**BACK TO THE FUTURE – Rapture**

**TEXT:** ***2 Peter 3:10-12*** *- But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

**INTRO.:**

**A.** We live in exciting and expectant (and frightening) times. With the world’s focus on Israel and the middle east, even unsaved people ask what does God have to say about these events? Or does the Bible contain any answers or hope for the future of mankind? The answer to those questions, for the believer and student of God’s Word, is a resounding “YES!

**B.** Today I will attempt to give you biblical answers and biblical hope and also biblical instructions for the believer from God’s holy Word and words in the KJB.

**I. THE COMPLETION OF THIS AGE & THE CALLING OUT OF THE CHURCH:**

 **A.** The Rupture for the Unsaved:

**ILLUS.:** Think of hospitals where patients and doctors and nurses, in the ER, those in the middle of surgeries, etc. suddenly, without warning, disappear. Aircraft lose pilots and passengers in the “twinkling of an eye”. Drivers and riders in autos also vanish, causing major crashes. Loved ones and friends just immediately dematerialize, leaving clothing and all belongings (and possibly blood – the fluid of life) behind. Normal life activities just STOP!

 **B.** The Rapture for the Believer

 **1.** Things will be disturbingly different in an instant when the Lord returns for His Church.

**NOTE:** Authors, like Dr. David Jeremiah and his book *“The Great Disappearance”* are capitalizing on the sudden interest concerning the subject of the Rapture of the Church.

👉There are **four** prevailing views on the timing of this event: Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, Pre-Wrath and Post-Trib. Due to the events taking place in our world, especially Israel, the focus is on this great event. Some fundamental preachers (formerly pre-Tribbers) are changing their view on this subject, but believers are not appointed unto wrath according to God’s Word and promise! And the Tribulation is the time of God’s wrath!

***1Thes. 5:9*** *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ*

 **2.** The disappearance of millions (some say billions?) of believers instantaneously, will not just cause confusion, but major disruption in lifestyles, businesses, daily routine.

 **3.** Who in YOUR family and loved ones will be left behind?! (What will you do NOW to change that scenario, if it happens in our lifetime?)

**II. THE CONDEMNATION OF CHRIST REJECTORS:**

 **A.** Unbelievers (the unsaved) Will Become Subjects of Antichrist:

 **1.** Of course they will have an option of risking their lives by refusing to take His mark or his number: 666, they will either starve or be slain (beheaded).

***Rev. 13:17*** *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

***Rev. 20:4*** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

**III. THE CONQUEST OF THE ANTI-CHRIST: (ARMAGEDDON)**

***Rev. 16:16*** *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

 **A.** This Will Be the War to End All Wars!

 **1.** Not only will the Antichrist and his armies be defeated.

 **2.** A “great earthquake, such as was not seen since men were upon the earth”, will occur! v.18

 **3.** The “fierceness of His (Almighty God’s) wrath” will felt by those left behind. v.19

 **4.** 100-pound hailstones will fall on remaining mankind. v. 19

 **B.** The Lord Will Return to Take Back His Possession of Earth & All Creation:

 1. We will be with Him! Rev. 19

 **a.** First our Wedding and reception will take place. vv. 7-9

 **b.** Then Christ comes back on a white stallion: v.11

 **c.** We will accompany Him! v.14 (Have you been practicing horseback riding?)

 **d.** Then the birds will come and feast on the dead bodies of those He will conquer! vv.17-19

 **e.** Finally, the Antichrist and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. vv.20, 21

 **IV. THE CULMINATION OF THE PRESENT ORDER:**

 **A.** Satan’s Doom is Finally Sealed:

**1.** At the beginning of the Millennium He is Cast into the Bottomless Pit! Rev 20:1-3

**2.** Then he is “loosed out of his prison” v.7

**3.** Finally he is cast into the “lake of fire and brimstone” with the Antichrist and his False Prophet have been for the Millennium.

  **B.** Finally, The New Heaven and New Earth and New Jerusalem Will Appear: Rev. 21

 **1.** And we, though undeserving, blood bought sinners, will be WITH HIM forever. Rev. 21:3

 **2.** Imagine having the Lord Himself being your “next door Neighbor”!

 **3.** We will serve Him and possibly that service will be throughout the New Heavens including space travel. (?)

 **4.** Wherever we will be He will be with us, not necessarily in person, but we will always be aware of Him.

**CONCL.:** Oh yes! “What a day that will be when my Savior I shall see, when I look upon His face, the One Who saved me by His grace…”

 Only believers in God and His Word can rejoice over their future! If you are saved it will be a great day, but if not, it will all be loss…forever! What will it be for YOU?