

Session 8 Second Coming and Rapture: War in the Spirit (Rev. 11-14)

I. THE RAPTURE AND REPLACEMENT OF ALL WORLD GOVERNMENTS (REV. 11:15-19)

¹⁵The seventh angel sounded...loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord... ¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time...that You should reward...the saints...and destroy those who destroy the earth.”
(Rev. 11:15-18)

¹⁰“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Mt. 6:10)

- A. This is the third section in which the chronological events in Jesus’ action plan are seen. It describes the rapture of the Church and the announcement of Jesus replacing all the evil governments of the earth with His government. At this time, Jesus will reward the saints and completely destroy those who destroy the earth.
- B. Jesus will engage in a hostile takeover of nations that are very angry at Him (Rev. 11:18). They will resist Jesus’ right to rule their nations. Satan will be raging (Rev. 12:12, 17) and leaders will be angry whenever Jesus exerts His leadership in their nation. This showdown will be parallel to the Elijah-Jezebel showdown that occurred at Mt. Carmel (1 Kgs. 18). However, at this time, both groups will call down fire from heaven (Rev. 11:5; 13:13).
- C. The saints will soon be given governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6; Dan. 7:27).
⁴I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years... ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection...they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- D. The mystery of God, or His plan to prepare a Bride to rule the earth with Jesus, is now complete.
⁷In the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery [hidden plan] of God would be finished, as He declared to His...prophets. (Rev. 10:7)
- E. Paul made it clear that the rapture takes place at the last trumpet, which is the seventh trumpet.
⁵¹We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵²in a moment...at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)
- ¹⁶The Lord...will descend from heaven...with the trumpet of God... ¹⁷...we who are alive... shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*** (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
- F. We see the impact of the rapture on world governments. This continues in the pattern seen in the chronological sections, which describe what takes place on earth rather than in the sky.

- G. The rapture and the marriage supper are not described in detail in the book of Revelation. Why? Because neither is an event that happens in one brief moment, but instead will involve a process that occurs over time. The time it takes for a physical body to be transformed is instantaneous (1 Cor. 15:52). However, it will take more than one moment for Jesus to cross the entire earth so that the eye of every unbeliever will see Him well enough to respond emotionally with deep mourning (Rev. 1:7).
- H. Jesus raptures the Church to initiate His second coming procession, which has **three stages**, including many events occurring over a **30-day period** that can be seen by comparing the 1,260 day period (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 12:7) with the 1,290 days (Dan. 12:11).
¹¹***“From the time...the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.”***
(Dan. 12:11)

Stage 1: Jesus’ procession across the sky—to rapture the Church (Mt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7)

Stage 2: Jesus’ procession on the land—traveling through Jordan to Israel (Isa. 63; Hab. 3)

Stage 3: Jesus’ procession into Jerusalem—to the Mount of Olives followed by His coronation

See ihopkc.org/resources for extensive biblical support for Jesus’ thirty-day procession.

II. THIRD ANGELIC EXPLANATION (PARENTHESIS): WAR IN THE SPIRIT (REV. 12-14)

- A. The third angelic explanation is a parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14). It answers why Jesus’ wrath is so severe as to require the replacing of all governments on earth and what will happen to the saints. Satan and the Antichrist will violently confront the saints and all that is good (Rev. 12-13). Jesus will dynamically help the saints (Rev. 14). This section gives us important insight into the **great attack** against God’s people and the **great anointing** on them, leading to victory.
- B. We see a fierce war in the spirit between the Antichrist and God’s people in the years leading up to the rapture. Revelation 12 describes Satan’s war in the heavens with Michael. Revelation 13 describes the Antichrist’s war on earth against the saints in seeking to gain leadership over all the nations. Revelation 14 tells us, in seven visions, various ways in which Jesus will anoint the Church to come to victory.
- C. The seven main symbols in Revelation are all in this parenthetical section (Rev. 12-14). Daniel used most of these symbols (Dan 7:3-7, 12, 17; 8:4). He prophesied of the Antichrist as the Beast with a vast empire (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19-23) that was supported by ten kings, whom he spoke of as ten horns on the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24; 2:41-42; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- D. **The dragon:** Always symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2).
- E. **The first Beast:** Symbolic of the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10).
- F. **Another Beast:** Symbolic of the False Prophet, who is only called “another beast” one time. Every other time he is called the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

- G. **The seven heads:** The seven historical empires that persecuted Israel are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the revived Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16).
- H. **The ten horns:** Speak of a future ten-nation confederation of ten kings that rule simultaneously over their own nation as they come into an enthusiastic agreement, or partnership, together under the Antichrist's authority (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
- I. **The harlot Babylon:** Will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (fifty miles south of Baghdad), which will be restored and used as a headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as the center of worldwide, demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18; Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51). It will seduce many to sin and to persecute the saints.
- J. **The woman with the male Child (Jesus):** The woman is the faithful remnant of Israel through history (Rev. 12:1-5). Satan wars with her offspring who are Gentile believers (Rev. 12:17).

III. WAR BREAKS OUT IN HEAVEN (REV. 12)

- A. In Revelation 12, war will break out in heaven between Satan and Michael the archangel. The result is that Satan will be cast to the earth. This will happen at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
⁷War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹...the...dragon...called the Devil...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...¹²Woe to the inhabitants of the earth...for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath [“fury,” NIV], because he knows that he has a short time. ¹³...when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman [remnant of Israel]...¹⁷...the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [Gentile believers], who...have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:7-17)
- B. Some teach that this war in heaven occurred at the cross and that Satan is now confined to the earth. However, we war against Satan's hosts that operate in the heavenly places in this age.
¹²We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities...against the rulers of the darkness...against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)
- C. One of the unique dynamics in the end times is that Satan and all his demons will be cast to the earth (Rev. 12:9). He will give his throne to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). Multitudes of demons now in the bottomless pit will be released (Rev. 9:3, 16). The Antichrist will seek to kill anyone who refuses to worship him (Rev. 13:8, 12, 15). This will lead to billions of people engaging in Satan worship. This will result in there being more demonized people on earth than any time in history.
⁹The Devil...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:9)
³The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne... (Rev. 13:2)

- D. In Genesis 3, Satan brought the seeds of hell to the garden of Eden. Those seeds of evil will be fully ripe by the time of the Tribulation. Satan's throne will be on earth (Rev. 12:9; 13:2; 6:8).
¹⁸“I will build My church, and the gates [authority] of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Mt. 16:18-19)
- E. The praying Church will overcome Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 12:11; 15:2; 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7). Fear need *not* dominate our spirit and extinguish our faith.
¹¹And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:11)
- F. Jesus prophesied that many will faint with fear. Forerunners will give understanding to many. Satan seeks to overcome us first with fear. Why? He knows that fear opens the door in a person's life to many compromises. Many will worship the Antichrist out of fear of lacking life resources.
²⁶“...men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.” (Lk. 21:26)

IV. SATAN WARS THROUGH THE ANTICHRIST AND FALSE PROPHET (REV. 13)

- A. Satan will continue his war against God's people by using his main two weapons of war, the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Rev. 13). The Antichrist is the final world leader.
- B. The Antichrist will have a political, military, and economic alliance with ten powerful nations in Europe and the Middle East, giving him the largest empire, the most powerful army, and the most money of any leader in history.
- C. The Antichrist will be fully human, yet fully demonized with Satan's authority (Rev. 13:2).
***²The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne, and great authority...
⁴...they worshiped the dragon...and worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”...⁷It was granted to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome [kill] them. And authority was given him over every tribe...and nation. (Rev. 13:2-7)***
- D. The Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand that the whole earth worship him as he seeks to be the king of kings over all nations. He will have authority and worshipers in all nations, ***yet will not totally dominate them all***, as seen by those who resist him (Dan. 11:40-45; Rev. 16:14).
- E. The saints will resist the Antichrist's government and influence in the geographic area where they are strategically placed by God as intercessors.
- F. In Revelation 13, we see the counterfeit trinity. Satan counterfeits the Father as he empowers the Antichrist, who counterfeits the Son and is supported by the False Prophet, who counterfeits the Holy Spirit (Rev. 13:1-2, 11-18).

- G. This tells us why Jesus **must** replace all the governments on earth. It is because billions of people will willingly choose to worship the Antichrist as their god (Rev. 13:8). Consequently, they will operate in his same spirit and do the same deeds of darkness. God will allow man's free will to be exercised to its full degree. Thus, all evil governments must be totally removed.

⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him [Antichrist], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

- H. In Revelation 13:11-18, the False Prophet is the leader of the future worldwide religious network that is devoted to causing all the nations to worship Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:4, 8).

¹¹I saw another beast [False Prophet]...**he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.** (Rev. 13:11)

- I. John revealed the False Prophet's three most effective strategies. First, he is a "prophet" with a message. His demonically empowered **public speeches** will be confirmed by great miracles to deceive the masses (Rev. 13:12-14).

¹²He exercises all the authority of the first beast...and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...¹³He performs great signs...¹⁴...he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs. (Rev. 13:12-14)

- J. Second, he establishes a worldwide worship system promoted by the **abomination of desolation** (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:3-4), which will be based on an image of the Beast, or a statue of the Antichrist, being set up in the Jerusalem temple. It will be a demonically empowered statue that breathes and speaks, causing the nations to worship the Antichrist.

¹⁴Telling those who dwell on earth to make an image [statue] to the beast...¹⁵He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that...[it] should speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:14-15)

- K. The abomination of desolation will be a series of abominable, or evil, events. They will be an abomination to God that will result in a global desolation (destruction). The abomination will be the Antichrist's claim to be God and his demand that all recognize it, followed by a global embrace of his claim. Thus, it will be the **abomination that leads to great desolation**.

¹⁵"When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."
(Mt. 24:15-16)

³...the son of perdition [Antichrist], ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God...sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thes. 2:3-4)

- L. The False Prophet's main tool in raising up a global, false, worship movement will be the image of the Beast. The image will be an idol of the Antichrist that will combine cutting-edge technology and supernatural demonic elements, causing this image to breathe and speak. The image may be a high-tech hologram that looks and sounds like the Antichrist. It is possible that there will be many regional centers with a duplicate image of the Antichrist demonically and technologically connected to the primary image in Jerusalem. The result will be a global network of local Antichrist worship sanctuaries that may include a hologram of the Antichrist.
 - M. The law will require all to worship the Antichrist as God (Rev. 13:12, 15). All who refuse will be guilty of the death penalty. He will use the power of the state to kill all who resist the Antichrist.
 - N. Third, he will establish a worldwide economic system that forces the nations to worship the Antichrist by the **mark of the Beast** put on their hand or forehead, forcing everyone to publicly declare their loyalty to the Antichrist. Any who refuse this mark will not be able to buy or sell.
¹⁶He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or foreheads...¹⁷...that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark...¹⁸...His number is 666. (Rev. 13:16-18)
 - O. **Summary:** The **image** of the Beast and the **mark** of the Beast will be two components of the abomination of desolation that will mobilize and finance the Antichrist's global worship movement (Rev. 13:13-18). The **image** of the Beast will mobilize Antichrist worshipers and penalize those who resist. The **mark** of the Beast will provide economic support for the Antichrist's worship movement and will penalize those who resist.
- V. JESUS WILL SUPERNATURALLY HELP THE CHURCH COME TO VICTORY (REV. 14)**
- A. The message of Revelation 14 is that Jesus will supernaturally anoint the Church to walk in victory. He will release great power with prophetic anointing on the Church, including angelic interventions, until His people fully triumph.
 - B. Jesus promises to reward His people and to judge the followers of the Antichrist. There will be serious consequences for righteousness and unrighteousness. This section will inspire confidence that righteousness is absolutely necessary.
 - C. In Revelation 14:1-5, John saw Jesus standing on Mount Zion in Jerusalem with 144,000 prophetic singers. Jesus will personally commission and anoint the **largest group of prophetic ministries gathered together in history**. He will personally teach them as He did the apostles (Acts 1:3), the disciples in Emmaus (Lk. 24:27-47), Paul in Arabia (Gal. 1:12-17), and Moses on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19-24). How much more will Jesus train the end-time Church?
 - D. Jesus will stand with them on Mt. Zion in earthly Jerusalem. These singers will prophesy in power. They will be sealed, or protected by God's power, from His judgments (Rev. 7:4-8).

¹Behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ²...I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³They [the harpists] sang as it were a new song before the throne...and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand...⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with [immoral] women, for they are virgins [celibates]. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes...⁵...in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault [compromise]. (Rev. 14:1-5)

- E. These 144,000 prophetic singers will be a model for victory in the midst of persecution, as well as providing great strength to the Church by their prophetic singing, which releases revelation and power. Their calling may relate to the seven thunder prophecies (Rev. 10).
- F. They will be deeply dedicated to Jesus, as seen by the five issues in verses 4-5. There will be 144,000 prophetic singers from the five or six million Jewish intercessors who call on God's name in worship and intercession in Zechariah 13:9. These 144,000 prophetic singers will support the two witnesses in prophetic intercession. They will all be in Jerusalem together.
- G. Jesus will raise up prophetic singers to release His power in the great war as seen when Jehoshaphat stationed the singers to lead the battle (2 Chr. 20). Isaiah prophesied about prophetic singers across nations who will also sing heaven's new songs in the end times.

¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea...you coastlands...¹¹Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice...let them shout from the top of the mountains...¹³The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man [at the second coming]; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out...He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isa. 42:10-13)

- H. Revelation 14:6-13 reveals four prophetic promises and proclamations on which the Spirit will release conviction and which He will confirm with signs and wonders to strengthen His people. The 144,000 singers and the Isaiah 42:10-12 singers will sing these four prophetic oracles. Will you have the boldness to preach these four messages then? How about now?
 - 1. In Rev. 14:6-7—we will receive angelic assistance and great power that we may succeed in preaching the gospel to all nations in the presence of hostility (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9).

⁶I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth...”
(Rev. 14:6-7)
 - 2. In Revelation 14:8—the anointed proclamation of the certainty of the total earthly defeat of the harlot Babylon will strengthen us (Rev. 17-18).

⁸Another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” (Rev. 14:8)

3. In Revelation 14:9-11—the anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal judgment coming on all who worship the Antichrist will embolden the saints. We must not yield to the deceptive allurements for the mark of the Beast, nor be intimidated by the rage of the Antichrist and his followers, who will all soon be overthrown.
⁹A third angel...saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark...¹⁰he...shall...drink of...the wrath of God...He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...¹¹...they have no rest day or night.” (Rev. 14:9-11)
4. In Rev. 14:12-13—the anointed proclamation of the certainty of eternal reward for being faithful will greatly strengthen the Church.
¹²Here is the patience [perseverance] of the saints...who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.¹³...I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...their works follow them.’” (Rev. 14:12-13)
- I. Revelation 14:14-20 reveals two different end-time harvests to be released by prayer. The harvest of souls is seen in Rev. 14:14-16 and the harvest of sin in Rev. 14:17-20. These show the result of prayers that release power for the great harvest and end-time judgments.
¹⁴Behold...One like the Son of Man [Jesus], having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.¹⁵Another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him...“Thrust in Your sickle and reap...for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”¹⁶So He...thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. (Rev. 14:14-16)
- J. A river of blood runs nearly 200 miles, or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south (Israel is 160 miles from north to south). A furlong equals a *stadia* (NIV), or 200 yards.
¹⁷Another angel came...having a sharp sickle.¹⁸Another angel came out from the altar...he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”¹⁹So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.²⁰...the winepress was trampled...and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [200 miles]. (Rev. 14:17-20)
- K. The nearly 200-mile area of Revelation 14:20 is Jesus’ winepress around Jerusalem. For the first time in history, all the kings of the earth will be gathered into one geographic area (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Rev. 16:14). After they gather, Jesus kills them all in this winepress (Rev. 19:21). A winepress was associated with the celebration of the harvest. In this case, all of heaven celebrates this glorious harvest of the earth (Rev. 14:14-20; 19:1-5).
- L. The great slaughter of the Antichrist’s armies will leave blood flowing for 200 miles (Rev. 19:19-21; 14:20), along with the great plague that will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem and cause their flesh, eyes, and tongues to dissolve. This plague also strikes their horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and all the cattle in their camps (Zech. 14:12-15). Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His coming (2 Thes. 2:8).