

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapters 8-11 – The *Second* Journey Through the Tribulation Period

THE TWO WITNESSES – PART TWO – REVELATION 11:3-14

Last week in *part one* we learned the identity and mission of the two witnesses. Today in *part two* we will concentrate on their resurrection from the dead and the unusual _____ they experience. Although the tribulation period has not officially ended at this point in Revelation 11:3-14, it is at the very end—thus called the *post tribulation rapture*. Through the events of this text, we will learn about the erroneous rapture beliefs and explain, by sound _____, the key raptures described in scripture.

1. Their death – Revelation 11:7-10

- a. They are killed by the _____ – verse 7; 20:4
- b. Their corpses will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days – verses 8-9
- c. The world will _____ because of their martyrdom – verse 10

2. Their resurrection – Revelation 11:11

- a. The Spirit of life from God will _____ them from the dead – Ro. 8:2, 10
 - They will stand up on their feet as if nothing happened to them
 - After being dead for 3½ days this will be especially meaningful to the Jewish observers. Jewish tradition believes that the spirit of a man remains in them for 3 days... this is why Jesus waited 4 days to raise Lazarus – Jo. 11:17
- b. Those present and those watching will be consumed with _____

3. Their rapture – Revelation 11:12-14

- a. They are raptured while their enemies are watching
 - The voice from heaven seems to be heard by everyone

- Their enemies consist of the entire _____ population, including the few Jewish hierarchy that have either remained in the city faithful to the antichrist or Jews throughout the world watching on their electronic devices, still rejecting Jesus Christ as Messiah
- There are present in Jerusalem, genuine believers (remnant) that have *endured until the end*

b. This rapture is gradual and _____

- The rapture of the church is instant and _____

The rapture of the church marks the beginning of the 7 year tribulation

- This *post tribulation rapture* marks the imminent return of Jesus Christ

4. The raptures of scripture

a. The word rapture is _____ found in the Bible

- The word rapture:

The *word* was first used in English texts in the 17th century. It was related to the catching up of NT saints to meet Christ in the air. The word rapture indicates a near violent or abrupt taking away

- The scriptural terms are:

Firstfruits, _____, caught up, the catching up, resurrection(s), the resurrection of the dead, in the twinkling of an eye, meet the Lord in the air, the blessed hope, taken, gleanings

- A very practical Bible word to use is: _____

There are three key stages to a harvest – *Firstfruits* (the first fruit that appears in early Spring), *Main Harvest* (the highest volume yield during the Summer months), *Gleanings* (the last of the fruit in the Fall)

The OT foreshadow or type of three NT harvests – Deut. 16:16

b. There are three NT *harvests* in the Bible (concerning our subject matter in this point 4)

1) Firstfruits – The taking of deceased Old Testament saints after Christ's substitutionary death

Jesus went _____ to the heart of the earth after his death to preach to the OT saints in Abraham's bosom (paradise) located across the great gulf from hell. He then led the captive saints to heaven waiting to return with us as recorded in Revelation 19 (either having received or waiting to receive their new millennial bodies) – Ps. 24; Mt. 12:38-40; Lk. 16:19-31; 23: 39-43; Acts 2:22-31; Eph. 4:8-10; 1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6; Rev. 19:11-14

Notes: Many OT Saints came up out of their graves after Jesus' resurrection and going into Jerusalem appeared to many. It is believed by many that they also were raptured to heaven after a short time as part of the Firstfruits (Mt. 27:50-53), while others believe them to have lived on only to die _____ to experience the rapture of church age saints (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

2) Main Harvest – The rapture of New Testament saints prior to the 7 year tribulation

The private rapture or catching up of all born again believers, in the twinkling of an eye, of both the dead and living, to meet the Lord in the air. This is the most well-known and believed rapture. It is unwittingly considered by most Christians to be the one and only rapture – 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58

Notes: This is referred to as the *pre-tribulation rapture*. It is _____ related to the erroneous split rapture, mid-tribulation rapture, or pre-wrath rapture. None of these are correct... they are purported by picking and choosing verses here and there—false doctrine is usually truth out of place or wrested out of context – 2 Peter 3:16

This sound doctrinal harvest has many OT types: Enoch, Noah, Rahab, Boaz and Ruth, the feast of trumpets, Solomon and his Gentile Shulammite bride

3) Gleanings – The rapture of tribulation saints prior to the second coming of Jesus

This rapture includes both the dead and living saints such as the two witnesses Moses and Elijah, the 144,000 Jewish male virgin witnesses, and others that did not receive the mark of the beast who were either martyred (dead) or persecuted (alive and enduring to the end) for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God – Hos. 6:11; Mt. 22:1-14; 24:29-31, 40-42; 25:1-13; Rev. 7:14; 11:12; 14:14-16; 16:15

Notes: Although we refer to this event as the *post tribulation rapture*, it does not completely fit the strict definition of the word *rapture* as it concerns the two witnesses—a near violent, abrupt, snatching away.

This sound doctrinal harvest has OT types: Noah, Lot, Elijah

5. Conclusion

- While this basic study has shown there to be many raptures and three significant harvests, there are only _____ *primary* raptures (as we typically use the word):

- 1) The private pre [seven year] tribulation rapture of NT saints
- 2) The public post tribulation rapture of tribulation saints