

The School of Prophecy

July 26, 2015

Lesson 5: The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

Zechariah 14:4 NKJV - *And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.*

Revelation 1:7 NKJV - *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV - ¹¹ *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

I. The Apocalypse

A. What is the Apocalypse?

1. The words “revelation” and “apocalypse” are identical in meaning. They are derived from the Greek word “apokalupsis,” meaning the unveiling of something that has previously been hidden.
2. The apocalypse is the revelation of the person of Jesus Christ, who will be revealed at the final coming, or the second coming, of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 NKJV - ⁷ *so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. The apocalypse is the manifestation of God's plan to redeem the earth from the curse of sin through the victory of Christ over Satan and the Antichrist.

Romans 8:21-22 NKJV - *²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

4. The apocalypse is also called the second advent of Jesus Christ. It is called this because this is when Jesus returns with an army of angels and raptured believers to destroy the forces of evil.

II. Apocalyptic Events

A. Events that Precede the Second Coming

1. True, born-again believers will be raptured and they will return with Christ as part of the heavenly army.
2. Antichrist will have broken his covenant with Israel at the midpoint of the tribulation.
3. The gospel must be preached in all the world before the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24:14 NKJV - *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

III. The Nature of the Second Coming

A. Characteristics

1. The return of Christ will be a bodily return.

1 John 1:1 NKJV - *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.*

2. His appearing will be in the clouds of heaven. Although He will be clearly visible, He will be surrounded by clouds.

Acts 1:9 NKJV - *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

3. His return will be in full view of all the people of the earth. His glory will be brighter than the sun.

Acts 26:13 NKJV - *At midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.*

4. Christ returns to the Mount of Olives. He ascended to heaven from this mount and at His second coming, He will set His feet there.

Zechariah 14:4 NKJV - *And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.*

IV. The Event that Precipitates the Apocalypse

A. The Battle of Armageddon

1. The word "Armageddon" appears only one time in the Bible. It is translated from the Hebrew word "megiddo," meaning a mountain or range of hills. It was sometimes used figuratively.

Revelation 16:16 NKJV - *And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

2. The Battle of Armageddon is the event that precipitates the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. The armies of the world will gather in Palestine to subdue Israel and to fight against Christ.

Revelation 19:19 NKJV - *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*

3. Such a great army will be assembled against Christ, and so many will die that it will take seven months to bury them.

Ezekiel 39:12 NKJV - *For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.*

4. At Armageddon, Christ comes as the judge and the executioner of all evil in order that righteousness may rule.

II Thessalonians 1:7-10 NKJV - ⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

5. The Antichrist and the false prophet will be captured and they will be cast alive into the lake of fire.

Revelation 19:20 NKJV - *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

6. An angel of God will seize Satan and will cast him into the bottomless pit. Then the angel will seal the pit so that Satan can not escape.

Revelation 20:2-3 NKJV - ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

7. With the destruction of the Antichrist and his allied forces, the victory of Christ is complete. The title King of kings and Lord of lords symbolizes His authority and rulership that will be manifest throughout all of eternity.

Revelation 17:14 NKJV - *These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*