

## THE EMINENT RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

### Part IV

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18

Intro: I began this series by stating that the next major, climactic heavenly event to happen will be the rapture of the church. This special occurrence with unmatched ebullience and exponential splendor will be unprecedented in its entirety. In addition to this prodigious event, there are *other* thrilling events that will occur *after* the catching away of the church. These include: the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Millennium, and the New Heavens and the New Earth.

- I. Events leading up to the one thousand year reign of Christ on the earth
  - A. Preparation for the great event
    1. After the two witnesses have preached, are killed, are raised from the dead, and are then taken up into Heaven, the rewards are passed out. The Marriage Supper takes place, and all of the resurrected saints get to view the Lamb's wife, the New Jerusalem. Revelation 19:9, 21:2, 9. Preparations then begin for the great Battle of Armageddon.
    2. Christ and His armies assemble. Revelation 19:11-16.
    3. The opponent, the beast and his armies. Revelation 19:19. We should make note that the beast and his armies make war against Christ *and* His armies. We are in the battle with Christ. Revelation 19:19.
      - a. The duration of the battle is one day. Zechariah 14:7.
  - B. The purpose of Christ coming with His saints to earth.
    1. To deliver the Jews and earthly Jerusalem from the armies of the antichrist. Zechariah 14:1-14; Revelation 20:1-3.
      - a. There will be a total defeat to the armies of the earth and spirit forces under Satan. Revelation 20:1-3.
- II. The facts concerning the thousand year reign of Christ on earth.
  - A. After the binding of Satan, John saw thrones and their occupants. Revelation 20:6.
    1. The Lord gathers *together* those which are in Heaven and on earth. Ephesians 1:10.
    2. Favorable reign. There will be many wonderful conditions on earth during the Millennium while Christ is personally ruling and reigning.
    3. Theocratic government. God reigning through Jesus Christ. Revelation 11:15.
      - a. We shall reign with Him. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 1:6.
      - b. Earthly Jerusalem will be the seat of His government. Isaiah 2:2-4.
- III. Who will be the subjects of this reign? Zechariah 14:16-21. All those who are left and have survived the great battle. They will be the people who will come from year to year to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of the Tabernacles. Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 22. All nations now in existence on the earth and who will be living when Christ comes will continue as such in the kingdom forever.
  - A. Governed by Christ's laws. Isaiah 11:3-5.
  - B. Conditions (no curse). Isaiah 11:6-9.
  - C. Jewish temple built. Zechariah 6:12-13.
  - D. The river of the millennial temple. Ezekiel 47:1-12.
  - E. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Joel 2:28-32.
  - F. Universal knowledge. Isaiah 11:9; Zechariah 8:22-23.
  - G. Universal religion. Zechariah 14:16-21.
  - H. The glory of the Lord. Ezekiel 43:1-5.
  - I. Divine healing for all. Isaiah 53:1-5.
  - J. Increase in light (sun, moon). Isaiah 30:26, 60:19-20.
  - K. Changes in animal temperament. Isaiah 11:6-8, 65:25.
  - L. Land restored. Isaiah 35:1-10.
  - M. Love and righteousness shall prevail on earth. Isaiah 62:1.

Conclusion: Words cannot adequately express the awesome beauty and wonder of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. It will fulfill all our desires and bring to us absolute perfect peace. We will finally see a just and perfect government ruling the earth. There will be no injustice, for all will enjoy our Lord's abundance. Any wonder that John said in Revelation 22:20, "... *even so, come, Lord Jesus.*"