**Lesson 19 Part A** **THE END TIMES**

**I: The Signs of the End**

 The disciples asked this question along with others we ask today

*Matt 24:3-8 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "****when will this happen****, and* ***what will be the sign of your coming*** *and of* ***the end of the age****?"*

 A. When will this happen?

This question was initiated by the comment Jesus made in Matt 24:2. I believe he was referring to the temple and the disciples may have applied it to the end of the world.

 1. The destruction of the temple did take place in 70AD by Titus.

 B. What will be the sign of your coming?

1. Jesus must have talked about His Second Coming in order for them to even ask.

*Mark 8:27, 31, and 38 , 27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" V31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

*V38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." (NIV)*

*John 14:1-4 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. NIV*

**II: The sequence of events**

A. A warning is given before the answer

*Matt 24:4-5 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. NIV*

We must be more on the lookout for deceivers than for the return of Christ. No-one knows when that will be.

 B. Some answers. Phase 1

 1. Many will come in the name of Christ.

This does not just mean they will come claiming to be Christ, but also sent by Him, or ordained by Him.

 2. Wars and rumors of wars.

 3. Famine

4. Earth quakes

5. Betrayal and hatred

6. Love will grow cold, be absent

7. Gospel will reach the whole world.

8. “The abomination that causes desolation”

(1.) Some understand by this an image, or statue, set up in the temple by some of the Roman governors, which was very offensive to the Jews, provoked them to rebel, and so brought the desolation upon them. The image of Jupiter Olympius, which Antiochus caused to be set upon the altar of God, is called Bdelygma eremoseos-The abomination of desolation, the very word here used by the historian, **1 Mac. 1:54.**

(From Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

B. Phase 2

 a. Sun, moon Stars and planets will change their function.

 All these affect the stability of the earth.

C. The Rapture

A. The son of Man will return in the sky.

 (Notice He remains in the sky not touching earth.)

 D. What will be the sign the end of the age? (World, KJV)

 When Satan, the unsaved, false prophets, death and Hades

*Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. NIV*

*Rev 20:14-15 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. NIV*

 2. Then there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

*Rev 21:1 :1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. NIV*

**III. Rapture**

A. The Rapture: The word "rapture" comes from the Latin word *"rapere",* meaning "to catch away" or to "snatch away." In our faith it is referred to as the moment the church is snatched from the earth or caught away. Understanding the rapture and its place in the sequence is important to understanding the Tribulation and the Millennium.

The term "caught up" is where we get the rapture from.

*2 Cor 12:1-2 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. NIV*

*Matt 24:30-31 30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. NIV*

*1Thes 4:15-17 15For 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. 16 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. 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. (NKJ)*

 B. For a contrast between the Rapture and the Second Coming see Reference sheet

**IV The Tribulation**

**A. Pre-tribulation View** say that the church is raptured prior to the tribulation, remains in heaven and returns at the Second Coming of Christ.

1. I have come to a better understanding of the difference between the rapture and the Second Coming, the only conclusion I can come up with is that the Church will not go through the Great Tribulation. this supports the Pre-Tribulation view

**B. Mid-tribulation View** says that the church is raptured in the middle of the tribulation remains in heaven for three and a half years and returns at the Second Coming of Christ.

C. **Post-tribulation View** says that the church goes through the tribulation and is raptured at the end. Basically, saying that the rapture and the Second Coming are the same or at least happens at the same time.

**V. The Millennium**

A. **Pre-millennial View** - says that Christ will come before the Millennium and rule his literal kingdom on earth for a literal 1,000 years in Jerusalem.

1. I believe that the Pre-Millennial view lines up with scripture. Christ returns to judge the world, conquer death and to bind Satan in the pit.

B**. A-Millennial View -** those who hold this view do not believe in any future kingdom at all. They believe that the church is the only Kingdom that will ever exist.

C. **Post-Millennial -** Says that the world will get progressively better and better until it finally becomes so good that we just enter into a spiritual, not literal, Kingdom. At the end of this Kingdom, Jesus returns.

**Lesson 19 Part B References on the Rapture in Contrast to the Second Coming of Christ.**

Based on my understanding of the word of God I believe the rapture is different from the Second Coming of Christ.

Here is a summary of why I believe this:

A. **At the Rapture:** **The saints meet Christ in the air**

*1Thes 4:16-17 16 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.*

*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. (NKJ)*

A**. At the Second Coming: Christ returns to earth**

*Zech 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. (NIV)*

B. **At the Rapture: Christ returns himself for the saints**

*1Thes 4:15-16 15 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. 16 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. (NKJ)*

*John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (NIV)*

B**. At the Second Coming: Christ sends his angel to gather the elect.**

*Matt 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (NIV)*

*Matt 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. (NIV)*

C. **At the Rapture: The Mount of Olives is untouched**

*1Thes 4:17 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. (NKJ)*

C. **At the Second Coming: The Mount of Olives is split**

Zech 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. (NIV)

D. **At the Rapture: Christ comes for his saints.**

*1Thes 4:15-17 15 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. 16 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. 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. (NKJ)*

D**. At the Second Coming: Christ comes with his saints**

E**. The Rapture: Comes without signs**

E**. The Second Coming: Is preceded by specific detailed signs.**

**<Matt 24: 5-12,15,30,37>**

F. **The Rapture: Concerns the saved.**

*<1Thes 4:16-17> <1 Cor 15:51-52>*

F. **The Second Coming: Concerns the saved and the lost**.

*<John 5:28-29> < Heb 9:28>*

G. **At the Rapture: Christ is coming to take us with him.**

*<John 14:3>, <John 17:24>*

G. **At the Second Coming: Christ is coming to judge and punish**

*<II Th 1:7-9> <Rom 2; 6-9>*

G. **After the Rapture: The church will be taken to heaven to be with the**

 **Lord**

G. **After the Second Coming: The church will reign with Jesus***.*

 *<John 14:3>, <John 17:24>*