

July 19, 2015

Left Behind?

John 14:1-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Several recent books and movies talk about the _____ and a sudden disappearance of a mass of people. Does the _____ speak of a rapture and what does it say? Moses wrote, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things _____ belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God doesn't tell us everything, but what He does tell us is sufficient to _____ us into an eternal relationship of joy and peace. God's Word is also sufficient to _____ us distinguish between the imaginary and the real, the true and the false. We're interested in what the Bible actually teaches rather than in speculating about the _____.

Perhaps you've read books or seen movies about the _____ times. Words like "rapture" and phrases like "mark of the beast" and things like "left behind" have been sensationalized by Hollywood and _____ religion. Scenes of sudden, mass disappearances and disasters challenge the imagination, but they _____ people about the Second Coming of the Lord. They say that He will first come invisibly, take away the righteous or rapture them, and seven years later come again _____. According to them, this rapture will begin a seven year _____, and then the Lord will set up a thousand year kingdom. They believe Jesus Christ will _____ over the earth for a thousand years from a throne in Jerusalem and re-establish temple worship. At the beginning of the thousand years or millennium, the devil and his angels will be _____ and peace will exist on the entire earth. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be _____ in order to raise an army against Jesus, but the Lord Jesus will destroy them. They say only then will the _____ judgment take place.

Our reading today is the words of Jesus found in The Gospel According To John 14:1-6.

What does the Bible say will _____ when Jesus comes again? When Jesus comes again on the last day, everyone will _____ it; there'll be no _____ about it! He will appear in the sky; He will _____ the dead (that is, both the good and evil); He will take us all to the Judgment Seat, He'll _____ the earth and all its works; He'll reward the righteous and condemn the unbelievers and ungodly. There are _____ seven years of tribulation or thousand year reign of Christ on earth from Jerusalem. When Jesus comes again, we'll be raised to face Him in the _____! Let's look at each of these events.

First, when Jesus comes again, _____ will know it. Jesus' coming will be _____. Revelation 1:7 says, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and _____ eye will see Him,

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even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.” Not only will it be visible, it will also be announced by the _____ of the archangel and the _____ of God. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16.** Those who have _____ Him will be surprised to find out that they were wrong. They will _____ that they had failed to serve Him and must face His wrath.

Second, when Jesus comes again, He will _____ the dead. Some believe that there is a resurrection of the righteous dead at the rapture and then a thousand years later a resurrection of the _____. But the Bible doesn't teach that there will be _____ earthly resurrections. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in John 5:28-29.** The Lord Jesus clearly states that everyone who is in the tomb will be raised, both the _____ and the _____, at the same hour! To put a thousand year period _____ these resurrections is misleading. When he was on trial, the apostle Paul made it clear that “there shall certainly be a resurrection of _____ the righteous and the wicked” (Acts 24:15). On that day, _____ who are in the tomb shall rise!

Third, Jesus does not have to wait until He comes again to set up His _____. His kingdom is _____ here on earth today. It is the _____! **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 16:18-19.** Jesus promised to _____ His church and to give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. We know Jesus did indeed build His church, and we see its _____ in the book of Acts. One must wonder why Jesus built one thing and gave keys to another, unless the church and the kingdom of heaven are the _____ thing.

When Jesus died upon the cross, He died to _____ the church (Acts 20:28). It wasn't a _____ until the kingdom came, like some have suggested. Someone says, “Well Phil, how do you know that?” Let's think together. In Acts 20:28, Paul spoke of the church, “which He purchased with His own _____.” Jesus shed His blood in order to _____ the church. **Read Revelation 5:9-10.** The same blood of Christ that purchased the church also purchased the _____. The fact is the church that Jesus purchased when He _____ on the cross is the kingdom of God today! There's no _____ kingdom to be established one day; we are in the kingdom _____!

How do we know that? **Read Colossians 1:13-14.** The kingdom that grants us redemption and the forgiveness of sins is the church. The apostle John _____ said that he was in the kingdom. **Read Revelation 1:9.** Just as John was at that time _____ tribulation, he was at that time _____ the kingdom of God. **Read Revelation 1:5-6.** And 1 Peter 2:9 says that we are a “_____ priesthood.” If we are not in a kingdom, how can we be a “royal priesthood”? In Acts 2:30, Peter quoted God's promise to David that He would seat one of his (that is David's descendants) upon his throne and said that the resurrected Jesus Christ fulfilled that _____. He concluded in verse 36, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain

that God has made Him both _____ and _____—this Jesus whom you crucified.” To be Christ, that is to be the Messiah, the son of David, He is to be the _____ of God’s people. To say there is no kingdom today is to say that Jesus is not yet king, but Peter said the resurrected Christ is sitting on His _____ at the right hand of God.

We need to understand that Jesus already is sitting on the _____ and already has full authority. After His resurrection Jesus said, “All authority has been _____ to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). Jesus doesn’t _____ any authority. **Read Ephesians 1:20-21.** Jesus already has authority, and is already on His throne! Revelation 17:14 and Revelation 19:16 proclaim that He is _____ “King of kings” and “Lord of lords.” We don’t have to wait for the future to see Jesus reigning; He overcame _____ at the cross and has been sitting on His throne ever since.

Fourth, when Jesus comes again, He will _____ this world with intense heat. There is no seven year tribulation or thousand year kingdom _____. Second Peter 3:7 says, “But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for _____, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” It is misleading to say that Jesus will stay here _____. The Day of Judgment will see the complete destruction of this _____ world. **Read what Peter explains in 2 Peter 3:10-12.** The same day that Jesus comes, the day of the Lord, is the day that the heavens and earth will be destroyed by burning and melt with intense heat.

Fifth, some say that when Jesus returns He’ll restore Old Testament _____ worship and sacrifices to commemorate the sacrifice of Christ. The Lord’s Supper already commemorates the _____ of Christ on the cross. We’re already remembering His _____ and His _____. There is no need for _____ Old Testament worship. That covenant and its ordinances came to an _____ according to Hebrews 10:1-10. There isn’t any need for a temple made with _____. Paul told the church in Corinth, “Do you not know that _____ are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16). The _____ is the temple of God today! **Read what Paul told the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 2:19-22.** God _____ in His people today, not in some physical building made with stones.

Sixth, some teach there is a 1000-year _____ between the Second Coming of Christ and the final judgment. But this is not what the Bible _____. **Read what 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 teaches.** When Jesus returns, there will be a _____ that very day! There is no _____ between a supposed limited rapture and the second coming!

Seventh and last, we will all stand before the judgment _____ of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). We will all be judged by the Word of God found _____ in the books according to

Revelation 20:11-12. God will judge us by our _____. Those who have lived faithfully will enter _____, and those who did not live faithfully, those who would not believe in Jesus, those who would not obey the gospel, those folks will be _____.

Someone says, “Well, Phil, haven’t you read Revelation 20?” Oh yes, indeed I have. Revelation 20 says nothing about a _____; you can read the whole chapter and it’s not there. Revelation 20 says nothing about a _____ resurrection; it does talk about those in _____ who were resurrected, but nothing about a bodily resurrection. Here he talks about a unique resurrection at the _____ of God. More than that, this chapter says nothing about Jerusalem being the new _____, not one thing in Revelation 20 about a new Jerusalem. Nor is there anything about a literal _____ on earth, not one thing. There’s not one thing in Revelation 20 about rebuilding the _____. In fact, no Scripture in the New Testament says that Christ will ever set _____ on earth again, not a one. First Thessalonians 4:17 says that we will “meet the Lord in the _____, and so shall always be with the Lord.” My question is this, are you _____ to meet Him? Are you right with the Lord, or will you be lost on that day because you were disobedient or unbelieving? Oh, I hope you’ll come to the Lord and get right with Him today.

Throughout history, many have made predictions as to the exact _____ of the return of Jesus Christ. Supposed _____ have suggested date after date. The Bible teaches Christ’s kingdom is not of this _____ (John 18:36). **Read what Jesus said in Matthew 24:35-36.** Later the Lord said to His disciples concerning His Second Coming: “It’s not for you to _____ the times or seasons which the Father has put in His authority” (Acts 1:7). Both Peter and Paul make it clear that the day of the Lord will come like a _____ in the night (2 Peter 3:10 and 1 Thessalonians 5:2).

Even if we don’t know when Jesus will return, we know that He’ll fulfill His _____ to return and judge us. Shouldn’t we be prepared? **Read what Peter said in 2 Peter 3:11.** If the Lord Jesus came today would He _____ the gates of heaven to you or would He _____ you?

If there’s any sin _____ between God and you, don’t let another day pass until you’ve made it right with God. To become a Christian, _____ Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Your faith and your love will lead you to _____ of sin and turn to righteousness. Repentance corrects our behavior and our thinking. A penitent believer is willing to _____ the Lord Jesus Christ before others and to be _____, immersed in water. The Lord Jesus Himself said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is _____ of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). You can enter God’s _____ and be born again when you are in the waters of baptism. So we ask that you respond to God’s love today. Won’t you?