

Preparations for Judgment: Rapture Revelation 7:9-17

I. RESCUE: "a great multitude" (vv.9-10)

A. **Description**: "I looked, and behold" (v.9)

B. **Declaration**: "salvation to our God" (v.10)

II. REVERENCE: "all the angels" (vv.11-12)

A. **Position**: "were standing...on their faces" (v.11)

B. **Proclamation**: "worshiped God, saying..." (v.12)

1. Perfect: "blessing" - *good speaking / God's recognition*

2. Worthy: "glory" - *dignified / God's reputation*

3. Omniscient: "wisdom" - *skill in living / God's insight*

4. Gracious: "thanksgiving" - *good freely given / God's grace*

5. Precious: "honor" - *real value / dignity of God's worth*

6. Omnipotent: "power" - *inherent power / God's ability*

7. Supernatural: "might" - *physical power / God's activity*

III. REVELATION: "one of the elders" (vv.13-17)

A. **Assembly**: "who are they...from where have they come?" (v.13)

B. **Appeal**: "My lord, you know" (v.14a)

C. **Answer**: "he said to me" (vv.14b-17)

1. Identification: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation"

2. Purification: "they have washed their robes and made them white"

3. Reception: "they are before the throne of God"

4. Occupation: "they serve Him day and night"

5. Communion: "He...shall spread his tabernacle over them"

6. Provision: "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst"

7. Protection: "neither shall the sun beat down on them"

Next Week: Read Revelation 1- 7

THE "RAPTURE" AT CHRIST'S COMING

DEFINITIONS:

- (1) "Caught up" (*'arpagasometha*) ["raptured" in 1 Thess. 4:17] = "'To snatch or catch away'. This verb conveys the idea of force suddenly exercised...See pluck, pull, snatch, take (by force)." (Taken from Vine's Expository Dict. of Bib. Words, p.92)
- (2) "Coming" (*parousia*) = "Literally, 'a presence,' *para*, 'with,' and *ousia*, 'being' (from *eimi*, 'to be'), denotes both an 'arrival' and a consequent 'presence with'...
When used of the return of Christ, at the rapture of the church, it signifies, not merely His momentary 'coming' for His saints, but His presence with them from that moment..." (Vine's, p.111). This takes place when He reveals Himself in the sky at His second coming (Rev. 1:7) [see Isa. 40:5; Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 24:30-31].

TIMING IN PROPHETIC EVENTS:

- (1) Initially, the apostasy comes, the man of lawlessness is revealed and then the restrainer is taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:3,4,7).
- (2) After those events, the second coming of Christ occurs, which involves:
 - (a) The "**dead** in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are **alive** and remain shall be 'raptured' up... to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:1)
 - [1] "And He (Christ) will send forth His angels with a GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." (Matt. 24:31)
 - [2] "we shall all be changed..." (1 Cor. 15:51; Phil. 3:20-21)
 - [3] "...changed, in a moment..." (1 Cor. 15:52)
 - [4] "...changed...in the twinkling of an eye..." (1 Cor. 15:52)
 - [5] "...changed ...at the last trumpet..." (1 Cor. 15:52)
 - (b) Then, the Day of the Lord judgment begins (2 Thess. 2:2; Rev. 8:1ff)
 - (c) The physical return of Christ to the earth (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7)
- (3) Ultimately, Christ's reign on earth (Rev. 20:4) [1st 1,000 years = "the millennium"]

SECOND COMING (*parousia*) INCLUDES THE RAPTURE:

- (1) 1 Thess. 4:15, "...we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep."
- (2) 1 Cor. 15:22-23, "... in Christ all shall be made alive... Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming..."
- (3) 2 Thess. 2:1-2, "...with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken... or be disturbed... to the effect that the day of the Lord has come."
- (4) James 5:7, "Be patient... brethren, until the coming of the Lord."
- (5) 1 John 2:28, "...abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame at His coming."
- (6) Matthew 24:27, "For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."