

## LESSON - 27

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# SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST - IV APPEARANCE IN THE CLOUDS

**Reading :** 1 Thes. 4:13 -18; 1 Cor.15:50-57.

**Memory Verses :** 1 Thes. 4:14-17

**Theme :** To be ready to meet Messiah who is coming in the clouds for the salvation of those who are waiting for Him.

**Introduction :** We have learnt that the coming of Jesus Christ is certain and is soon. There are two phases for his coming. The first is His appearance in the clouds to gather His saints (The Church). The second phase is His glorious appearance on the earth to establish His kingdom. There are 7 years between these two phases. The first phase is also known as rapture of the Church. It may be called the secret coming because it happens unannounced and will be known only to the believers. It is 1. Thes. 4 : 13-18 & 1 Cor.15:51-55 that clear mention is made about this phase. Paul describes it as a mystery revealed to him. Events associated with the coming of the Lord in the clouds:

1. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven and appear in the mid air.

2. The shout of the Lord, the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God will be sounded. These will be heard only by His saints and may be experience by others. Although the sound waves broadcast from a radio station spread all over the world, they can be received only by radios which are tuned for the purpose. Likewise the heavenly voice will be heard only by those who are ready and waiting for it.

3. At the shout of the Lord, the dead in Christ will resurrect with immortal bodies. The same shout which was heard at the grave

of Lazarus will be heard again: Return, ye children of men (John 11:43; Psa.90:3). The words of Jesus: The hour is coming when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live (John 5:25) will be come to pass and all the saints from Abel to all who died in Christ till then will raise from the dead. The new immortal body of the saints will have their individuality but without the limitations of the mortal body. They are the blessed people who have part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6). The voice of Michael the archangel, confronts Satan who fights against the resurrection of the saints (Jude 9). Michael is deputed to escort the saints from the jurisdiction of Satan. At that moment the Saints can shout "O Grave, where is thy victory?" (1Cor.15:55).

4. When the trumpet of God is sounded all the saints who are alive at that time will be transformed into immortal bodies (1Cor. 15:52; 2Cor. 5:1-4; 1 John 3:2). Thus believers will have glorified bodies like that of the Lord.

5. Both the resurrected and the transformed saints will be taken up to meet the Lord in the clouds. The Lord will escort them to the presence of Father. The shadow of this event took place when Isaac received Rebecca in the field and escorted her to the presence of his parents (Gen.24:62-67). The Church will be Christ ever after.

### **THE SPECIALITIES OF THE COMING IN THE CLOUDS**

1. It happens unannounced. It can happen any time. The early church lived with this expectation (1Cor. 1:7; Phil.3:20-21; 1 Thes. 1:9-10). As we do not know the time, we must be ready always.

2 The Lord's coming will be like that of a thief (Rev.3:3; 2Pet.3;10;1 Thes. 5:2). A thief comes without other people's knowledge. Likewise the coming of the Lord will be unknown to others. It will be a secret coming. The heavenly voices will be heard by only those who are tuned to receive them.

3. "Two people will be on one bed" (Luke 17:34-36) – therefore the coming will be at night. "Two will be in the field – so the coming will be during the day time. Two women will be grinding together." – So the coming will be in the morning. How can all these be possible? The times at different parts of the globe make it possible. If it is day time in one place, then it is night time in another place. Therefore the coming of the Lord will be experienced at the same time all over the world.

4. All the even connected with the advent will take place in a short time. Everything will be completed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52).

### **MATTERS THAT ARE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH :**

1. People of God who lead a holy life after being saved by faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ are joined with the Lord (1 Thes. 4:16,17)
2. Believers receive redemption of their body (Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21). They are delivered from all the infirmities which have resulted from the sin of Adam. They are made alike as the risen Christ.
3. As children of God, we will see the real glory of the Lord (1 John 3:2, John 17:24).
4. Saints from all ages will meet together and worship the Lord together. How joyful will it be when we see all our loved ones who died before (Rev. 7:9-17).
5. We will receive our rewards from the Lord in the great congregation after the rapture (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Thes. 2:19).

The qualifications required for the rapture :

Who belong to Christ (1 Cor. 15:23)

Those who are in Christ (1 Thes. 4:16)

Saints (Rev. 20:6)

Those who are waiting for Him (Heb. 9:28)

Those who are ready (Matt. 25:10)

The above are the descriptions given in the scriptures about those who will be taken up at the coming of the Lord in mid air. His saints who are saved by faith in His blood shed on the Calvary cross and who are sealed by the Holy Spirit and who wait for His coming in holiness will be taken up with Him. Examine yourself if you are in that group or not.

Bible closes with the message : "Behold I come quickly". John replies as the representative of the whole Church : "Amen. Even so

come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:10). Let us also join with John and say: "Amen, Lord Jesus come quickly".

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Which are the phases of the second coming of Jesus Christ?
2. What are the other names for the appearance of the Lord in the clouds?
3. Which are the voices heard at the time of His coming? What is the purpose for each of them?
4. Describe the events associated with the rapture of the Church.
5. Explain the specialities of the coming of the Lord in the clouds.
6. What are the things accomplished by the rapture of the Church?
7. What are the qualifications for being taken up at the second coming of the Lord?
8. What is the last message in the Bible?

## **LESSION - 28**

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# **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST - V**

### **THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REWARDS**

**Reading** : Rev. 6 - 8

**Memory Verses** : Rev. 3:10- 11

**Theme** : To learn that the people of God will be safe in heaven during the great tribulation period on earth and will receive rewards from God according to their deeds.

**Introduction** : We have learned what happens to the saints who