

# The Second Coming of Jesus

## The Rapture Question

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

### I. Introductory Remarks.

The question concerning the second coming of Jesus is an important question for the Church to come to grips with in this hour of its destiny. If the Church is to go on believing that Jesus can return at any time for an unperfected Church, then the Church will continue in its spirit of apathy instead of getting a vision for the glorious church without spot or wrinkle spoken of in the fifth chapter of Ephesians.

- **The Study of the Second Coming is Basic Bible Doctrine.**

The question concerning the rapture is part of the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, which is one of the foundational stones of the Christian faith; therefore it is very important that the understanding of this doctrine be established in our minds and hearts. It is needed before we can go on to maturity.

***Hebrews 6:1-3** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of **resurrection of the dead**, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do **if God permits**.*

- **We Are Not To Be Deceived About This Truth.**

The question concerning the rapture or the second coming of Jesus was an issue that the apostle Paul had to address from time to time also. Paul speaks to the Thessalonians here concerning the importance about not being deceived about this issue.

***2 Thessalonians 2:1-3** Now, brethren, **concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **Let no one deceive you by any means;** for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition...*

## II. Eschatological View Points.

Eschatological views fall into categories determined by the relationship of Christ's return and the millennium. The three basic views, with a myriad of adaptations, are that Christ's return will be: 1) Postmillennial, 2) Amillennial, or the 'realized millennium' and 3) Premillennial. <sup>2</sup>

### 1. The Postmillennial View Point.

Postmillennialism is the belief that Christ's return will be after (Post) the thousand years (millennium). The postmillennialists hold the historical view of Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy and a future view of the millennium.

### 2. The Amillennialism, Or 'Realized Millennialism' Viewpoint.

Amillennialism, or 'realized millennialism,' is the belief that the millennial time is now a present reality. The millennium is then the time between the first coming of Christ and the eternal states; it is the church age. Then Christ will return for his church. They do not believe in a set time for the present age or the destiny of 'the triumphant church.' They hold the historical view of Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy and a present-tense view of the millennium.

### 3. The Premillennial View.

The Premillennialists' view is that Christ's return will be before (Pre) the literal thousand years (millennium). They hold a futuristic interpretation of the 70th week of Daniel's 70-Week Prophecy and a futuristic view of the millennium.

- **Three Differing Views Amongst Pre-Millennialists.**

There are three differing views concerning the timing of the rapture amongst the pre-millennialists: (1) pre-tribulational, (2) mid-tribulational and (3) post-tribulational. There are problems with all three of these views, because they do not fit into the context or the exegesis of other scriptures. Any doctrine that we believe and hold to must fit into the context of the Bible, because no scripture is of private interpretation.

The belief that will be presented in this lesson will be basically Premillennial, but somewhat different even from what they believe. The basic difference being how the 70th week of Daniel's Seventy-Week Prophecy is fulfilled.

The belief presented here is that the last 7 years are divided, 3 1/2 years ending at the crucifixion of Jesus and the final 3 1/2 years ending at the 2nd Coming of Jesus. It is also believed that the Church has a destiny to fulfill as the glorious church, the bride of Christ. (See [Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy](#))

### **III. The Challenge to Rightly Divide the Truth.**

There is a tendency for anyone to twist scriptures to fit their own view and interpretation, but the challenge is to learn how to rightly divide the word of truth. We have a responsibility before God and before each other to rightly divide the word of truth concerning any doctrine.

**2 Peter 1:20** *...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation...*

**2 Peter 3:16** *...as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

In this lesson and the lesson to follow, the goal will be to accurately get a picture of what God has to say concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ and its timing by comparing the many scriptures on this important study of God's word and by allowing the scriptures to interpret themselves.

- **The Bible says this is a great mystery concerning Christ and His church.**

**Ephesians 5:32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

The goal in this study shall be to approach the subject by looking at all of the various clues that are found in the scriptures. By putting them together you will begin to see a clear picture emerging of the Second coming of Christ and the Church during the Great tribulation.

It will also be important to make sure we major on the scriptures that are clear and not on the vague and unclear. When we focus on the clearly stated scriptures, we find that the vague or nebulous scriptures fit.

#### IV. Definition of the Word "Rapture."

The word rapture is not even in the Bible, but is derived from the words "caught up" found in I Thessalonians 4:13-17.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17** *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.*

The word "caught up" in the (Greek) is the word "harpazo", which means catch (away, up), pull take (by force).

The word rapture in all actuality refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ. In fact, if Biblical scholars down through the ages would have left it in the terms of the second coming or the first resurrection there wouldn't be as much controversy surrounding this important doctrine.

#### V. Key Scriptures, Thoughts and Words.

There are many key scriptures, thoughts and words that will enable us to rightly divide the word of truth concerning the timing of the Second Coming of Christ. As we look at these key thoughts, words and scriptures we will see that the Bible consistently interprets the timing of The Second Coming of Jesus to be after the "Great Tribulation" spoken of in the book of Revelation and other books as well.

##### 1. When He Returns He Shall Come On The Clouds Of Heaven.

When Jesus ascended into heaven the disciples were told by two men in white apparel that Jesus would return in the same manner. A cloud took Him away.

**Acts 1:9-11** *...He was taken up, and **a cloud received Him** out of their sight... two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven."*

- **Jesus said that He would come again (speaking of His second coming) on the clouds of heaven.**

**Matthew 26:64** *Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to*

*you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

**Luke 21:27** *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

**Matthew 24:29-31** *"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. **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. **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.*

These passages of Scripture place the timing of Jesus' coming on the clouds of heaven after the tribulation. It says, *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven..."*

The thought I want to bring out here is that in each one of these passages of scripture, when the disciples were told to look for the second coming of Jesus, they were told to look for Him coming on the clouds of heaven.

This scene of Jesus returning on the clouds of heaven is without a doubt placed at the end of the tribulation. If there is to be a secret appearing of Jesus that takes place before this, why weren't the disciples of Jesus told to wait for it or told what to expect?

## **2. Jesus Referred To The Timing Of His Second Coming.**

The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him point blankly, "What will be the sign of your coming?" In response Jesus gave them a very direct answer.

**Matthew 24:3** *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Notice in verses 4, 5 & 23, He warns them about being deceived as to when His second coming would be. Jesus is telling them very clearly that people will try to deceive them concerning the timing of His coming. I believe Jesus wants us to have a clear understanding of when we can

expect Him to come, so that we won't get deceived into thinking that He has already come. Verse 36 just says, "*that no one will know the day or the hour.*" It doesn't say anything about the year or season that He will come.

Those who advocate a pre-tribulation or a mid-tribulation rapture say that if He is going to come at the end of the tribulation we will know when He is coming, so then they say that it is a contradiction of scripture, because we are not supposed to know that. It is not a contradiction because you are still not going to know the day or the hour. Don't make the scripture say something it does not say.

Jesus gave a direct response to the question that had been posed to Him in verse 3, where the disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of His coming?" He said it would be immediately after the tribulation. Notice that it also says that His appearing shall come with the sound of a great trumpet. This is another one of those key words to this great mystery of which we will discuss a little later in the lesson.

***Matthew 24:29-31*** "*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. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...*

The question we must ask ourselves is, "If there is to be a rapture or a secret appearing of Jesus before this event, as both those who advocate a pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation rapture say, why didn't Jesus speak of it?" But instead, Jesus warns us against those who say, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'there!' do not believe it.

### **3. The Apostle Paul Referred to the Timing of The Second Coming.**

Paul also writes by the Holy Spirit concerning the Second Coming of Jesus and exhorts his followers not to be deceived into believing that He will come before the second coming.

***2 Thessalonians 2:2-4*** *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (See vss. 1-4)*

When Paul speaks here of the Second Coming of Christ he is obviously

referring to the same time sequence as Jesus was, because he says it cannot happen until the lawless one is revealed and destroyed by the brightness of His coming. When Jesus returns at His second coming, Satan and all of his cohorts and those who do not obey the gospel are going to be destroyed. (See 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10 also).

Again, we must ask ourselves the question, "if there is to be a rapture or secret appearing before the Second Coming of Jesus, why didn't Paul mention it to these believers?" He instead warns them not to be soon shaken or deceived by any means, because that day is not going to come until the falling away comes first and the man of perdition is revealed.

#### **4. Luke Referred To The Second Coming of Jesus in Acts.**

***Acts 3:20-21**"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, "whom heaven must receive (retain - NIV) until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

This scripture makes it very clear that Jesus is literally being bound to heaven and cannot be released until all that the prophets have foretold comes to pass. *(There will be more about this later in the study).*

This also shows us that the gospels, the Book of Acts and the Epistles are all in agreement concerning The Second Coming of Christ. This is an important point to consider

## **VI. The Sounding of The Last Trumpet.**

One of the major keys to unlocking the puzzle of this great mystery concerning Christ and His Church, is understanding the timing and the events that take place at the last trumpet. If one is to solve this great mystery then one must approach it in the same way a detective would approach a mystery, which is by looking for clues. There are many clues as we have already seen in this study but I believe this clue concerning the last trumpet is a major clue that will unlock the puzzle for us.

***1 Thessalonians 4:15-17** 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. 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**. Then we who are*

*alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air... (see vss. 13-17) for context)*

There are some key thoughts and words in this passage of scripture concerning the timing of the Second Coming.

### **1. The Dead in Christ Rise First.**

It says, *"those of us who are alive and remaining at The Second Coming of Christ shall not precede the dead in Christ."* In other words what it is saying is that those Christians who have already died in Christ shall meet Jesus in the air first before those of us who are alive and remaining.

Notice that it also said that the Lord would descend from heaven with the voice of an archangel and the trumpet of God. This ties together with the passage in Matthew 24 where Jesus said His coming shall be announced by the angels of God with a great trumpet. The obvious question to ask yourself here is, "When do the dead in Christ arise?" Because there is going to be no rapture of any kind until this happens.

### **2. It Is At The Last Trumpet When The Dead In Christ Are Raised.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52** *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; 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.*

It says, "At the last trumpet the dead shall be raised." It is absolutely at the last trumpet that the dead are raised and if it is the last trumpet that is exactly what it means. If something is the last it is the last.

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 is the primary scripture used by those who advocate a pre-tribulation rapture. It is very obvious now that what we need to find out is, "When precisely does the last trumpet sound?"

### **3. The Timing of The Last Trumpet.**

In the Book of Revelation there are seven trumpets that are to be sounded by angels who are to bring forth God's final judgment upon the earth before His return. The opening of the seventh seal is a prelude to the sounding of the seven trumpets.

**Revelation 8:1-2** *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in*

*heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.*

In this study we are not so much concerned with the timing and order of the seal judgments or even the other trumpet judgments, but the area of focus will be the timing of the events that happen during the sounding of the seventh or last trumpet, since it is during the sounding of this trumpet that the dead are raised and then we who are alive and remain on earth are raised to meet them in the air.

- **The Mystery of God will be Finished.**

At the sounding of this seventh trumpet by the seventh angel the mystery of God will be finished that He has declared to His servants the prophets. Let's remember at this point in this study that according to Acts 3:20-21 that Jesus is being retained in heaven until all that has been spoken by the prophets since the world began comes to pass. It's at this point that the Bible says, everything that has been declared by the prophets is now finished and Jesus is free to return.

**Revelation 10:7** *but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

Note that it says, "in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel". This suggests the sounding of this trumpet takes place for a number of days.

**Revelation 11:15-19** *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ...because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged... Then the **temple of God was opened** in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.*

This is another passage of scripture that has to do with the sounding of the seventh trumpet also. In it we find some more clues as to what is happening during this trumpet.

- Christ shall reign forever and ever over the kingdoms of this world.
- The nations are very angry because God's final wrath is about to come.
- It is a time for the dead to be judged

- and the time to reward the servants of God.
- The temple of God was opened

This passage ends with a major clue, which leads us to the next clue.

It says, "Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple." God's temple is now being opened, but no one is able to enter it yet, until the seven final plagues of God's judgment are completed. This is all taking place during the sounding of the seventh trumpet. (Revelation 15:1-8).

***Revelation 15:5-6*** *After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.*

This is the third woe spoken of in Revelation 11:14 that is to come quickly. There are two major reasons that lead me to believe that these plagues are happening during the blowing of the seventh trumpet.

1. The scene of the temple being opened in Revelation 11:19 is the same scene found here in Revelation 15:5-6. In fact, it is out of this temple that the seven plagues come from.
2. The scene described in Revelation 16:18 during the seventh bowl judgment concerning the noises, thunderings, lightnings, hail and a great earthquake is the same description in Revelation 11:19 that takes place during the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
3. The reason this is so important is that in I Corinthians 15:52 it says, "at the Last Trumpet the dead shall be raised". This could happen at any time during the sounding of the last trumpet, but Revelation 16:15-21 places the second coming somewhere between the sixth and seventh bowl of God's judgment.

***Revelation 16:15*** *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."*

The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, but we are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake us as a thief.

***1 Thessalonians 5:2,4*** *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of*

*the Lord so comes as a thief in the night... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

This passage of scripture is referring to the passage in I Thessalonians 4:17, which places it now in the context of Revelation 16:15 at the end of the tribulation.

The apostle Peter also confirms the timing of this great event by using the same terminology. He says, "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise. The seventh trumpet spoke of the great noises and thunderings that would occur at this time.

***2 Peter 3:10*** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

Every clue that we have received up until now has shown that it is here at the end of the great tribulation that Jesus is going to return. This is where the dead in Christ are raised.

There is nowhere in scripture where it speaks of Christians being raptured to heaven prior to this event. This is the same scene the apostle Paul described in I Thessalonians 4:17 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8 and the same one Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:29-31.

## **VII. The Actual Return of Jesus Christ.**

As the seventh angel pours out his bowl into the air, the announcement is made, "It is done!"

***Revelation 16:17-18*** *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. (See vss. 15-21 for whole context).*

The consummation of all things is at hand and Jesus is finally able to be released from heaven to destroy the inhabitants of the earth. But before He does that, all of the saints who have died in Christ and those of us who

remain are gathered into the heavens to meet Jesus in the air and we then return with Him.

**Matthew 24:31** *"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.*

**Jude 1:14-15** *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

**Revelation 19:11** *Then 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. (See Vss. 11-21 for whole context).*

I believe it has been established very well up to this point in this study that the actual return of Jesus Christ takes place at the very end of the Great Tribulation or in a Post-tribulation period.

## **VIII. The Problem with Post-Tribulation.**

There still remains a major problem to this mystery and that is that there are a number of scriptures that actually refer to Christians being preserved or protected from the tribulation. As was stated at the beginning of this study, there are problems with all three views that pre-millennialists hold to.

The scriptures that speak of Christians being preserved from or not going through tribulation are used by those who advocate a pre-tribulation and a mid-tribulation rapture.

The obvious thing to do at this point would be to look at the scriptures that speak of being preserved and then to see if God has a plan of how He intends to do that.

### **1. Will Christians Be Preserved During The Great Tribulation?**

**Revelation 3:10** *"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

This scripture speaks of being kept from the hour of temptation which shall come upon the world. The word (kept) here is the greek word (tereo), which means to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon. It also implies a fortress or full military lines of apparatus. (Strongs Concordance #5083)

By guarding to cause one to escape in safety out of the power and assaults of Satan. (Thayers #5083)

God's wrath, tribulation and anguish are to be poured out on the unrighteous, but glory honor and peace to every man that does good.

**Romans 2:7-10** *...eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness; indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (See Vss. 5-6 also).*

**Romans 5:9** *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** *and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

**Nahum 1:7-8** *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, and darkness will pursue His enemies. (See vss. 1-11 for whole context).*

This passage of scripture deals with God's final outpouring of His wrath during the great tribulation. Verse 7 says, "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knows them that trust in Him." God will be a stronghold to the Christians who have complete trust in Him during this terrible time. But we must take heed unto ourselves and be on guard against the enemy or we shall be snared.

**Luke 21:34-36** *"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day*

*come on you unexpectedly. "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

Therefore we are to watch and pray that we be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass.

Zephaniah speaks of a gathering together before the day of the Lord's fierce anger comes. He instructs us to seek righteousness and humility and it may be that we will be hidden in the day of the LORD'S anger.

**Zephaniah 2:1-3** *Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, before the day passes like chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you! Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.*

The Bible has spoken very clearly that the first resurrection or the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ takes place at the very end of the Great Tribulation of God's wrath. It has also spoken of Christians being preserved and kept during this time and that if we watch and pray and seek humility and righteousness there is a good chance we will be hidden or kept from the fierceness of God's wrath. So what is the answer? Is there a way out for God's people?

**Isaiah 26:20-21** *Come My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.*

God does have a plan for His people, as we shall see in the next study.<sup>3</sup>

## **IX. Summary.**

- The word rapture is not in the Bible, but is derived from the words "caught up" found in 1 Thessalonians 4:12-17.
- The rapture is all actuality refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- When Jesus returns He shall return on the clouds of heaven. It is at the end of the "Great Tribulation" that Jesus returns on the clouds of

heaven.

- When the disciples asked Jesus when His Second coming would be, He stated specifically it would be at the end of the "Great Tribulation". He did not speak of any other appearing.
- The apostle Paul said that the "falling away" and the revealing of the antichrist must come before the second coming of Christ, when warning the Thessalonians about being deceived about His return.
- The second coming of Christ will take place during the sounding of the Last Trumpet or the seventh trumpet in the book of Revelation.
- The Last Trumpet sounds at the end of the "Great Tribulation".
- At the sounding of the Last Trumpet the mystery of God will be finished and Jesus is finally free to be released from heaven to come for His Church.
- There are many scriptures that elude to the fact that Christians will be preserved and kept safe during the Great Tribulation. God has a plan as we will see in the next lesson.

---

## End Notes

1. The three viewpoints of postmillennial, amillennialism, and premillennial were also taken from the Book, "A Summary of Contemporary Doctrines of Abbott Loop Christian Center, Conference Edition", pages 100-102.

2. The doctrinal position I have taken in this study is a result of the wonderful input I have had from people like Apostles Dick Benjamin and Jim Feeney and also from the teachings of W.H. Offiler and W.W. Patterson.