

# 4

# JOURNEY: Revelation

AS YOU READ THE BOOK OF REVELATION, MARVEL WITH JOHN AT THE WONDROUS PANORAMA OF GOD'S REVEALED PLAN. BE FULL OF HOPE, KNOWING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL, CHRIST'S VICTORY IS ASSURED, AND ALL WHO TRUST HIM WILL BE SAVED. (LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE)

## 1. Review: Millennial positions

- a. Premillennial: Jesus Christ will return to earth and literally reign on earth for 1,000 years. His return *precedes* the Millennial Reign. Final judgment will follow the Millennium.
- b. Postmillennial: Christ will return after the millennial period, during which the gospel and peace will spread throughout the earth. Some affirm a literal 1,000 period; others, a symbolic one.
- c. Amillennial: There is no literal 1,000-year reign. It is rather symbolic of the Kingdom of God, which is now in the process of realization. The "millennium" constitutes the entire time between the first and second comings of Christ.

## 2. Theology of the "Rapture"

- a. Derived from Latin for "caught up" (*raptus, rapere* – to snatch or take away)
- b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – "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. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up ("raptured") together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."
- c. Major views of the Rapture

	<b>Pre-Tribulation</b>	<b>Mid-Tribulation</b>	<b>Post-Tribulation</b>
Definition	Rapture occurs at the very beginning of the 7-yr Tribulation period	Rapture occurs in the middle of the 7-yr Tribulation period	Rapture occurs at the end of the 7-yr Tribulation period Some: Tribulation is an on-going present reality
Israel and the Church	Strong distinction between the two "Dispensational" approach	Israel and the Church are fused in thinking	Often teaches that the Church has replaced Israel in God's Program ("Replacement Theology")
Correlation to Revelation	Revelation 4	Revelation 11	Revelation 19
Correlation to Seals, etc.	1 <sup>st</sup> half: seals 2 <sup>nd</sup> half: trumpets, bowls (some: trumpets in first half)	1 <sup>st</sup> half: seals, trumpets 2 <sup>nd</sup> half: bowls	No delineation
Key Arguments	Imminence Clear distinctions between rapture and return No judgment against Church Absence of Church in Rev. 4 and following	Distinguishes "tribulation" from "wrath" Pre-wrath position Promise of tribulation Seals and trumpets do not represent wrath	Denial of 2-step return Promise of tribulation and reward Revelation fails to distinguish rapture and return Resurrection of dead occurs at rapture (at return)

### 3. Revelation 6-11

#### a. The Judgments in Revelation (source: John MacArthur)

	<b>Seven Seals</b>	<b>Seven Trumpets</b>	<b>Seven Bowls</b>
1.	Antichrist (6:1-2)	Vegetation burned (8:7)	Terrible sores (16:2)
2.	War (6:3-4)	Sea life destroyed (8:8-9)	Seas turned to blood (16:3)
3.	Famine (6:5-6)	Waters made bitter (8:10-11)	Fresh water to blood (16:4-7)
4.	Pestilence and Death (6:7-8)	Heavens struck (8:12-13)	Sun scorches men (16:8-9)
5.	Martyrs (6:9-11)	Demonic "locusts" (9:1-12)	Darkness and pain (16:10-11)
6.	Cosmic Disasters (6:12-17)	Deadly plagues (9:13-21)	Euphrates dries up (16:12-16)
7.	Seven Trumpets (8:1-6)	Seven bowls (11:15-19)	Final destruction (16:17-21)

Source: John MacArthur, *Because the Time Is Near*, p. 106. Moody Publishers, 2007.

#### b. Issues of interpretation

- 1) Literal or symbolic?
- 2) Historical or futuristic?
- 3) Sequential or cyclical?

#### c. Notes on the text (chapters 6-11)

- 1) The 144,000 (7:4)
- 2) The Great Multitude (7:9)
- 3) The Trumpets (8:2, 6ff)
- 4) The Two Witnesses (11:3ff)
- 5) A significant transition (11:15-18)

## **“Rapture” Scriptures**

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

NKJV

### 1 Corinthians 15:50-52

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

NKJV

### Matthew 24:26-31

26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

NKJV

### John 14:1-4

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

NKJV

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