

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 12

[Assigned Reading: Revelation 19-22]

[Themes to Teach: Final Judgment and Eternity]

In our last lesson, we discussed the signs of the end times and the rapture of the church. The rapture of the church is the great hope of God's people. Yet, it is not the end of the story.

I. **THE TRIBULATION:**

In the book of Revelation, John recounts the vision given to him, by God, concerning the last days and the great Tribulation.

1. The Tribulation is a seven-year period of divine judgement on the earth.
 - a. The Seven Seals (Revelation 6-8): Each seal that is opened releases a new judgement on earth.
 - b. The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-9): Each trumpet that is blown releases a new judgement on earth.
 - c. The Seven Vials (Revelation 16)
2. The Tribulation will be a time of natural disasters, war, famine, death, and great suffering.
3. The Tribulation is the fulfillment of Daniel's Seventieth Week. (Read Daniel 9:24-27)
 - a. Daniel prophesied that there were seventy weeks determined for God's people (the nation of Israel).
 - b. Each week represented seven years.
 - c. Therefore, he prophesied that there were 490 years determined for the nation of Israel.
 - i. 7 weeks or 49 years to the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
 - ii. 62 weeks or 434 years until the crucifixion of the Messiah.
 - iii. 1 week or 7 years remain unfulfilled.
 - d. This last week is the seven years of the Tribulation.

II. **THE REIGN OF THE ANTICHRIST:**

During the Tribulation, the world will witness the rise of a leader known as the Antichrist.

1. A one-world government will be controlled by the Antichrist. Revelation chapter 13 describes the Antichrist as a "beast": (Read Revelation 13:4-8)
2. The Antichrist wages war against Israel:

He will be a global leader who promises peace. He will make a covenant with the nation of Israel, possibly restoring the Temple Mount. Three and a half years into the covenant he will demand that he be worshiped as God. Some Jews will resist him. He will then unite the world against the remnant of Israel.

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week, He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

III. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON:

1. The Antichrist gathers the armies of the world to fight. (Read Rev 16:14-16)
2. Armageddon is the culmination of the Tribulation. (Read Revelation 19:11-21)
3. Jesus returns and defeats the Antichrist with the Word of God.
4. The Beast (Antichrist) is thrown into the Lake of Fire.

IV. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT: (Read Revelations 20:11-15)

Anyone whose name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.

V. TIME ENDS... THEN ETERNITY:**2 Peter 3:10-13 (KJV 1900)**

10 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?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

1. The heavens and earth will be destroyed.
2. There will be a new heaven and a new earth: (Read Rev 21:1-4 & Rev 22:1-5)
3. Characteristics of the new earth:
 - a. It is the home of the New Jerusalem promised by Jesus (Read John 14:2-3)
 - b. It will be filled with righteousness.
 - c. There will be no more pain or tears.
 - d. There will be no more curse or death.
 - e. The Tree of Life will be restored.
 - f. We will have complete access to God.
 - g. We will know then, what we cannot know now. (Read 1 Corinthians 13:12)