

End Times Lesson 9 – Last Trumpet through Return of Christ

So last week we saw the seven seal judgments, we saw 144,000 witnesses proclaiming the gospel, we saw 2 special witnesses – likely Moses and Elijah preaching repentance – they’re killed and resurrected and ascend into heaven – we’ll finish talking about that today and then we saw the first six Trumpet judgments.

After the sixth Trumpet judgment – we have this other event happen. And it’s found in Revelation 10 – just like after the sixth seal there’s an interlude – and this is what we see -

Another mighty angel – this is a different angel than the one in Revelation 5 who is ushering in the Tribulation – and John’s not in heaven now – he’s on earth again – It’s very descriptive – and this angel’s loud voice is like a lion roaring. A lions roar can be as loud as 114 decibels which is as loud as a chainsaw, a leaf blower, a snowmobile or even at the lower end of a Rock concert! Another very close comparison is an emergency vehicle siren – which is quite loud!

And “7 thunders” – answer. I put that in quotes because and I believe the one commentator was right – this is a reference to Psalm 29 where David refers to God’s voice as thunder and he mentions God’s voice 7 times. It’s likely because John can understand what’s said – he starts to write it down but he’s told not to. It says in Rev 10:4-7 **“⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”⁵ And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven⁶ and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay,⁷ but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God**

would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

So the 7th Trumpet judgment is coming without delay – and Mid-Trib rapture folks use this to bolster their claim for a mid-tribulation rapture.

1 Thess 4:16 “**For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and *with the sound of the trumpet of God.***”

More so 1 Cor 15:52 “⁵²**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at *the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.***”

I’ll return to one important thing – Rev 4:1-2 “**After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”** 2 **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.**”

That’s Jesus talking and His voice sounded “Like a trumpet” and when you look at the original Greek – 1 Thess 4:16 fits right in with this – with the sound of the trumpet of God – “With a sound like a trumpet that is of God” – also in the 1 Cor 15 passage – the Greek to English is not a clear translation – it could just as easily be “at the end” as in at the end time a sound like a trumpet -for like a trumpet will sound.”

That in and of itself is certainly not enough to cast aside the mid-tribulation view – but with everything else on top of it that we’ve already covered – the Holy Spirit being removed – no mention of the church at all during the tribulation – I think we have enough to go with pre-tribulation rapture.

But what’s important to us from this chapter is that whatever the response is from these 7 thunders– God didn’t want us to know – and

that the 7th Trumpet was coming without delay. The other thing I'll point out is this mighty angel one foot on land, the other in the sea – that represents that from here on out – the entire world is going to be involved.

Then, in chapter 11, we are told about the two witnesses although like I said last week – their ministry either starts at the latest – at the half way point of the tribulation – or it spans part of the first half and ends during the second half – Now we saw why it might end near the sixth seal – but at the end of chapter 11 the very last verse it says in verse 14 **“The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.”** That seems to be clear that the earthquake that occurs at the ascension of the two witnesses is a completely separate event from the other judgments.

Chapter 11 verses 15-19 we get to the 7th Trumpet judgment – The scene is in heaven – there is worship that happens and then in verse 19 – **“¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.”**

We see the ark of the covenant in heaven, lightning, thunder there is yet another earthquake and along with it – heavy hail. It doesn't tell us explicitly what this trumpet does so I'll tell you – it unleashes the final 7 judgments which are the 7 plagues also known as the 7 bowl judgments. So cliff notes – lightning, thunder, earthquake, hail – 7 bowl judgments.”

The preview of this is found in Rev chapter 15:1 **“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.”** And then in verses 5-8 **“⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the**

wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.”

Have you ever watched a television show or a movie where something important is going to happen and the boss says “Clear the room – or can I have the room – and everyone except those who need to be there are the only ones left” That’s what we have here.

And then Chapter 16 we see these bowl judgments poured out on the earth.

“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.”

So Bowl # 1 – harmful and painful sores on those with the mark.

³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

Bowl # 2 – all water in the worlds oceans becomes uninhabitable and everything in it dies. Death of all sealife.

⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”

Third bowl – all freshwater turned to blood and is no longer potable.

⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

Bowl # 4 – extreme heat and u/v rays – it will be not only unbearably hot outside but you will get easily sunburned.

¹⁰ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

Then to top it off – we have painful sores and sunburn and then bowl # 5 - darkness and people are in agony.

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ¹⁵ (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) ¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”

Seal #6 – the Euphrates river is dried up which will allow for armies from the east to traverse to Israel with ease – also demons will gather the armies and they will assemble at Har Meggido – Har Meggido itself is also called Tel Meggido – that’s a mountain of sorts – many civilizations on top of each other – but around that is a vast plain - - it’s North of Jerusalem and a perfect place to assemble an army to prepare to assault the city.

Ezekiel talks about this final battle in Chapter 38, and of course Jesus in Luke 21:20-24 **“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. 23 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”**

Note – it the battle itself hasn’t happened yet – it’s coming – but it hasn’t happened yet.

Verse 17 – the seventh bowl - **The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!”** ¹⁸ **And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.** ¹⁹ **The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.** ²⁰ **And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.** ²¹ **And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.”**

An earthquake so great that we can’t even imagine it and on top of that hailstones 100 pounds each – just huge chunks of ice pounding everything – the devastation is almost unimaginable.

Ezekiel said in Chapter 38:19-20 “¹⁹ **For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.** ²⁰ **The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people who are on the face of the earth, shall quake at my presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the cliffs shall fall, and every wall shall tumble to the ground.**”

Through this devastation – what is coined as “Babylon the great” – this isn’t Iraq – this is the modern seat of power of the antichrist – whether it’s in Jerusalem, Rome or another city – it falls. Rev 18 talks about that and then Rev 19 opens with rejoicing in heaven – a big celebration over the fall of Babylon the great. Verses 6-9 talk about the marriage supper of the lamb. It hasn’t happened yet – it’s about to – and then we come to the Return of Christ. Jesus’ second coming.

Rev 19:11-16 “¹¹ **Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.** ¹² **His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.** ¹³ **He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.** ¹⁴ **And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.** ¹⁵ **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** ¹⁶ **And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”**

And remember from Acts – this is visible – The angels said that Jesus will return the same way you saw Him depart. Jesus Himself said that

“²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

And then in verses 29-31 **“²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”**

And this is probably the main passage that post-Trib people use – immediately after the tribulation – he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect... They would say – there it is... clear as day... but what would a pre-trib argument be? (Removal of Holy Spirit, No mention of the church, this is referring to those martyred during Daniel’s 70th week) – because if this were the actual rapture – it would be like an instant yo-yo – we’re here, we’re caught up, and we come right back down. So many more reasons to go with pre-trib rapture than mid or post trib rapture.

Anyway, while this is going on - the armies of the antichrist are surrounding the city of Jerusalem (or what’s left of it) – they’re preparing to attack, the nations are mourning and then strange stuff starts happening in the sky – they see the sign of Jesus – they see Him coming - and we see that this battle is short lived. Rev 19:17-21 **“¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the**

kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

So the antichrist and the false prophet are captured and cast into hell and the rest of the armies are killed with a spoken word from Jesus.

So Jesus has returned – the armies of the enemy, the antichrist, the false prophet – they’ve been defeated.

And we get to Revelation Chapter 20

And this is where we get to what’s called the millennial kingdom.

And the first thing I want to do is give you the three different views on the Millennial kingdom and then we’ll look at what the Bible says and decide based on what’s written.

Well – first – the word millennium means what? 1,000 years, right? And Dr. John Walvoord has this great book called the millennial kingdom – it’s not an easy read – in fact – it’s pretty much a textbook. But it really goes into each view and the arguments for and against each view and I’ll tell you right up front, Dr. Walvoord is a Pre-Millennialist.

1. **Pre-Millennial view** – This was the view held during the apostolic age – the time when the apostles were alive – and wasn’t until around the third century that people started to stray from this – but it basically says that Jesus will literally reign on this earth for 1,000 years following His second coming. It generally holds to the idea that there is a revival of the Jewish nation who will repossess

their ancient land when Christ returns and that Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. During this time, a theocratic kingdom of righteousness, peace, tranquility will ensue. The righteous will be raised prior to the millennial kingdom to enjoy it while the wicked will not be raised until after, at which point they will be judged. After that judgment, we will enter the eternal state.

2. **Amillennialism** – This is what my lecture professor, Dr. Waltke subscribes to – it’s the most popular modern view (or at least it was in 1959 when this book was written). This view denies a literal reign of Christ and instead says that Satan was bound at the first coming of Jesus and that the present church age – between the first and second coming is the fulfillment of the millennial kingdom. Where amillennialist’s split is on whether this fulfillment is here on earth or is actually occurring in heaven with the saints in Heaven (Jesus is on His throne in heaven now). Most still look at the return of Christ as a distinct, separate event – however some modern views also spiritualize that as well.
3. **Post-millennial view** – This view originated somewhere in the late 1600’s to early 1700’s and it says that the present age will end with a period of great spiritual blessing corresponding to the millennial promises accomplished through the preaching of the gospel. The whole world will be “Christianized” and brought to submission to the gospel before the return of Christ. In other words – Jesus returns after the 1,000 years. There are also many different versions of this and some forms of amillennialism are very close to this view. This view is the least held view today.

So with that in mind – let’s see what Revelation 20 says.

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and

shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. ⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.”

Okay – so let’s break that down into the cliff’s notes version

1. Satan is bound and thrown into this holding cell – the pit - for 1000 years.
2. All believers along with all tribulation saints reign with Jesus for 1000 years.
3. The wicked are not resurrected until after the 1000 years

Out of these three views – which one fits and why?

1. Satan bound – is there any time since Jesus was resurrected where we can look at history and the events of the world and conclude that Satan is bound? And not just bound in a figurative sense of he has now lost the ultimate war but can still run around creating chaos because that’s not what Scripture says – it says he is seized and chained and thrown into the pit for 1,000 years.
2. It’s been over 2,000 years since Christ’s resurrection.
3. Sin is still rampant in this world – if Jesus is truly reigning then we would have to conclude that He is doing a terrible job at it. He certainly reigns in the life of believers – but that’s not what this is

saying – it’s saying He’s going to reign over the earth, with us, for 1000 years.

4. Certainly the world has not been “Christianized” – nor will it be until Jesus returns.
5. If either of the other 2 are correct then there is no need for the Tribulation period.
6. Chronologically – when does the millennium occur? After the second coming of Jesus.
7. If you just read the text – it’s pretty clear.

Pre-millennialism is obviously the truth here. And the Bible doesn’t say what happens during these 1,000 years – there are no details other than it’s a time of great blessing.

After the millennium we have this one little interesting thing happen – starting in verse 7

“⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

So this is interesting and makes us wonder – if Jesus reigns on earth for 1000 years – who on earth would these people be that number like the sand of the sea who march against Jesus and us? Those who survive the Tribulation will enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, and they will bear children and repopulate the earth (Isa. 65:18–25).

- 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a
gladness.**
- 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall
be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.**
- 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or
an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man
shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years
old shall be accursed.**
- 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant
vineyards and eat their fruit.**
- 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and
another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my
people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their
hands.**
- 23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their
descendants with them.**
- 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will
hear.**
- 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw
like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the
LORD.**

Under ideal circumstances in which all know about Jesus Christ (cf. Jer. 31:33–34), many will outwardly profess faith in Christ without actually placing faith in Him for salvation. The shallowness of their professions will become apparent when Satan is released. The multitudes who follow Satan are evidently those who have never been born again in the millennial kingdom.

I'll also note that this is not the same battle as that of Armageddon – in that there were only a few nations involved and with this one it's the entire world.

But like the first battle – I mean – look at how people have forgotten history in only a couple two or three hundred years in this nation – they somehow think they are going to destroy Jesus and Rev 20:9 fire comes down from heaven and consumes them.

After that Satan is thrown into the lake of fire with the antichrist and the false prophet where they will be tormented day and night FOREVER.

And then we get to the great white throne judgment which is a judgment of who? The wicked – non-believers. They are resurrected and are judged by Christ. When are believers judged? Either when they die or when we are raptured – 2 Cor 5:6-10 **“6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”** We also see in earlier chapters like Rev 4:10 heavenly saints bowing before the Lord and casting their crowns before Him – well those crowns are heavenly rewards which implies what? That they've been judged.

But non-believers are judged and cast into the lake of fire and then the temporary hell and death are also cast into the lake of fire or the final, eternal hell where they will spend eternity – separated from God and anything that was good.

And that's where we'll end today – so for next week read Rev 21 & 22 and we'll cover those and I'm wondering, what do you think about for our last 3 weeks talking about Heaven since it flows out of this?

