

## SESSION 4: *Armageddon, the Rapture and the Second Coming Procession*

### I. JESUS IS COMING BACK TO EARTH TO LIVE *PERMANENTLY*

*(Jesus said)...7 Behold, I am coming quickly...12 I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work...20 Surely I am coming quickly. (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)*

- A. Jesus is coming back to the earth to establish His Kingdom. His coming is the ultimate event in prophecy and is referred to as our *blessed hope* (Titus 2:13). The New Testament gives significant emphasis to this subject.

(Matt. 10:23; 16:27; 23:39; 24:27-31, 38-44; 25:31-32; Luke 9:26; 13:35; 18:8; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:6-13; 1 Cor. 4:5; 1 Thess. 3:13; 4:14-17; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:10; 2:3; Heb. 10:37; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7; 3:11; 11:15-18; 16:15; 19:11-21; 22:7, 12, 20; Is. 40:1-11; 59:20; 62:10-63:6).

- B. Jesus' coming is in context to a *military conflict* around the city of Jerusalem. He will come to win the Battle of Jerusalem which ends the Armageddon Campaign (which lasts for 3½ years).

*Behold, a white horse. He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12...on His head were many crowns...13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...14 the armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the...wrath of Almighty God. 16 He has...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)*

- C. Jesus will march through *Bozrah* in Edom (Jordan) killing His enemies on His way to Jerusalem (Is. 34:1-10; 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-18; Ps. 110:5-6; Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 19:11-16).

*Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (capital of Edom), this One who is...traveling (marching) in the greatness of His strength?...2 Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, I have stained all My robes. 4 The day of vengeance is in My heart...the year of My redeemed has come. (Is. 63:1-4)*

*The indignation of the LORD is against all nations, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter. 3 Their slain shall be thrown out; their stench shall rise from their corpses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood....5 "For My sword...shall come down on Edom...for judgment. 6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood...for the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7...their land shall be soaked with blood...8 For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. (Is. 34:1-8)*

- D. Jesus comes to defeat the *Antichrist* at Jerusalem and then to establish His Throne there.

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him... (Matt. 25:31-32)*

*At that time (millennial Jerusalem) Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*



## II. JESUS RAPTURES THE SAINTS AT THE SOUND OF THE LAST TRUMPET

- A. The Rapture describes what happens to all the *saints* worldwide related to Jesus' Second Coming.

As Jesus descends from heaven, He will catch up or rapture the saints to meet Jesus in the air as they are instantly changed by receiving resurrected bodies.

The word Rapture comes from a Latin word *raptus*, "snatching away" (the Greek word is *harpazo*).

We will see Jesus in a face to face way as we are gathered to Him forever (1 Thess. 2:19; 4:17; 5:10; 2 Thess. 2:1).

*God will bring with Him those who sleep (died) in Jesus. 15... We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thess. 4:14-17)*

- B. Jesus will rapture *all the saints* on earth when He brings all the saints with Him from heaven.

*At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (1 Thess. 3:13)*

*Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:5)*

- C. Jesus will come with *all the angels* (Matt. 13:41; 24:31; 25:31; Mark 8:38; 13:27; Luke 9:26; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).

Jesus' procession in the sky with billions of angels will show forth the overwhelming power and might of His army.

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him (Matt. 25:31)*

- D. Jesus will send out His angels with a specific role in gathering the *saints* to the sky from the ends of the earth and in gathering unbelievers to remove them from earth by killing them.

*He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt. 24:31)*

- E. Jesus will rapture the saints when the Trumpet sounds (Matt. 24:31; 1 Thess. 4:16; Is. 27:13).

*We shall all be changed...in a moment...at the Last Trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, and the dead (saints) will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)*

- F. Paul tells us that the Rapture occurs in association with the Last Trumpet (1 Cor. 15:50-52; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Is. 27:13; Rev. 11:15-17; 10:7).

The Seventh Trumpet is the Last Trumpet in the series of seven (Rev. 8-9; 11:15) that are numbered by John in Revelation.

- G. Paul said that in a moment "all" shall be "changed." What specifically happens in a moment?

*We shall all be changed...52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... (1 Cor. 15:51)*



“In a moment” qualifies how fast redeemed individuals will be “changed,” not how much time it takes for “all” the Church collectively to see Him and be changed, thus *completing* the worldwide Rapture.

### III. DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING

- A. The Second Coming describes *what Jesus does* when He permanently “comes” back to earth. The Rapture describes *what happens to the Church* when Jesus first “appears” in the sky.

Jesus’ Second Coming by definition is a “coming” to earth the second time. It is not merely for a brief appearing in the sky, but His “coming” is to accomplish a long term mission on earth.

- B. Some think of the Second Coming of Jesus as only consisting of the *Rapture* of the Church.

They think only of Jesus *appearing in the sky* to catch up His people that they may all return to heaven.

The Rapture is a significant occurrence within a larger series of events that I refer to as the “Second Coming Procession.”

- C. Many assume Jesus will appear simultaneously to all the peoples of the earth at the same moment as He instantaneously finishes all the activities involved in the Second Coming.

The result of establishing a biblical paradigm about the End Times is that many passages fit without needing to dismiss them either by spiritualizing them or just ignoring them.

Many passages of Scripture do not make sense if Jesus instantaneously completes all the activities associated with His Second Coming.

**IV. GET THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE (PARADIGM) ABOUT THE END TIMES**

- A. The challenge in understanding the *Second Coming* is in getting the right paradigm.

The necessary paradigm is in understanding that Jesus will rule the earth with the natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.

We see aspects of this when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body (John 20-21; Acts 1).

- B. As Gentile believers, our most natural paradigm is to think of *worshipping Jesus as God* in the supernatural conditions of heaven.

We emphasize Jesus' *deity* as the *Son of God*, whereas the Jewish paradigm thinks of *reigning* with the Messianic King *as a man* in the *natural* conditions of the *earth*. They emphasize the Messiah's *humanity* as the *Son of David*.

The *full truth* is only seen when these two paradigms are brought together.

**V. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY**

- A. The *redeemed* will be raptured during Jesus' worldwide procession across the sky
- B. The *reprobate* who took the mark of the Beast will be judged and then killed (some executed)



- C. The *resistors* are the unsaved survivors (Jews and Gentiles) of the Great Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist

The Scripture refers to them as “those who are left” or “who remain.” These will have an opportunity to be converted after Jesus returns and then populate the millennial earth (Is. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

## VI. THE SECOND COMING PROCESSION: THREE STAGES (30 DAYS)

- A. Jesus' coming is a procession because He will come with *all the saints* (1 Thess. 3:13) and all the angels (Matt. 25:31) as He travels on *clouds* across the *whole earth* for all to see (Matt. 24:30).

It will be a glorious procession as Jesus comes with the *Father's glory* (Matt. 16:27), *great power* (Mark 13:26) and *flaming fire* (2 Thess. 1:8) as He travels across the sky with the brightness and energy of *lightning* (Matt. 24:27).

He will descend from heaven with a *shout*, the *voice of an archangel* and with the *trumpet of God* as He *raises the dead*. (1 Thess. 4:14-16).

The *sun* will be darkened and the *moon* will not give its light; the *stars* will fall and the powers of the *heavens* will be shaken (Matt. 24:29).

- B. The Second Coming Procession involves a *three-stage process* including many events occurring over 30 days (compare Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7 with Dan. 12:11).

This Procession begins *in the sky* with the Rapture and ends *on the earth* to end the Armageddon campaign with a victory over the armies of the Antichrist *at Jerusalem* (Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 12:1-13:6; 14:1-9).

- Stage #1: Jesus' procession *across the sky*: to rapture the Church (Matt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7)

- Stage #2: Jesus' procession *on the land*: traveling from Egypt through Jordan (Is. 63; Hab. 3)
- Stage #3: Jesus' procession *into Jerusalem: to the Mount of Olives followed by His coronation*

## VII. STAGE #1: JESUS' PROCESSION ACROSS THE SKY: TO RAPTURE THE CHURCH

*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him... and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him... (Rev. 1:7)*

- A. The Second Coming Procession begins in the sky when Jesus *circles* the earth on clouds as He raptures the Church.

Jesus will be seen by every eye of every person (believers and unbelievers), from all the tribes of the earth. This will require a global procession over every inhabited place on earth including each remote island that is inhabited by people.

- B. The Rapture will not be a *secret* event, but a dramatic event that all the people on earth will witness with their natural eye (rather than seeing Him in a mystical vision or by technology).

They would not be convinced so as to mourn if they only saw Him by technology.

- C. The Rapture will be a process that takes time to complete. Since the earth is round, it is impossible for all the people on the earth to see Him at the same time.

It will not be sufficient for Jesus to make one trip around the earth. He will need to be seen in *each* longitude and latitude of all the inhabited places on earth as He arrives over their region.



- D. What height and speed will Jesus travel at so as to be *recognizable* to people on the earth with the naked eye? His procession across the sky requires that Jesus be bright enough and close enough to be seen and the process is slow enough for each person (not raptured) to interpret what is going on so that they mourn. It must be convincing enough to cause hardened (not reprobate) unbelievers to mourn.

**VIII. STAGE #2A: PROCESSION ON THE LAND: DESCENDING TO MT. SINAI (EGYPT)**

- A. Jesus descends from heaven to eventually come to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4-5). However, I do not believe this is His first point of contact with the earth.
- B. The Lord will ride on a cloud around the earth as He *raptures* the Church. In my opinion, He will descend on Mt. Sinai which is in Egypt.

***The LORD rides on a swift cloud (Rapture) and will come into Egypt... (Is. 19:1)***

- C. My view is that Jesus descends from heaven to Mt. Sinai which is in Egypt, then marches through parts of Egypt, then passes through the wilderness, then through Jordan (Edom) on His way to Jerusalem onto the Mount of Olives.

This march will involve natural human processes that are enhanced with significant supernatural power. This march progressively unfolds, including a series of events (that may take two weeks).

- D. In Acts 3:22, Peter identified Jesus as the “prophet like Moses” that Moses prophesied of.

***The LORD...will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren...17 The LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren...’ (Deut. 18:15-18)***

- E. In what sense is Jesus to be understood as like Moses?

Possibly, in that Jesus will *start* at Mt. Sinai like Moses (burning bush; Ex. 3) then go through parts of Egypt manifesting His power as He delivers the captives of Israel (Ex. 7-12) only to return again to Mt. Sinai with the Israelites to dedicate themselves to God in covenant (Ex. 19).

At Sinai, Moses established the priesthood (Num. 4), the Tabernacle (Num. 9:15), and it was the place that God betrothed Himself to Israel (Jer. 2:2). They went through the wilderness on their way to Israel, led by signs and wonders.

- F. Immediately after the Exodus, *God's* first point of contact with the earth was on Mt. Sinai.

God's glory like fire rested on the top of the mountain in the eyes of all Israel (Ex. 19:18-20). Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb) is called *The Mountain of God* (Ex. 3:1; 4:27; 18:5; 24:13; 1 Kings 19:7-8) and is in the Sinai Peninsula (desert) which is 150 miles wide (northern end) and 250 miles long.

- G. At Mt. Sinai, Moses, as a type of *Christ*, first stood in God's glory and then led Israel through the wilderness with great signs and wonders.

So also, Jesus will come as the "Greater Moses" who will release the seven Bowls of wrath, which are similar to Moses releasing the 10 plagues of Egypt.

- H. Moses as a deliverer of Israel gives us a prophetic picture of how the Lord will again deliver Israel.

The miracles of Egypt will occur in the End Times (Mic. 7:15; Is. 10:22-25; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jer. 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezek. 38:22; Joel 2:30).



**IX. STAGE #2B: PROCESSION ON THE LAND: THROUGHOUT PARTS OF EGYPT**

- A. God called His son Israel out of Egypt in the days of Moses. Then again He called His ultimate son (Jesus) out of Egypt.

In the End Times, Jesus will lead Israel out of Egypt.

*When Israel was a child, I loved him...out of Egypt I called My son. (Hos. 11:1)*

- B. God will send Jesus as the Savior to Egypt (who is at war with the Antichrist; Dan. 11:42-43).

The Lord will raise up five cities in Egypt that make a vow to Jesus (after the Rapture).

*18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will... swear by the LORD... 19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt...20 it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD...in...Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He (Father) will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He (Jesus) will deliver them (Egyptians and Jews). 21 Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make...a vow to the LORD and perform it. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they (Egyptians and Jews) will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. (Is. 19:18-22)*

- C. Jesus will assemble the *captives* of Israel.

The primary nations emphasized are Egypt and Assyria.

The captives are called the outcasts and dispersed ones (Is. 11:11-16; 40:10-11; Hos. 11:10-11; Zech. 10:10). Jesus leads them out of the gate of the prison camps (Mic. 2:12-13).

- D. God will gather Israel from the nations for a new *wilderness* experience.

The Exodus story is the model for the coming wilderness days that will purify Israel. God will gather Israel from the nations and separate the rebels from them before He brings them to Jerusalem (Ezek. 20:34-38).

*“I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand...and with fury poured out. 35 I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples (Gentile nations), and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord GOD. 37 I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 I will purge the rebels from among you...I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD. (Ezek. 20:34-38)*

## X. STAGE #2C: PROCESSION ON THE LAND: THROUGH THE SINAI WILDERNESS

- A. After the Exodus from Egypt, the Lord marched with Israel through the wilderness (Deut. 33:2) as a prophetic picture of Jesus doing it again in the End Times as the “greater Moses” (Ps. 68:7-8, Song 8:5).

This is the pattern that will be repeated in the End Times and will again involve war with Edom (Num. 20:14-21; Is. 11; 34; 63). Jesus initiates violence in this military conflict.

*The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints... (Deut. 33:2)*



- B. Jesus will march from Egypt which includes the Sinai *wilderness* (Mt. Paran, Mt. Seir) through *Jordan* (Edom, Bozrah, Teman which was part of ancient Assyria) in His journey to Jerusalem.

*God came from Teman (in southern Edom), the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. 5 Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet...7 the land of Midian trembled (Arabian desert reaching into the Sinai Peninsula)...12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... (Hab. 3:3-13)*

- C. Mount *Paran* is in the Sinai Peninsula, 30 miles south of Israel, and 130 miles north of Sinai. Mount *Seir* is the range from the south of the Dead Sea to Elath, north of the gulf of Akabah, east of the Arabah.

The distance from Mt. Sinai to Israel is 165 miles. It is an 11-day journey traveling 15 miles a day with flocks (Deut 1:2). Teman is a town in the southern part of Edom. Midian is the land east of the Dead Sea, that stretched to the south through the Arabian desert reaching to parts of the Sinai Peninsula. It lay between Edom and Paran and it is in Arabia today.

#### XI. STAGE #2D: PROCESSION ON THE LAND: THROUGH JORDAN (ASSYRIA/EDOM)

- A. Jesus will march through the city of *Bozrah* in Edom (Jordan) and Teman killing His enemies on His way to Jerusalem.

Their blood will be sprinkled on His robes (Is. 34:5-10; 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-18; Zech. 9:14; Ps. 110:5-6; Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 19:11-16). He did not get this blood on Him by descending from the sky to the Mount of Olives.

*Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah (capital of Edom), this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling (marching) in the greatness of His*

*strength?...2 Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone...for I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come." (Is. 63:1-4)*

- B. The Jewish captives will come from Egypt and Ancient Assyria (regions of parts of modern day Jordan, Syria and Iraq).

This march will involve human natural processes that are enhanced with supernatural power. The march progressively unfolds over several weeks.

- C. The fact the "heavens opened" (Rev. 19:11), describes *how* John received his revelation, rather than referring to where Jesus was most recently.

In other words, Jesus did not get blood on His robe in the heavenly descent, but rather in the march through the land.

*I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on him...judges and makes war...13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood... (Rev. 19:11-15)*

- D. During Stage #1 and Stage #2 of Jesus' Second Coming Procession, Jesus as the new Moses is releasing the seven Bowls that will be similar to the plagues of Egypt that Moses released.

The Seventh Bowl will be released immediately prior to Jesus marching to Jerusalem to win the Battle of Jerusalem to end the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:11-21).



**XII. STAGE #3: JESUS' PROCESSION INTO JERUSALEM: BATTLE FOR THE CITY**

*Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken... half of the city shall go into captivity... 3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He  fights in the day of battle. 4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two... making a very large valley...5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley...Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah...Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:1-5)*

*Now when they drew near Jerusalem...at the Mount of Olives...22 Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart...he will have whatever he says." (Mark 11:1-23)*

- A. The final stage of the Second Coming Procession brings us to the *high* point of world history. Jesus makes His procession into Jerusalem going to the Mount of Olives then on to coronation on His Throne in the Temple (Ps. 24:7-10; Zech. 14:4; Jer. 3:17; Zech. 6:12; Ezek. 43:7).
- B. There is a common misunderstanding about when Jesus comes to the Mount of Olives.

The misunderstanding is in seeing the Mount of Olives as the *first* place at which Jesus arrives instead of being the place He comes to *near the end* of His Second Coming Procession.

- C. The Second Coming is in context to the Battle of Jerusalem.

The city will be surrounded resulting in half of it being taken into captivity (Zech. 14:1-2). Who are the nations gathered around Jerusalem?

Initially, it is the 10-nation confederation under the Antichrist. Gentile kings gather to Jerusalem (Rev. 16:13-16). The Lord will gather all nations to Jerusalem and then will fight against them (Zech. 14:1-5; Joel 3:2, 11-21; Rev. 14:20).

- D. Jesus enters Jerusalem, arriving at the perfect time to *rescue* the remnant of Israel. Jesus as the “greater Moses” will split the Mount of Olives to rescue them (Zech. 14:4-5). Israel will be delivered by the split mountain instead of the sea (Zech. 14).

The Mount of Olives shall be split in two making a very large valley. The Jews will escape through a valley in the very mountain.

- E. The pinnacle of the Second Coming Procession is Jesus’ re-entry into the city of Jerusalem to be officially received by the *governmental leaders* of Israel as their Messianic King.

*I say to you (governmental leaders in Jerusalem), you shall see Me no more till you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” (Matt. 23:39)*

- F. He will be celebrated in a Hosanna *coronation parade* that is hosted by the leaders of Israel.

The leaders of Israel will open the gates of Jerusalem to Jesus in an official declaration of Him as their Messianic King after He rescues them. Because Jesus suddenly reverses the tide of the war in the Armageddon campaign, they call Him “the LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle (Ps. 24:8) and the LORD of hosts (God’s armies), the King of glory” (Ps. 24:10).

*Lift up your heads, O you gates (of Jerusalem)! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle (Armageddon campaign). (Ps. 24:7-8)*



## Session 4 Study Guide Questions

- What does it feel like for me to think of Jesus coming back to live on Earth?
- What is the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming? Are there parts of the Second Coming procession that are new to me? If so, how can I integrate them into my perception of the End Times?
- What parallels do I see in the life of Moses and Jesus?
- What emotions will be in play as Jesus returns to Jerusalem at the invitation of governmental leaders? How do I think His entry into the city will be different from the Palm Sunday entry?