

Blessed Endurance

The message of Revelation

LESSON SEVEN: NO WHERE LEFT TO HIDE

The Third Vision of Judgment (15:5-19:21)

Chapters	Vision	Intent for the readers	Culmination
7-II	Opening the Seals, the Seven Trumpets	Judgment will come on the world; believers must endure	Christ reigns over the world; the elders sing proclaiming his victory
12-15:4	Battle in Heaven and on Earth	Persecution will come as Satan tries to thwart God's victory; believers must endure	Christ returns to the perfect city of God with his people and avenges their blood; the saints sing proclaiming his victory
15:5-19:21	Seven Bowls; The Prostitute; Babylon	All previous judgments combined; the current world system will be destroyed. Believers must endure.	Christ returns on a White horse and destroys all opposing powers in bloody battle; heaven rejoices at a marriage supper.

The Culminating Vision (15:5-19:21)

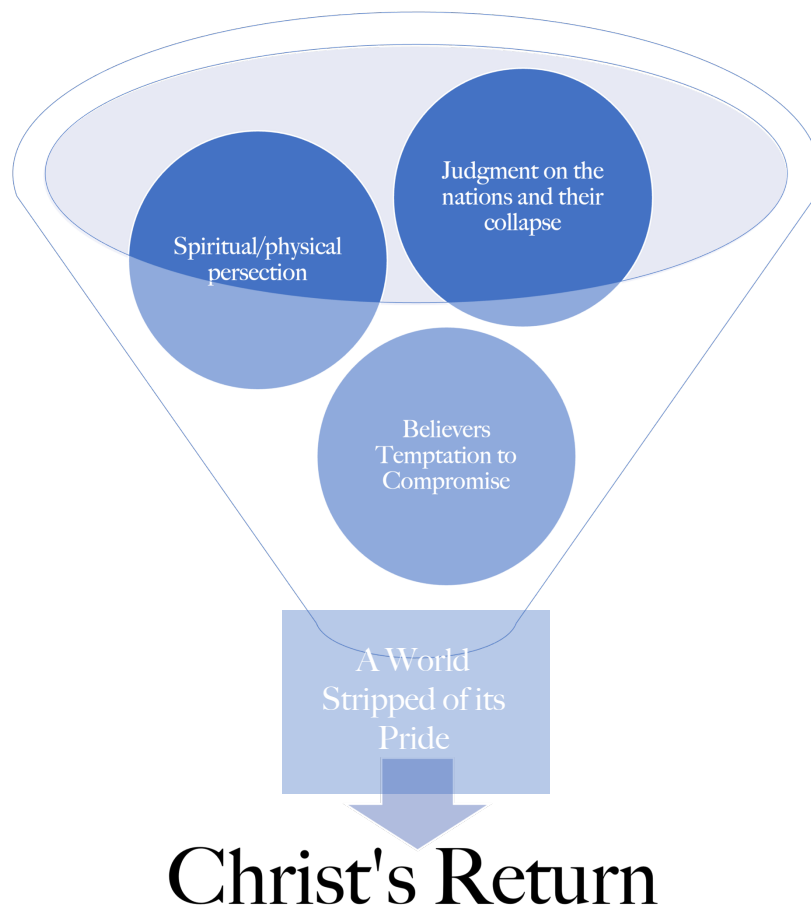
These chapters contain all the elements of the previous visions of judgments

They show all of history from Jesus' ascension to his second coming in 19:11-21.

A Clearer Vision of the End-Times

- We live in the end-times now.

These three visions (7-11; 12-15:4; 15:5-19:21) reveal three major factors of the world in-between Jesus ascension and second coming



These aspects are emblematic, not sequential

These three elements are present here and now

Jesus could return at any moment.

Jesus Description of the End (Matthew 24)

1. People other than Jesus will claim to be the Messiah (24:5)
2. "Wars and Rumors of wars" will abound (24:6)
3. International hostility and enmity, including but apparently not limited to actual warfare, will be common (24:7a)
4. Famines and earthquakes typify natural disasters that will often make people wonder if the end is near, but nothing can be deduced from them (24:7b)
5. Persecution and martyrdom of disciples will proliferate (v.9)
6. Apostasy, betrayal, and hatred will run rampant in the church (v.10)
7. False prophets will arise (24:11)
8. Spiritual life will deteriorate, perhaps even among true believers, as they tire of fighting the battle (24:12)
9. The extensive preaching of the gospel (24:14)

How should we wait?

The Parable of the Householder and Thief (24:43-44)

- We must always expect the return of Jesus at any moment .

The parable of the faithful and unfaithful servants (24:45-51)

- We must always serve Jesus as though he could come at any moment.

The parable of the ten bridesmaids (25:1-13)

- We must always count the cost of following Jesus, ready to suffer until he returns.

DISCUSSION

Q: In what ways do we see God stripping the world of its pride today? What idols are being shattered?

Q: How does the realization that Jesus could return at any moment sit with you? How should this fact change you? Which of the three parables of Jesus speaks most truly to your temptation when it comes to Jesus' return?

Q: The destruction of the world system will effect us (Rev. 18:11-13). How are we to respond as things break down? (Hint: Hebrews 10:32-39)