

## 1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **LESSON 36**

#### 2 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

#### 3 **TIME ELEMENT GRAPHIC**

#### 4 **RAPTURE TO ARMAGEDDON TIME CHART GRAPHIC**

#### 5 **TIME ELEMENT GRAPHIC**

#### 6 **RECAP**

- Last week we finished chapter 11
- We saw in verses 16 and 17 the great worship service
- We then saw in verse 19 the the temple of God in heaven was opened and there was seen the ark of His testimony
- There were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake and great hail
- We went to chapter 16, the earth's viewpoint

#### 7 **THE SEVENTH PLAGUE**

Revelation 16:17-19

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

#### 8 **THE SEVENTH PLAGUE cont.**

Revelation 16:20-21

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

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- This final earthquake will be the greatest ever experienced since creation
- This earth will reel like a drunkard (Isaiah 24:20)

#### 9 **THE SEVENTH PLAGUE cont.**

- The mountains will move out of their places and into the sea
- The whole topography of the earth will be drastically changed
- It would seem that the works of man, done in sin, must all be destroyed
- What is left after the earthquake will be destroyed by hail
- Each hail stone will weigh about a talent which is about 65 pounds
- The earthquake and hail come about just before the battle of Armageddon and Jesus comes back with His bride

#### 10 **THE SEVENTH PLAGUE cont.**

- These two events bring to an end the purging and destruction necessary to do away with the results of sin
- This also brings us to the time when the reconstruction of the earth can begin
- From the time of the Rapture until this time the world has gone through the redemption process legally and physically
- This is when the reconstruction of the earth may begin
- It will take the Millennium to return the earth to its original perfect state
- Jesus sends out the saints to go get those that do not come up to worship Jesus on that throne of David

#### 11 **THE MILLENIUM**

- He sends drought to the nations that aren't quick enough to be changed and made complete

- There will be the rule with the rod of iron for those 1,000 years
- There will be the 1,000 years of peace, Jesus sees to it along with the bride
- It takes that long for mankind and the earth to totally be returned to perfection for eternity
- The 1,000 years will be accomplished by a perfect plan that God has already laid out
- This plan was put into action all the way back to the Garden of Eden

## 12 **TWO ACCOUNTS - SAME EVENTS**

- God's perfect plan will be accomplished and supervised by Jesus and the saints
- We have two records – the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet-the 7<sup>th</sup> vial – that gives us a good example of the two histories of this time period
- These both refer to the same thing: the coming of the kingdom of God
- The trumpet record views the scene from heaven
- The vial record tells the same story but being viewed on the earth
- As we move to chapters 12-16 our view will be on the earth as seen by those left behind after the Rapture

## 13 **CLOSE OF HEAVEN'S VIEWPOINT**

- We will see in more vivid detail from the earth's point of view, the results of the final earthquake and great hail
- This brings to an end the whole period between the Rapture and the return of Jesus Christ as seen from heaven
- As we progress to view these events from earth's point of view we find that Antichrist dominates the scene
- The trumpet record, the view from heaven, is chronological; events are numbered and they all take place in the order numbered
- Some lengths of time are also given: 3-1/2 years, a year, month, and day

## 14 **EARTH'S VIEWPOINT**

- The earth history that is to follow is topical

- Events are topical and they are arranged according to subject
- The general order is the same as seen from the harmony of the two sections; heaven and earth
- Two series of events may be happening at the same time
- One series of events may start before another ends
- A topical arrangement may not be wholly chronological

#### 15 **HARMONY OF REVELATION GRAPHIC**

#### 16 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

#### 17 **INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 12**

- John retraces his steps back to Room 2 on our chart and then enters Room 4
- This would be the viewpoint of those left behind from the Rapture as they would still be on the earth
- John will now be seeing what's been happening on the earth during the same period of time that he viewed the events in heaven
- Chapters 12 through 16 do not give the story of the whole earth during this time; only those things that concern the saints
- The grand events such as the return of the Jews and the kingdom of David are not covered here as they do not directly concern the church – See the Book of Daniel for those event details

#### 18 **INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 12 cont.**

- We will see here more details of the Rapture
- The Rapture was mentioned in chapter 4 and it was presented as John representing the bride
- The 12<sup>th</sup> chapter begins exactly the same place as the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter
- The difference being that John remains on earth, as one left behind, and sees the rise of Antichrist and the other events the Scriptures describe as The Day of the Lord
- To better understand this part of our study as those of the bride, let's us look into some of the Scriptures regarding the Rapture

#### 19 **THE RAPTURE**

Luke 17:32-36

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

20  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- These verses of Scripture are describing the ones who are ready
- These are similar to the 5 wise virgins: those who will be ready will be those who are taken at that time
- Revelation says that if you are righteous when that time comes you'll be righteous eternally and if you are not ready you will be damned eternally (Revelation 22:11)
- When the Rapture happens that will be it: no more changes
- Our readiness to go is as an individual: not dependent on anything or anyone else

21  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-16

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead

in Christ shall rise first:

22  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

17 then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

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- We have here a picture of the manner of the Rapture or the "catching away" of the bride
- There will be a shout, a voice, and a trumpet call
- The saved in Jesus Christ, those who are already dead, will rise first
- The first of the dead on this side of the cross was Stephen who was martyred

23  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

- Afterwards we which remain, those who are living, will be instantly translated and caught up to meet them in the air
- We all then join Jesus in the clouds
- Notice the term "caught up" as an expression of the manner of our going
- Notice also there is the voice of Michael the archangel
- He has a definite work to do in connection with the Resurrection

24  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

Daniel 11:45, 12:1-2

45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

25  **THE RAPTURE cont.**

Daniel 12:3

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.

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- Here we find the reason for the Rapture
- It is to save God's people from a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation upon the earth
- This is such a strong statement when we consider the wars and calamities in the history of the world as we know it
- This time is known as The Great Tribulation and the seven last plagues

26  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE**

- This time period will not only be the worst trouble the world has ever seen, it will be different in nature
- There will not only be trouble from the failures of men in self-government which result in war, famine, disease, pests
- This is a time of judgement which is a direct visitation of God's wrath
- We have seen God's anger before with the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah
- We see here one of the two sides of God (Romans 11:22)
- God's Word tells us exactly what to do and He gives us the power to do it through the Holy Ghost

27  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- It is up to us whether we become the sons of God or not when we have the power of the Holy Ghost
- Add to the direct visitation of God's anger on the world that Satan himself is to be judged on the earth as well

- During his time reigning over the earth Satan will have brought evil to its utmost; to a state of harvest
- Evil has grown so much and spread throughout the cultures of the world, it is in almost everything
- Evil in many forms attacks us continuously and we actually become accustomed to it
- We must recognize the value of a mind that does not allow evil to enter in

28  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- We need to keep our mind clear for God
- We have to be willing to pay the price for keeping our minds clear of evil influences
- It is up to us what we do with our mind
- We put the evil of the world in our minds by what we do or do not do
- The more we take evil mutterings for granted the more we are going to hear them
- Satan has an exceedingly great hold on this world
- When Satan is cast out of heaven and takes up his abode on earth the evil we see today will be like the tip of the iceberg

29  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- When Satan reigns in person on this world as Antichrist during this period of time he will bring all the evil he can
- Right now he's limited by the presence of the Holy Ghost and God's restraint (2 Thessalonians 2:7)
- Right now many of his demons are still chained up but they will be loosed and he will have all of his powers to bring all of the evil out on the world
- Then there will be complete evil and there will be no good left in this world
- The Rapture, the catching away of the bride of Christ, will take place before this time of trouble begins

30  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- The Rapture will happen for the same reason that Noah and his family entered the ark before the flood came
- Also for the same reason that Lot and his family were taken out of Sodom before the fire consumed it
- God cannot bring His judgement on His people
- When God is going to bring judgement upon the world, a city, or a people He has to get His people out first
- This is what will happen with the Rapture if we are ready
- The greater powers we are feeling in God today is because we need greater power to overcome the greater evil and our old nature

31  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- God help us to understand that we are going to need every bit of this power He gives us
- We need to use the power God gives us to keep ourselves from being spotted or wrinkled
- We must have unity of the Spirit with God and we do this by using the power of the Holy Ghost
- Our minds need to be as pure and as holy as they can possible be for Him to reach us
- God looked down and gave us a rescue before the terrible tribulation hits the earth
- God will not judge His people as sinners are judged

32  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- God did not do this with Noah and He did not do it with Lot
- Out the whole world only Noah and his family was saved, out of Sodom and Gomorrah only Lot and his family, but not his wife, just Lot and his two daughters were saved
- Both of these were very small percentages saved
- The Rapture will be about 50% of the church as given in the parable of the 10 virgins
- Half of them were foolish, they had not sinned, but foolish by not

staying steadfast in God and keeping full of the Holy Ghost

33  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- Daniel says Michael will stand up but this doesn't mean that he was sitting down, just that he suddenly goes into action for the bride
- Michael has to do this as there is great opposition to overcome
- Satan, the great destroyer, will fight with all his tremendous power to retain the bodies of the dead
- Satan and his demons want use of these bodies as they are spirits and are in need of natural bodies
- Spiritual warfare in spiritual places is still spiritual but now Satan has been cast out into the natural world and he and his fallen angels need natural bodies

34  **TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE cont.**

- It a beautiful thing that when we go up Satan goes down
- Never have two such opposing forces met in decisive battle as when Michael at the head of God's armies stands up in defense of the children of God
- This same happening is carried out in Daniel's words "at that time thy people shall be delivered." (Daniel 12:1)
- The Hebrew word *netsal* means to snatch away, to rescue (Strong's 5337)
- This word corresponds exactly with the New Testament expression "caught up"
- In both cases it implies that we are to be rescued out of great danger

35  **CLOSING GRAPHIC**