

Rapture Ready Part Nine

The Second Coming and the battle of Armageddon

As we have already discussed, The King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to eradicate ALL evil and usher in the eternal Kingdom of God. It's about the total crushing of all rebellion and the final demise of all evil and sin. There is only kingdom going forward from here – one that is ruled by God Almighty and by the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This time He is not coming in secret to catch away His bride. No, He is coming in all His fearsome power!

Armageddon - In righteousness He judges and makes war

2 Thess.1:3-10 / V11-12 / Rev.19:11-16 / Rev.19: 17-21 / Zech.14:3-4

The Result of Armageddon.

- The Anti-Christ (the beast) and the false prophet have been captured alive and are cast alive into the lake of fire.
- Every other being that gathered against the Lord Jesus Christ at Armageddon has been killed by the Lord Jesus Christ. These will remain in Hades until the second resurrection where they will receive their just rewards at the Great White Throne judgment.
- An angel comes down from heaven and lays hold of the Devil, Satan and casts him into the bottomless pit where he is kept bound for 1000 years. **Rev.20:1-3.**

The Millennium – the 1000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ has come to establish His kingdom on the earth and there will be a rule of righteousness for a thousand years.

The Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ – Ruler of the earth

Dan.7:13-14 / Isa.9:6-7 / Luke 1:30-33 / Isa.24:21-23

The Redeemed who reign with Him

We will all return with Him, the church, the Old Testament saints, the tribulation saints, the 144000, the two witnesses and the martyrs. These will all have come from the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. All those who truly love Him and serve Him, will reign with Him. (**Rev.5:9-10**).

We will have our glorified bodies. **Rev.5:9-10 / Rev.20:1-6 / Rev.11:15**

Survivors of the Tribulation

The people who made it through the tribulation will be in their natural bodies.

Not every human being on earth will be at the Battle of Armageddon. It will be the Anti-Christ (the Beast), the False Prophet, the kings of the earth and the allied armies of the Anti-Christ who are in the Valley of Megiddo that are defeated and destroyed.

Many will be at home in their countries and will come to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at His coming (**Matt.25:31-46 – the judgment of the Gentile nations**).

And of course, then there is Israel.

The Salvation of Israel.

After the Battle of Armageddon, when the Lord Jesus has defeated all His enemies and Israel's enemies, He will begin with a regathering of the Jews. **Matt.24:31**

We understand that when the Rapture happens, the focus of God is turned to the salvation of Israel. It is time for the Tribulation – the end of the world that we know. Time for the wrath and judgment of God upon His enemies and the enemies of Israel.

It is time to prepare Israel for her Messiah. It is Daniel's 70th week as we have already taught. A time for Israel to bring an end to the transgression and to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy (**Dan.9:24**). It is the time of 'Jacob's trouble' **Jer.30:7 / Dan.12:1**

It is God's intention to bring about the national salvation and forgiveness of the Jews. These will enter into the blessings of the kingdom and they will experience the fulfilment of all of Israel's covenants.

Is.59:20-21 / Matt.23:37-39

The Holy Spirit, who was the restrainer, and who has removed the restraint which held back the Anti-Christ, is still on the earth. He is omnipresent and will be doing the work of regeneration as He did when God was previously dealing with Israel, but without an indwelling ministry.

The two witnesses have preached to prepare Israel for the Second Coming of the Lord. **Rev.11:3-13**

The 144000 Jews are recipients of individual salvation - the first-fruits unto God in the Tribulation.

The individuals who will be saved in the tribulation will know the experience of salvation...yet they will look forward in anticipation of the completion of national salvation at the appearance of the Deliverer because it is part of the covenant promise the Father made to them.

Rom.11:1-2 V26-27 Joel 2:31-32 This covenant promise will be realized in the millennial age.

The Judgment of Israel.

Once He has regathered all the Jews in one place, there will be a reckoning. A time of judgment for the Jews. He will reckon with the remnant of Israel (those who are living when He returns) to determine who shall receive the Kingdom blessing and who will be cast out.

Ezek.20:33-38 These that have been rejected by the Lord, who will not enter the land of Israel are no longer in covenant with Him and they will be cast out and there shall be gnashing of teeth.

Restoring the land of Israel.

Micah 4:6-8 The former dominion was the land according to the original boundaries made by God in **Gen.15:18 - Israel, the land, according to the Abrahamic covenant, must be restored to the boundaries as determined by God. This also entails the preservation of the nation. Israel (the people) must experience a national conversion, be regenerated, receive the forgiveness of sins and the implantation of a new heart. This takes place following the return of Messiah to the earth. Israel must experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that He may produce righteousness in the individual and teach the individual so that there will be fullness of knowledge. J. Dwight Pentecost.**

This covenant promise was made by God as part of an unconditional covenant that He made with Abraham. This promise wasn't hinged upon faithfulness. It was an unconditional promise that God made. The Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant. If you do this then I will do that but everything that God had promised Abraham was unconditional. I will do this. I will do that. God warned that Abraham's descendants would be enslaved for four hundred years but that He would bring them out and deliver them. He promises that He will establish His covenant with Abraham's descendants and their generations. It is an everlasting covenant and the land is Israel's everlasting possession. (**Gen.17:7-8**). This promise has not yet been fulfilled and will be fulfilled in the Millennium. The Father will also establish His New Covenant with them **Jer.31:31-34 / Hosea 2:18-20** **Micah 4:9-13 / V 11** (At the very end – when the Devil is released and is gathering armies against Israel.

Judgment of Israel

For Israel, there will be a further judgment. The Jews will come to stand before the 12 disciples to be judged. However, this time it is not about salvation but about rewards. Just as we have stood before the Judgment seat of Christ to receive our rewards, so now, the Jews will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ and be judged by the 12 disciples. **Matt. 19:27-30.**

Judgment of the Gentile Nations.

Jesus will judge the Gentile nations who are alive at the end of the Tribulation. Those who have either supported Israel or those who have not supported them. This will take place when the Lord has judged and restored the nation of Israel to their land which is at the Second Coming. **Joel 3:1-2** **Finis Jennings Dakes -** *The reason and the basis of the Judgment of the nations. God will curse or bless according to how men have dealt with Israel. He will forever respect and fulfil the Abrahamic covenant. The purpose of this judgment is to determine who (out of the living nations) shall enter the Kingdom. Some will be sent to the lake of fire and eternal punishment. These will make the first-fruits of the second resurrection, which is that of all the wicked dead. Due to their judgment and entrance into hell, they will not be resurrected and judged again.*

So those faithful obedient believers who make it through this judgment are now inhabitants of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and they will continue to live on the earth during the Millennium. Those who despised the gospel and who never obeyed the gospel and never showed mercy to Israel will be judged and sent to the lake of fire.

William Kelly - *Here (the judgment) is a simple and sole issue, which applies only to that living generation of all nations: how did you treat the King's messengers when they preached this gospel of the kingdom before the end came? The end was now evidently come. The test was an open and undeniable fact; but it proved whether they had, or had not, faith in the coming King. Those who honoured the heralds of the kingdom showed their faith by their works; and so did those who despised them manifest their unbelief. The test was not only just but gracious, and the 'King' pronounced accordingly.*

Matt.25:31-46 Judgment of the Gentile nations (the living nations at His Second Coming)

V45-46 *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

The Judgment of fallen angels

Jude 1:6 / 2 Pet.2:4 / Is.24:21

The Lord's reign in Zion

What will the Millennium be like? - Micah 4:1-13

Peace and no conflict

The promised kingdom, in which all the promises and covenants are fulfilled, will be inaugurated by the personal presence and reign of the King.

With Christ as our ruler, we will get to live in a perfect world. Justice, law and order will be according to the governance of our King. For a thousand years, there will be peace. Even the animals will live in peace. The devil will be locked up. There will be no war.

Even the Egyptians, the Jews and the Assyrians will all be allies. All of that conflict in the Middle East will be gone. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation (*Is.2:4*)/ *Is.19:23-25*

Death

Under the rule of our Lord, the universe will revert to the pristine condition it had before the fall. There will be no sickness, weakness, disease and infirmity because none of it can exist in His Presence.

The people from the living nations who survived the Tribulation and the Judgments that followed will marry and have offspring and they will live for a very long time.

'The crisis of death will be experienced only by those incorrigible individuals who rebel against the law of the Kingdom. The ordinary hazards of physical life will be under the direct control of the One whose voice even the winds and waves obey.' **David Jeremiah.**

The Final sifting and destruction of all things evil.

Sin in the Millennium.

Everybody who goes into the Millennium will be righteous. Those of us who returned with Christ as well as those faithful servants who survived the Tribulation. But during those 1000 years, people will be getting married, not those of us who have our new bodies, but those from the living nations who made it through the Tribulation. They will have children. Those children will live in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. They will be raised in the ways of God but they are not automatically born again. They are not automatically Spirit filled. They will still have the sin nature and they will come to an age where they must choose the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and their Lord. And of course these children will eventually have their own children and on it goes...

At this point, the devil is restrained and unable to interfere but when he is released, he is going to walk about and see whom he can devour. They for the first time will have an enemy who is stalking them, seeking to destroy them. Like Adam and Eve they will be confronted by such deception.

Something they have never had to deal with.

Satan will stir up a final rebellion against God and many will be deceived.

Rev.20:7 / V10. And so Jesus destroys these final enemies. / **1 Cor.15:24**

This will be followed by the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Great White Throne Judgment.

This is the final judgment and takes place after the millennial reign. **Rev.20:11-15**

Who will be at the Great White Throne Judgment?

Anyone whose name is not written in the Book of life. Why?

It is simple really, when we reject the Lord Jesus Christ as our means of salvation then we will have to pay the price for our sin ourselves. The only way into the Kingdom of God is by being sinless.

Absolutely sinless. AS that is absolutely impossible, we needed a substitute to pay the price for our sin, in full and that substitute was Jesus. Without Him, we don't stand a chance.

When we do accept the gift that He bought for us with His life, then our names are written in the Book of Life. It is an exchange.

In His surrender, the Lord Jesus Christ chose to obey the Father. As our substitute, He took the judgment for ALL sin and bore the resulting wrath of the Eternal, Righteous Judge.

For mankind to be justified (*just as if we had never sinned*) the standard of a righteous God had to be fully satisfied.

God the Father is absolutely righteous. He is perfectly just and His judgment is according to truth (**Rom.2:2**). He does not bend the lines because 'He IS Love.'

NO! It is precisely this truth, because He is Love and at the same time absolutely righteous that God chose to pay the debt Himself. This was the ONLY way He could redeem us.

The mercy and grace that we experience was paid for in full by the Lord Jesus Christ. He was FULLY punished for ALL SIN. All righteousness had to be fulfilled. The judgment and penalty for ALL SIN was FULLY paid for. **Heb.10:12-14** Jesus, in His warning to the Church at Sardis in **Rev.3:2** says, 'Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before the Lord. **V4-5 / John 3:1-21**

I pray that you would consider carefully the gift of eternal life that has been offered to you. Amen.