

THE REVELATION OF YESHUA HA MASIACH

Lesson 3

I. Yeshua and the scroll

A. The declaration of heaven

Revelation 5:⁹⁻¹⁰

- His death and resurrection brought salvation to the world
- Yeshua is King over the nations including the Roman Empire
- Yeshua even loves the persecutors

B. Last days began in the first century

Acts 2:¹⁵⁻¹⁷

Peter was saying that the people in Jerusalem were witnessing a “last days” event.

Let's not be boxed in by standard theology or timelines

II. Rapture

Definition: An event written about in the New Testament where in Yeshua returns out of the clouds and snatches away the believers starting with those who have already died and then all who are still alive. (1 Thessalonians 4:¹⁷⁻¹⁸)

A. Teachings from scripture

There is no scripture that explicitly says that the church will be raptured before the tribulation.

Pre-trib says when John was called up to heaven, it was the rapture of the church before tribulation.

1. Yeshua's Teachings

- Yeshua said that the gathering will take place after the tribulation:

Matthew 24:²⁹⁻³¹

Mark 13:²⁴⁻²⁷

Heaven in Greek “ouranous” – NT:3772 ouranos (oo-ran-os'); the sky; by extension, heaven (as the abode of God); by implication, happiness, power, **eternity**; specifically, the Gospel (Christianity): (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Meaning believers who have passed away as well (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)



- Yeshua also told us the parable of the wheat and tares (weeds)
Matthew 13:30 "Let both grow together **until the harvest**, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." NKJV

Only one harvest mentioned

- His disciples would see the anti-Christ

Yeshua's was responding to His disciples question regarding His return; Matthew 24:3

As part of this teaching he said:

Matthew 24:15 "Therefore **when** you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. NKJV

He said "when" and not "if".

"abomination of desolation" in the temple = Anti-Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

- One out of two
Matthew 24:40-42

Admonition to be ready at all times.

- Lengthy teaching

If the church was to be taken away before the tribulation, there would be no need for such lengthy teaching nor the book of Revelation

2. Paul's teaching

Paul clearly taught about the rapture:

- First Thessalonians; assurance of the rapture 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

This teaching is according to the Lord's own word (or teaching)
The Lord taught that the gathering would happen at the end of the tribulation. (Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27)

The angel will signal this event with a sound of a trumpet (Shofar),

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – Last Trumpet

Seven trumpets in Revelation

- Second Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him NKJV



Coming of the Lord and our gathering is one event, not two

He does not talk only about “our gathering” but also of the coming of the Lord (His return). Seems to be one event not two.

2 Thessalonians 2:³

- “that day” – the day of His return to earth
- “fall away” – falling away from faith (apostasia – defection)

Believers fall away due to harsh persecution

2 Thessalonians 2:⁵⁻⁶

“What is restraining” – pre-tribulationists interpret this as the Holy spirit and the church being taken away to heaven.

It simply means moved out of the way, i.e. Father tells Spirit to step aside so that Anti-Christ can be revealed.

Pre-tribulationists say that people will still get saved during the tribulation, how if there is no Holy Spirit to convict of sin or believers to share the gospel.

B. Origin of Pre-tribulation teaching

It is a relatively new teaching. – John Darby 1827

Throughout the New Testament we see the encouragement to persevere and endure through hardships, i.e. persecution.

Hebrews 12:¹ – “run with endurance”

“Cloud of witnesses” – saints who have persevered in faith.

1 Peter 2:²⁰ “if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

James 1:²⁻⁴, 2 Timothy 2:¹¹⁻¹²

The seven letters of Revelation Yeshua promises blessings for those who will endure or overcome. We are called to overcome persecution.

The early church was constantly taught and encouraged to persevere through the difficulties they faced, they were not told that they would be exempt from them.

C. Examples from The Old Testament

- Lot and his family removed from Sodom before judgment took place. (only example of escape)
- Noah – whilst Noah was not consumed by the flood, not consumed by the flood (judgment but lived through it and protected by God).
- Exodus – Israel protected through the seven plagues..



Goshen does not represent heaven because Egyptians also lived there. (Exodus 3:21)

Israel left Egypt to go to The Promised Land. If Goshen is heaven then where did Israel leave to?

We are not appointed to wrath – does not mean taken away but protected from it
Revelation 3:10

Greek word “keep” means “protect”

D. Modern witnesses

“There are some among us teaching that there will be no tribulation, that the Christians will be able to escape all this. These are the false teachers that Jesus warned us to expect in the latter days, most of them have little knowledge of what is going on all over the world. I have been in countries where Christians are already suffering terrible persecution. In China the Christians were told by American Bible teachers “don’t worry, before the tribulation comes you will be raptured”. Then came a terrible persecution, millions of Christians were tortured to death. Later I heard a bishop from China say sadly “we have failed, we should have made the people strong for persecution rather than tell them that Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in the persecution and how to stand when persecution comes, to stand and to not faint.” (Corrie Ten Boom 1974)

Radical Islam, like ISIS and Boko Haram and others kill thousands of believers.

Even in Israel the ultra-religious communities attack the believers.

The pre-tribulation teaching is dangerous because it will lull Christians to sleep. Warfare is ongoing, we must be alert Ephesians 6:16

Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 5:6 be **alert** and self-controlled. NIV

III. Breaking the Seals

Yeshua breaks the seals

God brings plagues and calamities: Exodus 9:13-14 **“My plagues”**

2 Chronicles 7:13 , Isaiah 45:7

A. First Seal – conquest. (Rev 6:1-2)

- Islam from the Middle-east to Spain
- European nations colonized many nations: Spain – Philippines, Dutch – Indonesia, Portugal – parts of India and Malaysia.
- The British Empire encircled the globe
- Two World Wars. In WWII Nazi Germany conquered all of Europe. Imperial Japan conquered most of Asia.
- Communist tried to conquer Korea and Vietnam
- Iraq – conquering Kuwait
- Still on-going China claiming the whole South China Sea



Future application – the Anti-Christ will conquer the nations,

B. Second Seal – Conflict on earth (Rev 6:3-4)

Revelation 6:4 “that people should kill one another” NKJV

Wars and rumours of war people do not feel at peace. It was magnified on September 11 2001.

Peace of mind removed – COVID19

Violent protests around the world, from Hong Kong to United States etc.

We live today in a world that is lacking in peace.

C. Third Seal – Scarcity (Rev 6:5-6)

Scales – scarcity of food and rationing

Essential food item will become very expensive

The very rich will still have luxuries (oil and wine)

D. Fourth Seal – Widespread death (Rev 6:7-8)

Pandemics, greater than COVID19.

Shortage of food and breakdown of basic public services.

All will pave the way for the ultimate dictator in this world; Anti-Christ

E. Fifth Seal – Martyrs (Rev 6:9-11)

They were given white robes – signifying purity and reward for good works

The Lord tells them to wait a while more because the season of martyrdom is not yet over.

Martyrdom is a prevalent theme of the book of Revelation. Acts 1:8 “witnesses” – Greek “marturo”

The Lord tells those under the altar that more would join them. In the days of the Anti-Christ martyrdom of Jews and Christians will be rampant.

F. Sixth Seal – Cosmic Disturbances (Rev 6:12-17)

- Great earthquake
- Sun becomes dark
- Moon turns blood red



- Sky recedes
- Islands moved
- People become so fearful of God they would prefer to die than face God, the wrath of God has begun to be unleashed on the earth.

After the sixth seal is broken, John's attention is turned to Israel there is a break in the vision.

What is God's purpose for showing us all these things?

He wants to be warned against holding too tightly to the things of this world; not wealth or status or anything else. It will soon disappear. We must keep our eyes upon Him.

2 Peter 3:¹¹⁻¹³

Colossians 3:¹⁻²

2 Peter 3:¹¹⁻¹³

1 John 3:²⁻³

We must ask the Holy Spirit to adjust our hearts so that we can become real end-time saints.

