

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

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

are dead and those who are alive at the second coming of Christ. What kind of bodies. They will be with the Lord. The Lord God will give rewards and crowns to them according to their deeds. At that time there will be great tribulation on earth. Let us study the events which will happen in that seven year period.

PERIOD OF GREAT TRIBULATION

It will be a period of great tribulation for all the people on earth, especially, the Jews, during the days between the rapture of the church and the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ. We know from scriptures that these days will be for seven years. "Then shall be a great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time." (Matt.24:21). "There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation"(Dan.12:1). It is known also as "The time of Jacob's trouble"(Jer. 30:5-7).

1. Holy Spirit is taken away (2 Thes. 2:7). The one who is now hindering such troubles will have to move out of the way. Then the wicked one will be revealed the person who hinders the wicked one now is the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit who is now preparing the church for Christ will be removed from the earth along with the Church.

2. The Church is taken away from the earth. When the people of God who are the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matt.5:13; 14) are removed from the scene, brotherly love will disappear and forces of darkness will become strong.

3. Satan is let loose to operate freely on the earth. (Rev. 12:9-17). Satan (the serpent) persecutes people on earth with great wrath knowing that he has only a short time left.

4. The wrath of God: The wrath of God is poured out on people who rejected the plan of salvation during the church age. God has an account to settle with the world which made the Son of God to shed His blood. Moreover the world have to account for the blood of the martyrs also.(Jer. 25:31; Rev. 6:10).

5. It is necessary for Israel to go through the great tribulation so that they look to Him whom they had pierced (Zach. 12 :10-14).

THE SPECIALITIES OF THIS PERIOD

1. Peace is completely removed from the face of the earth

(Rev. 6:4). The red coloured horse stands for death and destruction.

2. Famine will be wide spread in the world. Food materials will be very expensive (Rev.6:6).

3. Death by the sword, famine pestilences and wild beasts will be the order of the day (Rev. 6:8).

4. Sun, moon and stars will turn back without spreading light (Rev.6:12-15). Kings and mighty men of the world will look for hideouts.

5. During this period, an autocrat opposed to Christ will be ruling the earth. He can be called the anti-christ or the wicked one. He will be the unopposed administrator of the world (1John 2:18; Rev. 13:6-18). It is possible that this ruler will emerge from Syria or Greece.

EVENTS OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

During this period, there will be a great number of nominal Christians in the world. They will organize themselves under a single religious leader. There will be a treaty of understanding between the Anti-Christ and the religious leader. Anti-Christ is depicted as the beast and the religious leader as the great harlot in Rev. 17. Anti Christ will have an understanding with the Jews also initially. Soon Satan will take possession of the Anti-Christ who will then destroy all places of worship (Rev.17:16). Jews will start worshiping in Jerusalem after building a temple there. But Anti-Christ will stop the worship (Dan.9:2-27) and install his own idol in the temple (Matt.24:15;Rev.13:14-15). Jews will refuse to bow before the idol and will undergo great persecution. This will happen in the second half (3 years and 6 months) of the seven year period. Then they will turn to God and pray for their Messiah to come. Two witnesses (Believed to be Moses and Elijah) will appear and minister among them (Rev. 11:3-6). They will be killed by the Anti-Christ. Their dead bodies will lie in the streets for three and a half days. They will rise up in front of their enemies and be taken up into the heaven. Jews will repent and look to the One (Jesus) whom they had pierced. They will be saved as a nation. All the nations under the leadership of anti Christ will join together for war against Jerusalem. Messiah will descend on the earth as king of kings in all His glory for their

deliverance. He will stand on Mount Olives at the east of Jerusalem (Zach. 14:2-4).

EVENTS IN THE HEAVEN

1. Distribution of rewards: While the great tribulation is going on, the saints are with the Lord in heaven and receiving rewards for their deeds. Christ will sit on the Throne of Judgments now. "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev.22:12). "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2Cor.5:10). This judgement seat is to examine the deeds of believers. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." (Rom.8:1). So it is not punishment but rewards, which are given at this time. Dan.7:9-10; 12:12 & Rom. 14:10, 12 also mention about this judgement.

BOOKS USED FOR THE JUDGEMENT

1. The Book of Life: The names of Old Testament and New Testament saints will be recorded in this book. (Psa.87:4-7; Rev.3:5; 13:8; 20:15; Exo. 32:32).

2. The Book of Remembrance: All the deeds of saints are recording in this Book. (Mal.3:16; Matt.10:40-42).

3. The Word of God (Bible): Judgement will be based on the commendments and statutes that God has given to man to follow in his life and as recorded in the scriptures (Rom. 2:16; Psa. 119:89; Matt.5:18-19).

4. The Book of Nature : (Psa. 50:4).

5. The Book of Conscience: (Rom.2:15).

On the basis of records available in the above books the deeds (2 Cor.5:10), words (Matt.12:35-36), thoughts (1 Cor.4:5) and secrets and (Rom.2:16) of believers will be examined on that day some will get praises from God and some may be humiliated (Dan.12:1-3). Rewards for good deals will be honour and glory (Rom. 2:10) and authority (Dan.7:27).

CROWNS

Six types of crowns are mentioned in the scriptures.

1. Crown of Life: For those who are faithful till the end in the midst of adversities (James 1:12; Rev.2:10).
2. Crown of Righteousness: For those who fight the good fight, keep their faith and finish their course (2 Tim. 4:8).
3. Incorruptible Crown: For those who keep their separation with the world (1 Cor. 9:25).
4. Crown of Glory: For the elders who are good examples to folk in their charge. (1 Peter 5:4)
5. Crown of Rejoicing: For those who bring souls to salvation by their ministry (1Thes. 2:19).
6. Crown of Gold: For all saints as a symbol of their royalty.(Rev. 4: 4-11; 5:9-10).

THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB OR TH GLORIFICATION OF THE CHURCH

When the deeds are examined in front of the judgement seat of Christ, those which are consumed by fire will be consumed and only the permanent ones will remain as the garments of the saints. The Church is glorified as Christ takes over the reign of the earth. This happy festival is known as the marriage of the lamb. Heaven resounds with "Hallelujah"(Rev. 19: 4-8). The status of bride of Christ is only given to the New Testament Church. The saints of the Old Testament Church including John the Baptist are friends of the Bridegroom (John 3:29). Those who are invited for the marriage feast are the Old Testament saints and the ones who have purified themselves by the blood of the Lamb during the great tribulation (Rev. 7:14-15). The glorious appearance on the earth takes place after the marriage feast of the Lamb.

How great and deep are God's riches, knowledge and plans! His judgements are beyond comparison and his ways are fathomless. Let us submit ourselves totally in front of that great love by which He gave His life for us to make us His bride without spot or blemish.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the events, which take place on the earth after the rapture of the church?
2. Give reasons for the time of troubles after the rapture.
3. List the specialties of the great tribulation.
4. Describe the main events, which take place during tribulation.
5. Which are the two important event that take place in heaven at the time of great tribulation.
6. List the documents that are used before the judgement seat.
7. What are the crowns kept for saints? To whom is each crown given?
8. When are Where does the event known as marriage of the lamb take place?
9. Who is the bride at the marriage? What is the status of the Old Testament Saints?

LESSON - 29

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST - THE GLORIOUS APPEARANCE

Reading : 2 Thes. 1:6-12; Rev.19:11-16

Memory Verses : Jude 14,15

Theme : To learn about the details of the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ and get ready to meet the King of Kings.

Introduction: The Lord Jesus was born into this world in a