

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

very humble state. Why did Christ humble Himself and suffer poverty and death on the cross? Who are the people who will be taken at the rapture of the church? Where will they be for the next seven years? What will be happening on the earth in those days? At the height of tribulations Jesus Christ will descend into the world in all his glory to be King. Countless angels and the transformed saints will be coming down with Him. He will judge the Anti-Christ and his companions and establish His kingdom of earth. This great event is known as the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ.

SPECIALITIES OF THE GLORIOUS APPEARANCE

There are many differences between the appearance of Jesus in the clouds and His glorious appearance.

1. There are many references to this topic in the Old Testament (Psa.50:3; Dan.7:13; Zach. 14:5). There are prophecies in the New Testament also.(Matt.24:30; 26:64; Jude 14).
2. He will come with great power and glory (Matt.24:30-26:64-65).
3. He will be accompanied by countless angels and all the saints (Jude 14; Zach. 14:5; Matt.16:22).
4. He will appear in flaming fire. He will punish the wicked and those who did not obey the Gospel and comfort His people who are under going tribulations (2 Thes.1:6-8).
5. His glorious appearance will be visible to all. (Rev.1:7;Matt.26:64).
6. He will establish His kingdom (Zech.14:4, Rev.19:16; Dan. 2:44).

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

Scholars have estimated that the glorious appearance will take place seven years after the rapture of the Church. This is based on the description of the 70 weeks in Dan. 9:24-27. Mention is made in the passage about 70 periods of seven years each. ie.490 years which concerns only Israel. This period of time begins with the decree issued in B.C 445 to build Jerusalem . Jerusalem was restored in $7 \times 7 = 49$ years. After 62 weeks ($62 \times 7 = 434$ years.), Messiah was cut off. Now remains one week (7 years) when the wicked one will

harden his laws against Israel (Dan.9:27). This will occur after the rapture of the Church. At the end of 7 years Messiah will appear with many crowns on His head and with the heavenly host to begin His reign on the earth (Rev.19:11-16).

WHERE WILL HE APPEAR?

The Lord will descend on Mount Olives at the east side of Jerusalem (Zach. 14:4). The mountain will split into two and a plain field will be created at the time of ascension of Jesus, angels confirms this fact to the disciple. "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts. 1:11). Jesus ascended from mount Olives with a visible body. He will descend on to the same mountain. It is significant that a break seems to be appearing on the mountain in the east west direction according to a recent newspaper report.

EVENTS TO FOLLOW :

1. Battle of Armageddon: When the news of the arrival of Christ on mount Olives reaches anti-Christ, he will be filled with fear and wrath (Dan.11:44). He will gather all his armies in the valley of Megiddo situated on the west side of Jerusalem and on the east of the Mediterranean sea and will established his head quarters there. Many nations from the north and the east will send their armies with modern armaments to help him (Ezek. 38:1-6). Jesus Christ who is the lion of Judah will shout with a loud voice resounding throughout earth and heavens (Isa. 66:6). Archangel Michael will rise on the side of Israel (Dan.12:1). The terrified armies of anti-Christ will fight with each other and many will be killed. Their flesh will decay even while they are standing (Zech.14:12-13). There will be an earathquake and mountains will fall on the armies. Hail storm will kill many more. Thus the armies of the anti-Christ will be destroyed suddenly (Ezek.38:19-23). Blood will flow for 200 miles (Rev.14:20). The anti-Christ and his associate the false prophet will be bound and cast into the lake of fire (Rev.19:19-21). Thus the Lord will destroy the anti-Christ "by the spirit of His mouth and the brightness of His coming" (2Thes.2:8).

2. Satan is bound: It is necessary that Satan should be bound before the reign of Christ. "An angle came down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

He laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more (Rev.20:1-3).

3. Cleaning after the war: Dead bodies of the armies of the anti-christ are laying on the streets. They are now the feast of birds in the air. It is termed as the "supper of the great God" (Rev.19:17-21). Then people of Israel are deputed to bury the bones of the dead. This clean-up operation takes seven months) Ezek. 39:11-16). The wooden implements of war are enough to light fires for seven years. Metallic weapons will be made into agricultural implements (Ezek. 39:9-10; Isa.2:4).

4. Judgement of the nations (Matt.25:31-46): Messiah establishes His throne in Jerusalem. People who are alive from all nations are brought before Him and judged. The nations are divided into two groups: those who helped Israel and those who did not. Nations who helped Israel are received into His kingdom and the other are sent to burning fire. This is not the last judgement.

RESTORATION OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Towards the end of the great tribulation, Israel will repent and accept the Messiah. All the people of Israel will be gathered in Palestine and Messiahs rule from the throne of David will begin with Jerusalem as the capital. This reign is known as the Millennium.

How you accepted the King of Kings who is going to rule over the whole world as your Saviour and Lord? Accept Him in your hearts so that you have part in His kingdom. Live as His witnesses now.

QUESTIONS

1. Compare the appearance of Jesus Christ in the clouds and His glorious appearance.
2. When will be His appearance in glory?
3. What are the main event associated with His glorious appearance?
4. Describe the battle of Armageddon.
5. What is the meaning of the judgement of the nations? Which is considered as the basis for this judgement?