

LWMORG

MARANATHA!

"Come Lord Jesus" - The Coming Final Judgment!

Many do not know the full meaning of the word Maranatha, but associate it as "Come Lord Jesus!" However, the word Maranatha in Greek also means the Coming Final Judgment. Here, in this passage, we are told by the Apostle Paul; If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (accursed), Maranatha! (1Corin.16:22). The breakdown of this passage indicates that those who have not a fervent love for the Lord Jesus will be thrown into the Great Tribulation. The cry of the faithful believer is that of Maranatha "Come Lord Jesus," knowing that the return of the Lord for them will be the catching away of those who are praying and waiting on Him. Yet, with the return of the Lord Jesus, will also be included, His final judgment.

The Trump Shall Sound

Paul says I show you a mystery The catching away is that mystery, here, revealed.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"(1Corin. 15:51-52).

This moment will seize upon everyone far too quickly to think about. So, if you're not ready a Christian, you should be considering your options at this time.

The Calling Of The Bride (sudden snatching away)

..."behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither"... (Rev.4:1). In this passage the Bride is removed off this planet... she is seen no more in the book of Revelation on earth.

There are given, in the pages of the Old Testament patterns, types, metaphors, and similes (Rom. 15:4; Hosea 12:10). The Old Testament gives the example of Enoch, a type of the church, being caught away. It can be argued that the man Raptured, Enoch, of the Old Testament, is an example of the church being caught away, and can be linked to the church being understood as one man. Notice that Enoch wasn't mid-flood or post-flood, he was pre-flood. The rapture will therefore be pre-trib.

Enoch's Fervent Love and Devotion to the Lord

"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him"(Gen. 5:24).

First, we can draw from this passage the example of his close love and devotion, in an abiding relationship, to mean toward us, the type of Christian who will be caught away; those who are devoted. Enoch walked with God. His walk was in fervent pursuit. A pursuer is a daily seeker of God, not a once a week church attendee. Enoch was taken because of the Lords grand purpose and His time table, the flood was coming. Enoch, or the church, will also be taken for those same reasons and because they are praying and waiting upon the Lord.

Jesus said;"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment"(Mk. 12:30).

This is the Scripture which the devoted virgins will keep; the fiery love which burns within their hearts for their bridegroom Jesus. I am speaking of "The Bride of the Lamb."

..."for I have espoused (engaged) you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste

(pure and devoted) virgin to Christ (2Corin. 11:2b).

The kind of Christian that is going in the Rapture is the kind that is giving their self over to chastening; (correction, continued cleansing) the ones that the Lord is able to take care of through His discipline in order for them not to be condemned with the world (1Corin.11:32;Heb.12:6-10).

Matt. 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

The virgins of Matthew 25 fall into two categories: those who are devoted and taken through the door, and those who shall be awakened finding themselves in the Great Tribulation. If the lukewarm persist in preventing the Holy Spirit in their life from preparing them for the Rapture, they shall prove their lack of affection, devotion, and sincerity and shall all simply be left behind on earth for the judgment. In order for believers to be at this meeting, they must separate themselves from all evil. This separation is already at work as the Lord is causing His judgment to come to His church first(1 Pet. 4:17). If you don't want to fall under His judgment you must separate yourself unto Him.

"Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Corin. 1:8). The Holy Spirit in your daily life brings confirmation and security when you are right with the Lord.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"(1Jn. 3:3). The one who has an intimate relationship with the Lord is being prepared, having his "state" being brought up to his "standing" in Christ by the chastening Holy Spirit.

Those so-called Christians who remain behind are exposed as false, hypocritical, and superficial. If you are not desirous to be among this category you can Repent, change your direction in life right now through prayer, listen to His correction in your life once again, fall back in love with Jesus your 'First Love,' and allow Him to make your heart fervent again.

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2Pet. 1:11).

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1Jn. 2:28).

Omitting Church History Of The Held Rapture Belief

There are those in the church that would falsely report that the Rapture or catching away of the church is a modern day teaching. The truth is that they do omit or avoid the history of the Chiliast of church history who all held to the same belief of 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 17 which says;

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1Thess. 4:17).

These Chiliast - believers in a literal Millennium Reign of Christ on earth for 1000 years, who anchored themselves in the Scriptures as their foundation were rejected by many though they would sight such passages as these to there listeners.

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13).

"Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" (Dan. 7:22)

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan.7:27).

These passages represent and are among those that the Apostle Paul drew from in the book of Daniel for receiving his revelation of the Rapture (Secret Ascension) and the Millennial Reign of Christ on earth when he was writing his second letter to the Thessalonians.

The Millennial Reign

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" (Rev.20:4)

It is a pity that church people do not take literally what has been written so clearly and will soon come to pass.

Church History

Church history records the Chiliast beliefs dating back to The Early Church...

Cyprias 195-258; Commodianus 250; Nepos 230-250; Coracion 230-280; Methodius; Lactantius 240-330; and their beliefs which continued in the Middle Ages...

The Waldensins; The Paulicians which shared these similar views. In The Reformation Period...

The Chiliasts of England - William Tyndale 1480-1536; Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer which both burned at the stake in 1555 for their chiliastic held views and their statements below.

"Peradventure, it may come in my days, old as I am or in my children's day.. the saints shall be taken up to meet the Christ in the air and so shall come down with Him again. He will put down Satan, that old Serpent, under feet."

The Chiasm in France - The Huguenots; The Camisards and French prophets which flourished after the Reformation; The Anabaptists; The Bohemians; The Moravian Brethren.

All of these held the same faith relative to the catching away of the church and Millennium reign of Christ!

Unfortunately the views of these Chiliasts were hastily condemned and little received because of the condemning procedures in the time of the Reformation.

New Early Church Findings

In recent years, many who argue against the pre-tribulation rapture view have made dogmatic assertions that this view was never taught before 1820 A.D. There have been attempts to attribute the origin of this view to John N. Darby. Recently has found an ancient citation from a sermon ascribed to Ephraem of Nisibis (306-373 a.d.), which clearly teaches that believers will be raptured and taken to Heaven before The Tribulation. This sermon is deemed to be one of the most interesting apocalyptic texts of the early Middle Ages. The translation of the sermon includes the following segment:

"For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins."

The sermon describes the events of the last days, beginning with the rapture, the Great

Tribulation of 3 1/2 years duration under the Antichrist's rule, followed by the Second Coming of Christ. In Ephraem's book *The Book of the Cave of Treasures*, written about 370 A.D., he expressed his belief that the 69th week of Daniel ended with the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus the Messiah.

*** Premillennialism was the faith of the true church as testimony has been given to show that this was the first and purest centuries of the church. The early church was taught to expect Jesus to return at any moment catching His bride away. The truth they held to about the Rapture, the Judgment, the Return, and the Millennium Reign however was practically lost in the Middle-Ages, even Reform brought only a partial return. In the modern church period there has been a return to this position yet not complete.**

Amillennialism - says NO millennium and the volition of the Scriptures on this topic is denied which propels their belief system into "a spirit of unbelief" which goes on to omit many other Scriptures (like the denial of an actual anti-christ) and errors on other doctrinal topics.

Millennialism - which was a strong belief during World War 1 that said, "Our world is getting better and better" till Christ returns... has now died out!

Premillennialism - which believes in a literal 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth; the government of heaven ruling earth at the start of the Eternal reign of Jesus Christ is now becoming restored in the minds of the church.

The Secret Ascension

Most who are in disbelief and reject the notion of any such Rapture do it out of misunderstanding, overlooking what the Apostle shows us as a mystery revealed! To understand the Rapture one can compare it to the secret ascension of Jesus which while written in the New Testament for all to see is many times overlooked by students of the Bible. Here is the passage...

"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (Jn. 20:16-17).

Most casual Bible observers assume that after Jesus went to the Cross and Resurrected from the dead He then appeared to His disciples in the Galilee, but no, He went up to God in a secret ascension and then came back before meeting with His disciples. When Paul says he is showing us a "mystery" he is revealing the catching away of the faithful believers being a "secret ascension" where these will be elevated up to meet the Lord in the air and then be taking through the gate of heaven.

Vanishing Without Notice

God's fixed timing of the Rapture happens before anyone can even think twice (I Thess. 4:13-18). Know it and be ready!!! If Enoch was taken by vanishing away without notice (Gen.5:25) then we can take it that the church will also be taken without notice. Not that unbelievers wont be shocked and amazed at this departure of vast amounts of believers removed from this planet (not UFOs), yes, some will put two and two together; but the reason believers will vanish before these unnoticed is so that the unbeliever will not be converted in seeing this supernatural act. This very act will have its implications and effects upon their hearts only if they believe the Scriptures to be true and being fulfilled! The Lord desires that all unbelievers come to Him believing on Him as their Messiah through a contrite heart, a heart of repentance, a heart of faith, understanding and believing upon His sacrifice at the Cross for their receiving salvation!

The Believer's Secret Chamber

Believers will ascend into the secret chamber or pavilion of the Lord for the Tribulation period.

"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity" (Isa. 26:20-21)

"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger."(Zeph. 2:3)

"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock."(Ps. 27:5)

The fervent believers will enter into the Lord's secret chamber while the Lord brings His judgments upon the wicked of the earth.

The Coming Flood of Judgment Called The Threshing Floor

John the Baptist spoke of the threshing floor as an idiom alluding to the Great Tribulation in which the Lord would bring His final judgment; "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable"(Lk. 3:17).

Wheat, here, represents those gathered unto His harvest of souls. The chaff, here, represent those who are reserved for His judgment in the Tribulation. The threshing floor is the place of separation between the wheat and the chaff. John the Baptist, by preaching repentance, was calling all to the fact that all mankind will be separated, being either the wheat of His harvest or the chaff for His judgment. We must understand that giving our hearts to the Lord means being translated out of darkness and into His Kingdom.

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13)

We Are Given Prophetic Revelation Of The Future

As the Old Testament reveals that Enoch was taken first, and then the flood of Judgment came, so is it with the church. While Enoch stands for the church being caught away, the flood that came afterward was a type of the Great Tribulation. The Bible's summation as well as it Old Testament example points out the FACT of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture to come.

His Return Is Very Near!

The return of the Lord, the catching away (explained from the Latin Trans. Rapturos = Rapture in II Thess. 2), is close. You see, only those who are seeking the Lord, who are obedient, and who are praying, waiting, hearing His voice, who are devoted to Him, having their oil lamps filled with the presence of His Spirit, will be counted worthy to escape the hour of trial or Tribulation that is to come upon the world (Rev. 3:10). Those who are actively pursuing God, those who are abiding in the vine, those who are persevering, which is faithfulness, will be caught away. These are the virgins, who at the announcement, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh," trim their lamps, having smoothed out every wrinkle, having cleansed out every spot, will be taken through the door.

The announcement, "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh" has been given. If you are a faithful

virgin you are already in preparation like every expectant young Bride about to be married.

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Matt. 25:10)

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." (Rev. 4:1)

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1Thess. 4:16-17)

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rewards Of The Devoted Losses Of The Unfaithful

He who overcomes will be clothed in white (Rev. 3:4). "He who overcomes will be a pillar in the temple of God and have God's name and the name of the city of God" (Rev.3:12). "He shall receive a white stone, written upon it, their new name" (Rev.2:17). But the lukewarm, those who don't care, who are neither hot nor cold, will not be caught away. They will be spewed out of Gods mouth. The Laodiceans were lukewarm. They had no time for God. They were in pursuit of money. They were counseled to buy gold refined in the fire and to buy white garments that their nakedness should not appear (Rev. 3:14-19). Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, and He will say, I never knew you. Why is that? Because they were naming the name of Christ and seeking their own pleasures with no time for God. The wise virgins had oil in their vessels. Why? Because they were seeking God. The oil represents the Holy Spirit. The five foolish took no oil with them. They were not seeking, they were not waiting upon the Lord, the Bridegroom, to come. (Matt. 25:10) says that those that were ready went into the wedding and the door was shut. The foolish virgins who came back from trying to buy oil after it was too late, were told by the Lord that He did not know them. Where was their devotion? You can't watch for the Lord as is commanded in (Matt. 25:13) if you are pursuing your own interest and not the Lords. The Bible says that Jesus is coming as a thief to those who are NOT watching, ready or waiting for Him!

Lk. 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Be aware of where you stand spiritually. Jesus' return is very near! So let His divine flame burn brightly and high in your life.

End

Discussion & Pray Time:

Living Waters Ministries 2008 by Ministers R. Thomas & Laura Lambur