

Saint Philip AME Church
Tuesday Bible Study
October 31, 2017
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“The Sequence of Events of Eschatology”

I. Rapture of the Church

The Rapture of the Church is a phrase use to refer to the "catching up" of the church to be with Christ before his Second Coming. The dead in Christ will be raised first and join those that are alive in Christ second and escorted to a heavenly place of rest from their earthly labor.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

15. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

II. The Judgment Seat of Christ

This judgment for believers is described in the books of 2 Corinthians, Matthew and 2 Timothy. The believer's works is rewarded in this judgment. It is not a judgment of the believer's sins. The believer's sins have been fully atoned for in the substitutionary death of Christ, and remembered no more. As a result of this judgment, the believer's works, will be rewarded or loss of rewards. The judgment seat of Christ is necessary for the appointment of places of ruler ship and authority with Christ in His role as "King of kings and Lord of lords" in power and glory.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

III. The Tribulation

The "Tribulation," is a seven-year period of distress and suffering at the end of time. This period of distress was mentioned by Jesus in His "Olivet Discourse" in the books of Matthew 24:15-31; Mark 13:14-27; and Luke 21:25-28. Revelation 7:14 prophesied that some will make it out of the tribulation

Matthew 24:21

21. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again.

IV. The War of Armageddon

The site of the final battle of this age in which God intervenes to destroy the armies of Satan and to cast Satan into the bottomless pit as described in Revelation 20:1-3. Armageddon is the Greek word for an area, which was the scene of many ancient battles. Because of its history, Megiddo became a symbol of the final conflict between God and the forces of evil. According to the Book of Revelation, at Armageddon "God's fierce wrath" will be poured out, and the forces of evil will be overthrown and destroyed.

Revelation 16:19

19. Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

V. The Judgment of Nations

The Judgment of the Nations is referred to in Matthew 25:31-46. It involves the divine dealing with the nations on the basis of their treatment of Israel. The "goat" nations on the left hand involve those peoples who are sent to the lake of fire. The "sheep" nations on the right hand will enter the millennial kingdom. The basis of this judgment is administered on the way the nations have dealt with Israel during the Tribulation period. Old Testament prophecy is clear in its prediction that some Gentile nations will enter the coming kingdom.

Matthew 25:31-34;41;46

31. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world....41. "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.... 46. "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

VI. The Millennium

The thousand-year period mentioned in connection with the description of Christ's coming to reign with His saints over the earth. Many Old Testament passages refer to the millennium Isaiah 11:4; Jeremiah 3:17; Zechariah 14:9. During that thousand-year period, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit so he will not deceive the nations. The faithful servants who have died for the cause of Christ will be resurrected before the millennium. They will rule with Christ and will be priests of God and Christ. The most important aspect of the millennium is the reign of Christ. Peter taught that Christ now rules from the right hand of God in Acts 2:33-36. That rule will last until His enemies are made His footstool. Therefore, the impact of Christ's present rule over the earth from God's right hand is just a small indication of His dynamic future reign during the millennium when Satan and his forces of evil will be locked in the bottomless pit.

Revelation 20:4

4. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

VII. The Great White Throne Judgment

The White Throne Judgment is the last great judgment. It is the judgment of all the unsaved from all ages. The basis for this judgment will be works, with different degrees of punishment. All who are not found in "the book of life" are cast into "the lake of fire." This is called "the second death," which means final and complete cutting off from God's presence.

Revelation 20:11-15

11. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

VIII. The New Heavens

The New heavens and a new earth" is a technical term referring to an important element of biblical eschatology. The phrase itself is found in only four passages Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1. But because of God's promise we are waiting for the new heavens and a new earth in which righteous will dwell." The apostle John saw the inauguration of the age to come in which the promise is fulfilled: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

The new heaven and new earth have through the centuries of biblical proclamation comprised the ultimate eschatological hope of the Christian. The hope for an age of complete blessedness in which the destruction of evil will be completed.

Revelation 21:1;16-19;21

1. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... 16. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17. He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone ... 21. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

“Jesus is Coming Soon”

**GOD LOVES
SEEING YOU IN
BIBLE CLASSES!!!**