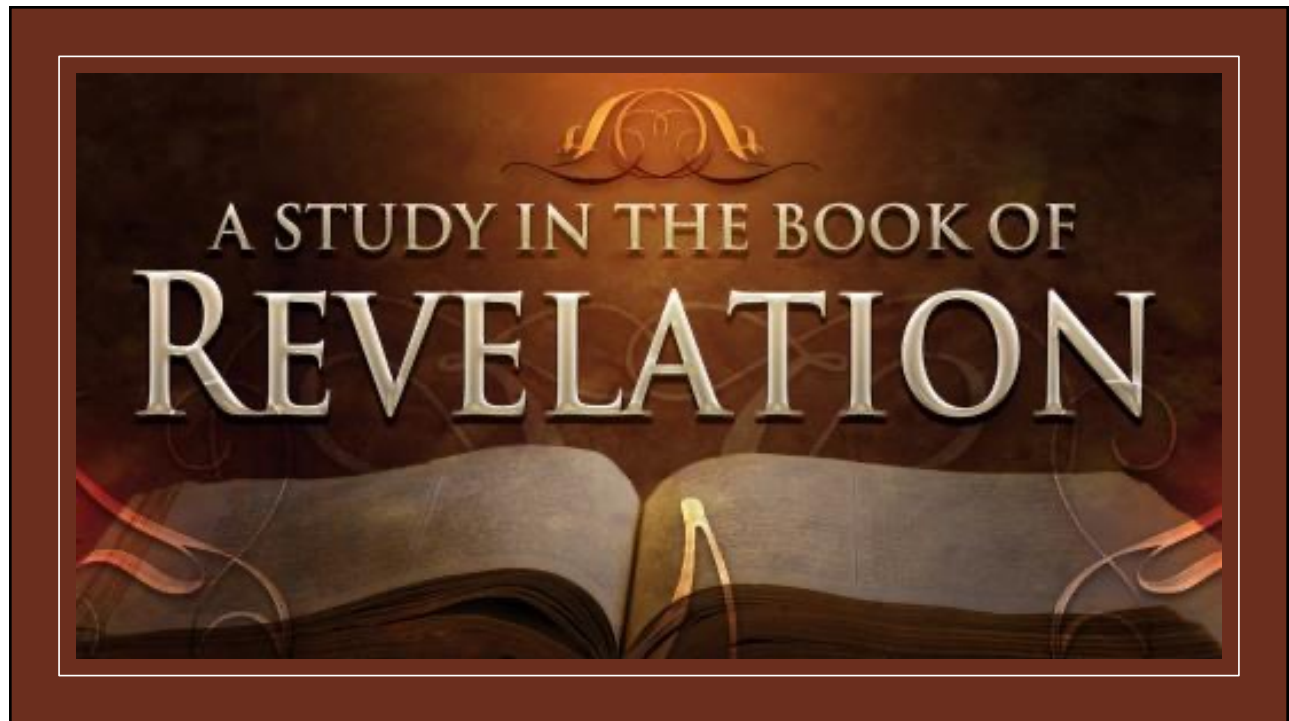
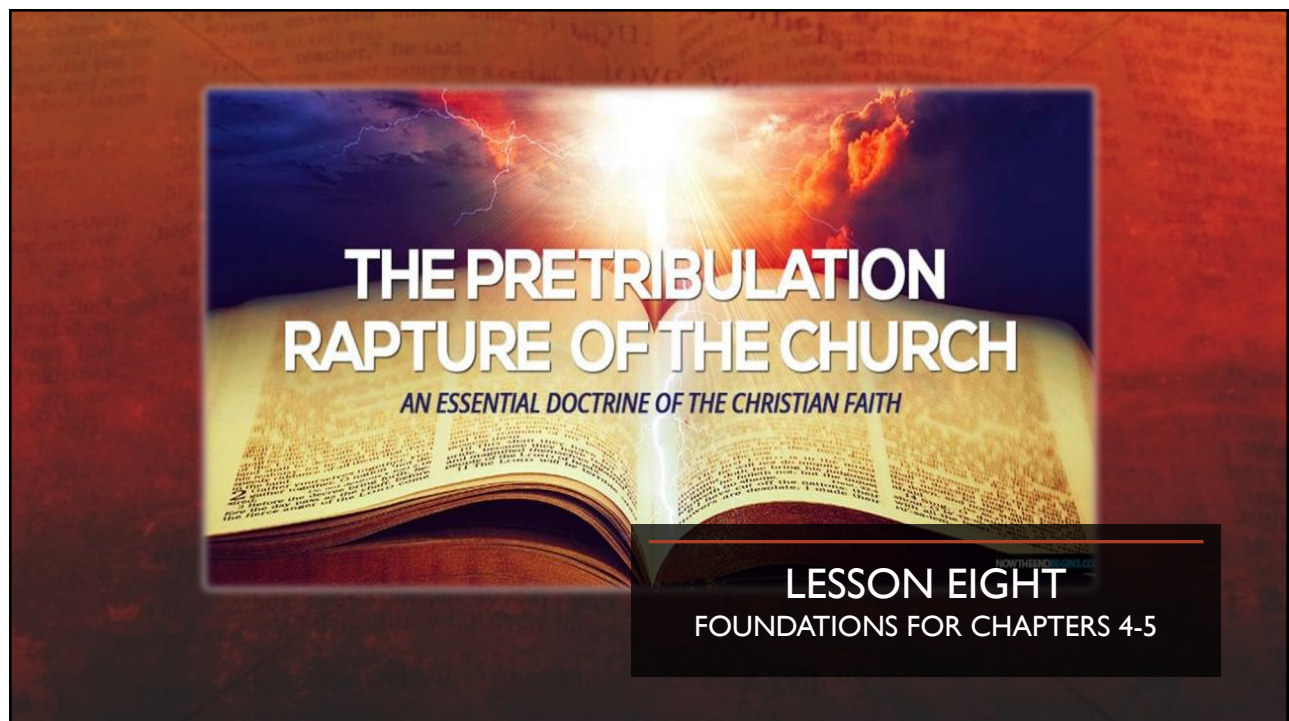




1



2

INTRODUCTION

- Not found in the Book of Revelation Directly
- Found in the Epistles Primarily (1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4)
- Introduced by Jesus in the Gospel of John 14:1-3
- Found in the Upper Room Discourse

Jesus is Coming for His Church...

3

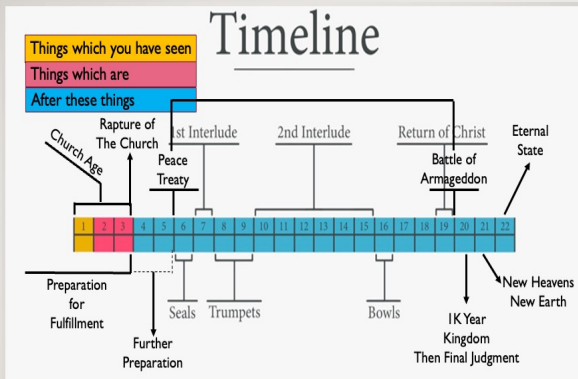
PURPOSE OF THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

- End the Church Age where Jew and Gentile are Coequal in Christ
- God can Finish the 70th Week of Daniel
- Great Tribulation Period (7 Years) where Israel is the Instrument through which God is Working

Be Ready...

4

TIMELINE AND OUTLINE

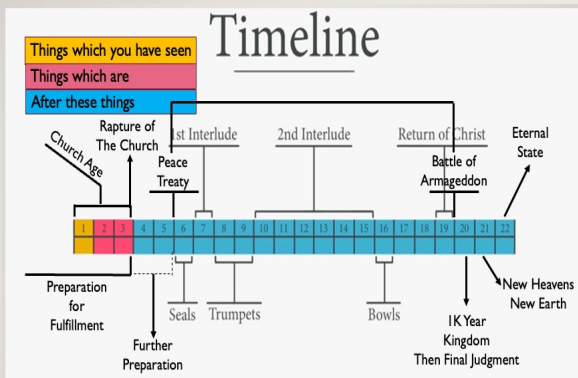


- Chapter 1 – The Glorified Christ
- Chapters 2-3 – Seven Churches of Revelation (7 Epistles or Letters)
- Chapter 4-22 – The Things Which Will Take Place After these Things (Rev. 1:19c)

Where We Are...

5

4 SECTIONS OF CHAPTERS 4-22 “AFTER THESE THINGS”



- Scene in Heaven 4-5
- The Great Tribulation Chapters 6-19
 - The Great Tribulation 6-19
 - The Second Coming 19:11-16
 - Armageddon 19:17-21
- The Millennium – Chapter 20
- The Eternal State – Chapters 21-22

Things Yet Future...

6

GREATER VOLUME OF SCRIPTURE DEDICATED TO DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK (THE TRIBULATION)

- All the Prophets except Jonah
- Deut. 4, 28, 30
- The Gospels, Epistles, Revelation
- (Example of Progressive Revelation)
 - Introduced
 - Built Upon Throughout the Bible
 - Last Book (Rev) Focuses on This ("The Blood & Guts")

That A Lot of Scripture...

7

*"After these things I looked, and behold,
a door standing open in heaven,"*

~ Revelation 4:1a



8

JOHN IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHURCH

- John is Removed from Earth to Heaven
- Heaven is the Location of the Church During the Rest of the Book of Revelation
- John is Caught Up into Heaven

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

9

“and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’”

~ Revelation 4:16



10

“And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watch them.

~ Revelation 11:12



11

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE

- The Translation of Living Believers to Heaven, without Experiencing Death, In A Moment of Time
- One Moment You're Here – The Next Moment You're with Christ
- A Global Event (24 Time Zones) All At Once – A Single Event
- The Dead in Christ Will be Also be Raised and Caught Up
- What Might that Look Like?

The Believing are Going to Be Leaving...

12

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE



The Believing are Going to Be Leaving...

13

RAPTURE VOCABULARY

Greek	Meaning	Translation	Examples
harpazo (rapio)	To seize upon with force To snatch up	caught up	I Thess. 4:17

Tell Me the Story of Jesus...

14

RAPTURES IN HISTORY AND PROPHECY

PERSON(S)	RAPTURE EVENT	TEXT
Enoch	"and he was not, for God took him"	Genesis 5:24
Elijah	"Elijah wen tup by a whirlwind to heaven."	2 Kings 2:11
Isaiah	"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne"	Isaiah 6:1
Jesus	"taken up from you" (harpazo)	Acts 1:11
Philip	"the Spirit...snatched...away" (harpazo)	Acts 8:39
Paul	"was caught up" (harpazo)	2 Cor. 12:2-4
Church	"caught up together" (harpazo)	1 Thess. 4:17
2 Witnesses	"they went up"	Rev. 11:12

Taken Up to Heaven...

15

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RAPTURE

- To End the Church Age
- The Church is Eternal but the Church Age is Not
- Church Age Started in Acts 1 – Jew & Gentile Coequal in Christ
- Still Have the 70th Week of Daniel that Deals with Israel and Leads to Israel's Conversion
- Pre-Trib Rapture Makes Perfect Sense
- No Purpose for a Mid or Post Trib Rapture
- Removing the Church Allows God to Finish His Unfinished Business with Israel

The Bridegroom is Coming...

16

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RAPTURE

- Interval of Days, Weeks, Months, or Years After the Rapture but Before the Tribulation
- As much as 3 or 4 Years
- People will Start Getting Saved Almost Immediately
- Tremendous Time of Revival During the Tribulation

The Bridegroom is Coming...

17

PROMISE – PURPOSE – PROCESS OF THE RAPTURE (BRAND NEW CHURCH-AGE TRUTH)

- Promise of the Rapture (John 14:1-3)

- Introduced by Jesus Himself
- **Promise also of Future NT Revelation**
(14:26, 16-17; 16:12-13) →

John 14:1-3	1 Thess. 4:13-18
Troubled (1)	Grieve (13)
Believe (1)	Believe (1)
God, Me (1)	Jesus, God (14)
Told you (2)	Say to you (150)
Come again (3)	Coming of the Lord (15)
Receive you (3)	Caught up (17)
To Myself (3)	To meet the Lord (17)
Be where I am (3)	Always with the Lord (17)

The Bridegroom is Coming...

18

ADDITIONAL BRAND-NEW CHURCH AGE TRUTH

- Rapture (14:1-4)
- Believers will do Greater Works (14:5-14)
- NT Ministry of the Holy Spirit (14:15-31)
- Abide in Christ – the Christian Life (15:1-17)
- World will Hate Followers of Jesus (15:18-16:6)
- Holy Spirit will Aid in Evangelism (16:7-15)
- The Course of the Church Age (16:16-24)
- Prayer will be In the Name of Jesus (16:25-33)

The Bridegroom is Coming...

19

PROMISE – PURPOSE – PROCESS OF THE RAPTURE (BRAND NEW CHURCH-AGE TRUTH)

- Promise of the Rapture (John 14:1-3)
 - Introduced by Jesus Himself
 - **Promise also of Future NT Revelation (14:26, 16-17; 16:12-13)** →
- Purpose of the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:51-58)
- Process of the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

John 14:1-3	1 Thess. 4:13-18
Troubled (1)	Grieve (13)
Believe (1)	Believe (1)
God, Me (1)	Jesus, God (14)
Told you (2)	Say to you (15)
Come again (3)	Coming of the Lord (15)
Receive you (3)	Caught up (17)
To Myself (3)	To meet the Lord (17)
Be where I am (3)	Always with the Lord (17)

The Bridegroom is Coming...

20

ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

- God's plan for Israel involves Israel being the head and not the tail, and ruling over the nations during the Millennial Reign of Christ
- God's plan for the Church involves a remnant of saved Jews and Gentiles who are placed into one body in Christ during the present Church-Age or Age of Grace
- The Church is a Mystery which has always been a part of God's original plan
- The Church was kept secret in the OT but has been revealed in the NT
- The Rapture is a Mystery in the OT but revealed in the NT

The Bridegroom is Coming...

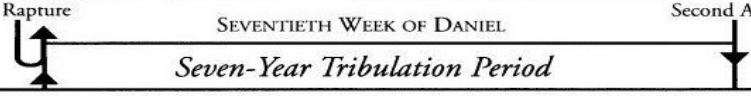
21

WHAT IS A MYSTERY IN THE BIBLE

- A mystery in the Bible is not a "who done it"
- A mystery is something not revealed in the OT
- A mystery means a new revelation about something in God's plan
- God used Daniel to reveal an aspect of His plan
- NT teaching related to Jesus and the Church
- Part of the flow of God's plan (Eph. 3:8-11)
- Manifold wisdom of God – idea of a multi-sided item (God's single plan has multiple dimensions to it (Eph. 3:8-11))

The Bridegroom is Coming...

22

	
RAPTURE PASSAGES	SECOND COMING PASSAGES
John 14:1-3 Romans 8:19 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 1 Corinthians 16:22 Philippians 3:20-21 Philippians 4:5 Colossians 3:4 1 Thessalonians 1:10 1 Thessalonians 2:19 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 1 Thessalonians 5:9 1 Thessalonians 5:23	2 Thessalonians 2:1 1 Timothy 6:14 2 Timothy 4:1 2 Timothy 4:8 Titus 2:13 Hebrews 9:28 James 5:7-9 1 Peter 1:7, 13 1 Peter 5:4 1 John 2:28-3:2 Jude 21 Revelation 2:25 Revelation 3:10
Daniel 2:44-45 Daniel 7:9-14 Daniel 12:1-3 Zechariah 12:10 Zechariah 14:1-15 Matthew 13:41 Matthew 24:15-31 Matthew 26:64 Mark 13:14-27 Mark 14:62 Luke 21:25-28	Acts 1:9-11 Acts 3:19-21 1 Thessalonians 3:13 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 2 Thessalonians 2:8 1 Peter 4:12-13 2 Peter 3:1-14 Jude 14-15 Revelation 1:7 Revelation 19:11-20:6 Revelation 22:7, 12, 20
Imminent and Signless After Last Gentile is saved and added to the Church Romans 11:25	Many signs and many judgments Only for Israel and Gentile Nations

The Bridegroom is Coming...

23

The Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Christ's Return to the Earth (Revelation 19:11-16)
Christ appears in the air	Christ returns to the earth
Jesus returns in secret, like a thief	Jesus returns openly
The Messiah returns <i>for</i> his Church	Messiah returns <i>with</i> his Church
The Lord comes as Bridegroom	The Lord comes as King
Christ comes as deliverer	Christ comes as warrior and judge
Jesus comes with grace	Jesus comes with grace and wrath
The Messiah delivers the Church <i>from</i> wrath	Messiah delivers believers (of the Tribulation) who endured wrath
Living believers receive immortal bodies as they are taken to heaven	Living believers remain mortal on the earth during the Millennium
The world is left unjudged	The world is judged (Mt. 25:31-46)
The world continues in sin	Righteousness is established
Addresses only the saved	Addresses the saved and unsaved
Can happen at any moment	Many signs must first occur
The devil continues his evil reign	The devil is cast into the Abyss

The Bridegroom is Coming...

24

THE RAPTURE IS IMMINENT IMMINENCE

- An event that could, but not necessarily take place at any-moment
- Soon is not the same as imminent
- An imminent event could happen soon, or it may not occur for over 2000 years
- No prophetic event must take place before an imminent event can happen
- The Rapture is imminent, while Christ's Second Coming is not

The Bridegroom is Coming...

25

THE RAPTURE IS IMMINENT

Verse	Text
I Cor. 1:7	"Awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."
I Cor. 16:22	"Maranatha." (our Lord come)
Phil. 3:20	"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for a Savior..."
Phil. 4:5	"The Lord is near."
I Thess. 1:10	"to wait for His Son from heaven."
Titus 2:13	"looking [waiting] for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of...Jesus."

The Bridegroom is Coming...

26

“EAGERLY WAIT”

- Pictures eager expectation by the head bent forward to catch the first glance of an advancing procession
- Notes one staying up late in eager expectation of seeing a late arriving guest.

The Bridegroom is Coming...

27

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the **apostasy** comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”

~ 2 Thess. 2:3



28

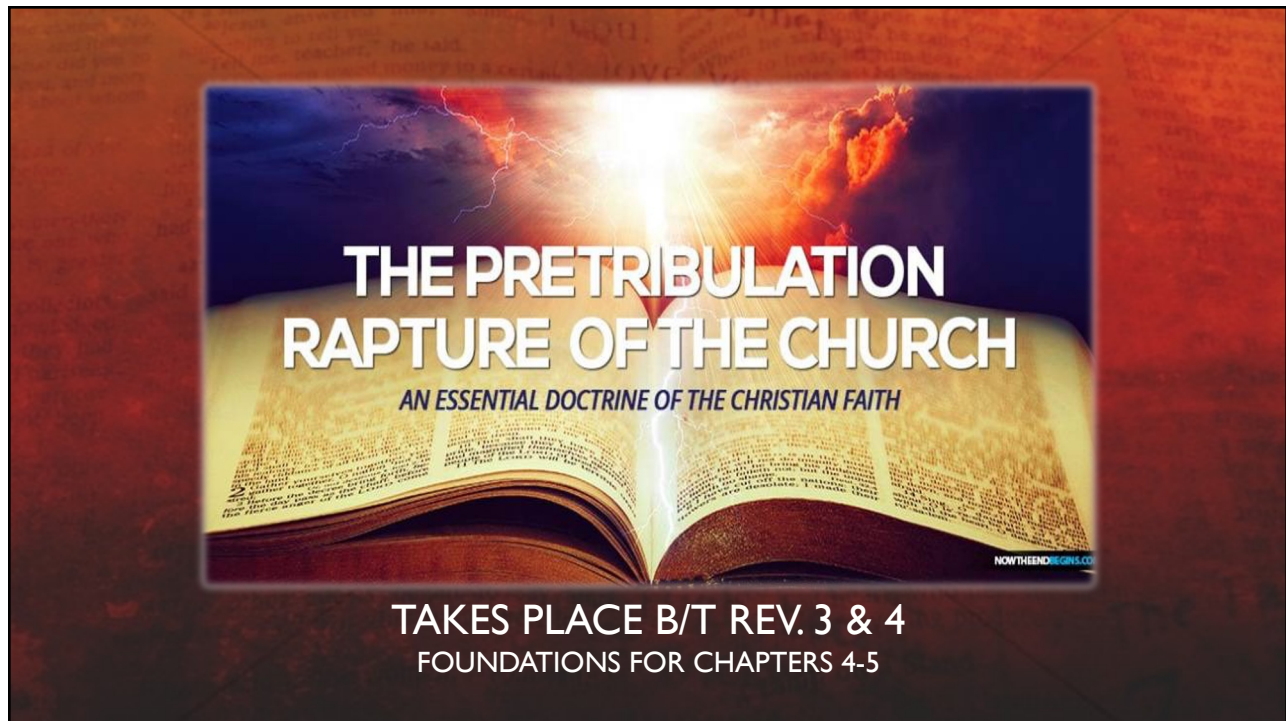
APOSTASY OR DEPARTURE (*apostasia*)

Year	Bible Version	Translation
4 th Cent	Latin Vulgate	Departure
1384	Wycliffe Bible	Departure
1388	Wycliffe-Purvey Bible	Departure
1526	Tyndale Bible	Departure
1538	Coverdale Bible	Departure
1539	Cranmer Bible	Departure
1540	Great Bible	Departure
1560/1608	Geneva Bible	Departing
1576	Breeches Bible	Departing
1582	Rheims Bible	Revolt
1583	Bera Bible	Departing

29

IN CONCLUSION

30



31

BE A BEREAN

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

~ Acts 17:11



32



LESSON NINE
REVELATION 4-5
A Throne Room in Heaven

33



34