The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Session 22

Part 4: The Battle Plan - Rev 6-22

I. THE BATTLE PLAN – CHRONOLOGICAL SECTIONS#3 (CONT)

A. The gathering of the Saints in the air

	Timing	Dead rise first	Trumpet	Command	Worship in Heaven	Temple opened	Lightning	Voices	Thunder	Earthquake	Clouds	Hail	Angels
1Thess 4:13-18	Lord's coming	x	x	x				x			x		x
1Cor 15:51-53	At the last trumpet	x	x										
Mt 24:31	After the tribulation…	x	x										x
Rev 11:1-13	End of 42 months/1260 days/ 3.5 years	x		x						x			
2Thess 2:1-12	After the rebellion and revealing of the antiChrist												
Rev 11:15-19	Last trumpet (7th)		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	

II. DEFINITIONS

A. The dead in Christ rise first: ανιστημι – to stand up from a position of laying down.

1. 1 Thess 4:16

B. Caught up - αρπαζω – to sieze, to snatch (openly in contrast to κλεπτω which is done secretly)

1. 1 Thess 4:17 – we who are alive and remain will be caught with them

2. 2 Cor 12:2 – Paul was caught up to heaven, snatched up (in body or not)

3. Latin: rapere – used in the Latin Vulgate to render the greek word.

C. Raised up - εγειρω – to arouse, wake up

1. 1 Cor 15:52 – the dead raised imperishable (awakened)

III. BIBLICAL PRECEDENCE

A. What is God's normal way of dealing with the righteous during times of tribulation?

1. Noah – who was swept away? Matthew 24

2. Lot – God didn't just 'rapture' him away from Sodom, but held off the judgment until he could reach a city safely. Obedience was required, disobedience by his wife cost her life.

3. Moses – Did God just pick them all up and translate them into the promised land? No, they had to walk and He was their rear guard against Pharoh.

4. Jeremiah – his Prophet, was still there during the entire destruction of Judah and Jerusalem, but given favor.

5. New testament Church – they watched and saw the prediction of Jerusalem's destruction coming to pass. Therefore, they were able to leave Jerusalem and move to safety before it was destroyed by the Titus' army.

6. Other trials upon the church, martyrdom, imprisonment, etc., he didn't remove them.

7. Two witnesses in Rev 11.

8. Suffering is to be expected by all believers. Do not be surprised at the fiery trial that comes upon you… 2 Peter

9. Chinese church during the communist revolution – they weren't raptured away, though they thought they should be due to the pretrib teaching. Many fell away as a result.

10. Myanmar during the typhoon. 100,000 thousand died… church went to 'higher ground' and was saved. Those who remained died.

11. Indonesia – just prior to the tsunami that killed 300,000, a church went to the mountains to pray and were saved when their village was wiped out.

IV. IMMINENT RETURN OR DELAYED UNTIL EVENTS TRANSPIRE?

A. Tension

V. SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER - WHAT DO THESE SAY ABOUT HIS RETURN?

John 14:1-3	I'm coming back to get you
1 Thess 4:16-18	We who are alive until the coming of the Lord
Lk 12:35f	Parable of his coming unexpectedly
1 Cor 15:51-53	Changed in the resurrection
1 Thess 5:1-11	The Day of the Lord Not destined for wrath
2 Thess 2:1-12	Concerning the coming and gathering… that day will not until these things occur first
Matt 24	v26-28 Rapture - 2nd coming v30-31 Rapture after the tribulation v36-42 - Who gets taken? As in the days of Noah (Lk 17:36-37)
1 Thess 1:10	We're not subject to wrath Rom 5:9
Rev 4:1-3	Is the church missing from Rev 4-18?
Titus 2:13	What is the Blessed Hope?

Acts 2:24f	David's hope in the resurrection
Acts 23:6	hope and resurrection
Acts 24:15	A hope in God for the resurrection
Acts 26:6	Hope in God for the resurrection
Rom 5:2	the Hope in the glory of God
Rom 12:12	rejoice in hope, persevere in tribulation…
Rom 15:4	What was written in earlier times is for our instruction that we might have hope
Rom 15:12	In Him the gentiles will hope
Rom 15:13	Fill you with hope and joy
2 Cor 1:10	Him on whom we set our hope
Gal 5:5	Hope of righteousness
Col 1:5	Hope laid up in heaven

	Col 1:23	Hope of the gospel
	Col 1:27	Christ in you, the hope of glory
	1 Thess 1:3	your hope in Jesus
	1 Thess 4:13	those who have no hope
	1 Thess 5:8	helmet = hope of salvation
	1 Tim 1:1	Jesus, who is our hope
	1 Tim 4:10	Our hope is fixed on the living God
	Titus 1:2	the hope of eternal life
	Titus 3:7	the hope of eternal life
	1 Pet 1:13	hope of grace at the revelation of Jesus
	1 Pet 1:21	hope in God for resurrection
No church in Rev 4-18?	Rev 13:7 - who are the saints?	Israel?

Thief in the Night

1 Thess 5:2 Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night
1 Thess 5:4 but you, brethren, are not in darkness so that this Day should overtake you as a thief
2 Pet 3:10 - thief in the night unto great destruction
Rev 3:3 I will come upon you as a thief if you do not watch
Rev 16:15 - Behold I am coming as a thief…

Where is the rapture in Rev?

Rev 3:10 Kept from the hour? See John 17:15 I do not ask that you lift them out of the world, but that you guard (keep) them from the evil one.
Rev 4:1-2 Does John symbolize the rapture of the church?
Rev 11:11-13 What of the events around the two witnesses?

If the rapture is before the tribulation...

The saints of the tribulation cannot be part of the bride because the wedding will have already taken place
The saints of the tribulation lose out on the wedding

Imminency

1 Corinthians 1:7	awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
1 Corinthians 16:22	Maranatha.
Philippians 3:20	For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
Philippians 4:5	The Lord is near.
1 Thessalonians 1:10	to wait for His Son from heaven,
1 Thessalonians 4:15-18	
1 Thessalonians 5:6	so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
1 Timothy 6:14	that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Titus 2:13	looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;
Hebrews 9:28	so Christ . . . shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.
James 5:7-9	Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . . . behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
1 Peter 1:13	fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
Jude 21	waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.
Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20	'I am coming quickly!'
Revelation 22:17, 20	And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.'
	"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."