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Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 06

Rapture - Allegorical

There are about seven raptures which has taken place in the scriptures. Let us look at them in little detail.

1. Enoch, the First Raptured

In the beginning mankind is created within the perfect environment. In the very presence of God, in a perfect climate, and with abundance on every hand, man was unable to resist temptation. The “Old Serpent” tempted the first couple, and they fell. Their son Cain, the firstborn, murdered his brother Abel.

From that point, Scripture divides mankind into two genetic lineages.

Cain became the father of the ungodly.

Adam’s third son Seth, became a replacement for Abel.

So, Seth fathered the Godly, Genesis 4:25-26, *“And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another*

seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. "And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD".

Further down in their generation we could see them walking away from the Lord God. But Enoch **always walked with God.**

Genesis 5:24, *And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for **God took him.***

Enoch lived in a world of open sin, among demonic forces and the environment he lived was dominated by fallen angels, who intermarried with human women to produce monstrous offspring.

Allegorically, God took Enoch to spare him from the coming judgment. His name, pronounced Chanokh in Hebrew, means "initiated," or "dedicated," the same word root as Chanukkah, the festival of dedication. Being set apart as an example of a man of great faith – complete dedication – Enoch was a living example of the word.

Jude1:14-15, ¹⁴ *Now **Enoch,** the seventh from Adam, **prophesied about these men** also, saying, "Behold, the **Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,** ¹⁵ **to execute judgment on all,** to convict all who are ungodly among*

them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Jude is writing in his letter taking directly from the book of Enoch, which is not part of the inspired word of God.

Writing about 5,300 years ago, Enoch looked toward the day of the Lord’s judgment, just as we do!

God took Enoch to heaven prior to the judgments of his time of living.

We, the church, Bride of Christ, those who are living when Jesus returns, will be taken out before the future judgment mentioned in Enoch’s own prophecy.

2. Moses, the Second Raptured

Moses, Israel’s great prophet and deliverer, presided over the Bible’s next great period of sin and idolatry.

He entered the Egyptian culture when he was young until 40 years, with its hundreds of gods, goddesses, magic charms and powerful occult priesthood. By the grace of God, Moses, a Hebrew, became the most gifted member of the house of Pharaoh.

Moses life divided into 3 parts each in the span of 40 years. Frist 40 years spent in Pharaoh’s house as a prince,

next 40 years in Midian in his Father-in-law's home and the last 40 years he struggled to establish the spiritual Israel in the wilderness.

Egypt is a type of the world system, which, because of sin, is rooted in a structure of idolatry.

Moses could not enter the promise land but he could see that from a distance from Mount Nebo. Having seen the land from far off he was dead.

Deuteronomy 34:5-8, ⁵So *Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.* ⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but *no one knows his grave to this day.* ⁷Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. *His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.* ⁸And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

Is it not strange that Moses died?

He did not die because of his old age... he was strong and his strength did not vanish but he did die according to the word of the Lord.

Also, the burial was also conducted according to the word of God. The scripture makes it so clear that no one know the place.

But we have been given a clear indication in the scripture saying that the Lord had taken the body of Moses, even though Satan came to claim Archangel Michael fought with him and took the body.

Jude 1:8-10, ⁸ *Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.* ⁹ *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"* ¹⁰ *But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.*

This signifies the saints those were dead will raise to a new life when Jesus Christ appears!

3. Elijah, the Third Raptured

In the ninth century, B.C., Elijah arrived on the scene suddenly, in the presence of Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel, priestess of Baal. Israel had fallen into utter idolatry. Now, Elijah the prophet had come to declare judgment (**1 Kings 1:17**)

Having pronounced a three-and-a-half-year drought, Elijah followed the Lord's instructions and fled for his life. Later, toward the end of the drought, he returned to challenge the prophets of Baal.

Elijah arranged a public demonstration, laying out a sacrifice to the Lord, who found it acceptable. The prophets of Baal, whose god remained silent, were slain. Again, Elijah fled for his life.

Ahab's son, Ahaziah came to power and served Baal until he, too died, as prophesied by Elijah. Shortly thereafter, the Lord decided that it was time for Elijah to be called home. But his work was to be carried on by Elisha.

2 Kings 2:11-14, ¹¹ *Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and **Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*** ¹² *And Elisha*

saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

Elijah taken by a whirlwind that had the appearance of horses and a chariot. He had been raptured or taken in a cloudlike vehicle to heaven.

Malachi 4:5, Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Elijah will return one day, bodily, in the Tribulation, and will die (Revelation 11), and then will resurrect, and be raptured AGAIN!!!

4. Jesus, Resurrection and Rapture

Jesus died at the age of 33. Murdered by the Romans at the demand of His own people, the Jews. And buried and His tomb guarded by 4 soldiers for three days and three nights.

Jesus rose up from death and broke out of that tomb and for forty days, he showed Himself alive! Never to die again!

For next forty days until 10 days before the feast of Pentecost, Jesus, was raptured to heaven. He ascended to heaven in His resurrection body.

Jesus left slowly enough so that His 12 apostles could watch Him go!

Jesus took the Old Testament believers with Him **(Matthew 27:50-53)**

Jesus fulfilled another type, He is the middle, or elevated Servant Lamp of the Temple Menorah's seven lights!

This is exactly the way he is pictured by John in the book of **Revelation 1:13**,

*"And in the **middle of the lampstands** one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle"*

5. Rapture of the Old Testament Saints

The righteous of the Old Testament era had patiently awaited the coming of their King. When Jesus had come and He had risen, a miraculous sign appeared, a signal of things to come.

Matthew 27:51-53, ⁵¹ *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,* ⁵² *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;* ⁵³ *and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

Old Testament saints were led in a triumphal parade to Paradise. Their experience was the very essence of being “caught up,” in the same way that the dead in Christ shall rise first.

6. Rapture of Philip

Acts 8:39-40, ³⁹ *Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more;* and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ *But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.*

Philip was raptured but NOT to heaven.

7. Rapture of Apostle Paul

2 Corinthians 12:2-4, ²*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a **one was caught up to the third heaven**.* ³*And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—* ⁴*how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

Lot as Preview to Rapture

Sodom and Gomorrah are used as the examples of when man's sin against God reaches its fullness, making him ripe for Judgement. God is saying that if He judged Sodom and Gomorrah for their sin, He will also surely judge all those given over to sin.

Let us see how the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is described by God in the scriptures.

Jeremiah 23:14, *Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that*

no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

Matthew 10:15, *Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!*

(The above is mentioned in the Gospel of Mark 6:11 and Luke 10:12)

Matthew 11:23-24, *And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."*

So, in the Bible, Sodom is often used as a standard picture and example of both man's sin and God's Judgement (Isaiah 1:9,10, 3:9, 13:19,20, Jeremiah 23:14, 50:40, Lamentations 4:6, Amos 4:11, Hosea 11:8, Zephaniah 2:9, Matthew 10:15,11:23-24, Luke 10:12, Mark 6:11, Romans 9:29, Jude 7, 2Peter 2:6, Revelation 11:8).

The scriptures indicate that God did bring the judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah as a warning to all mankind.

2 Peter 2:6, and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

Jude 1:7, as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The above two scriptures makes it amply clear apart from teaching of our Lord that Sodom and Gomorrah are example for judgment of God by fire which is coming upon all those who reject God.

Sodom and Gomorrah designed for us to understand the principle in which God reveals His longsuffering, Salvation and Judgement.

We can confidently say,

- God does judge,
- God when He judges HE does it thoroughly
- God hates sin and
- God will ultimately use Fire to destroy it
- God's Mercy always comes before His Judgement

God loves human and His longsuffering and mercy provides an opportunity for Him to offer the grace if anyone is willing to receive it.

The sins of cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had reached its fullness and God wanting to bring judgement upon these cities.

Lot also knew about the cities of their great sin.

Genesis 19:7, and said, *“Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!*

In the background God had revealed this to His friend Abraham, **Genesis 18:17**, *And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,*

Abraham intercedes with God and finally God agrees to rescue Lot and his family.

Lot went and pleaded with his son-in-law 3 of them. **Genesis 19:14**, *So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!”* ***But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.***

What a tragedy?

They thought he was joking! Today when we talk about the impending judgement upon this earth people do mock at us and think it's a joke.

There are so many modern day false teachers and cults who propagate wrong things by saying that how can loving a God send you to hell? So, don't worry make merry and enjoy life. Striking a similar chord, is it not?

God always gives an opportunity to be saved, and be delivered from, and escape the Coming Judgement. God is longsuffering towards you, so you may repent and be saved!

God sent angels to rescue Lot from Sodom just before Judgement fell. They pulled him out of the Judgement Zone, so that he escaped, and was delivered from all Judgement.

Genesis 19:29, *And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.*

God rescued the one who had kept the faith in Him. Lot escape from the judgement has been given as an example for us who are waiting for the world to be judged at the second coming of our lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:7-9, ⁷and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— ⁹then the **Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,**

What a wonderful promise from the Lord that HE knows how to deliver the righteous from the impending judgement.

This shows to us very clearly Lot was raptured from Sodom and Gomorrah before the fiery judgement of these two cities. Same way the church will be raptured with Jesus before the judgement comes upon the world.

Jesus taught that this Principle of God removing of all believers before Judgement falls and the Judgements that will come upon the earth at the End of the Age.

The very day Lot escaped, Judgement fell. Jesus said it will be the same at the Rapture. As soon as His people are removed, the Tribulation Judgements will begin.

The Judgement of Sodom came down from Heaven, devastating the whole area. Likewise, the Tribulation

Judgements will come down from Heaven, devastating the whole earth.

Noah as Preview to Rapture

Noah lived in a day in which man was graphically described as “wicked”.

Genesis 6:5, *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Men were so wicked that their **every thought** was only evil and it was continuous.

Genesis 6:11-12, ¹¹*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.* ¹²*So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*

The earth was fully corrupt.

The earth was so corrupt even God felt sorry for creating man.

Genesis 6:7, ⁷*So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and*

beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

God felt it's enough and He decided to bring an end to the wickedness by bringing judgement upon the earth by flood.

Genesis 6:13, *And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Judgement of earth was looming before God.

But Noah found favor in the eyes of God. He was declared as righteous man.

Genesis 6:8, *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

So God declared him as righteous before His eyes.

Genesis 7:1, *Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.*

There are other scriptures says about his righteousness

Ezekiel 14:14 & 20, ¹⁴*Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would*

deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God.

²⁰*even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.”*

Peter in his letter portrays Noah as a preacher of righteous.

2 Peter 2:5, *and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;*

So, we can see from the above clearly the following,

- The mankind became so wicked
- God was feeling sorry that He created them
- That man’s every thought was wicked
- The wickedness becomes ripe to bring judgement upon themselves by God
- God decided to bring the judgement by flood
- Noah a righteous man
- Noah found favour in the eyes of God
- Noah a preacher of righteousness

Now look at what our Lord Jesus Christ is saying about His coming! You will be astonished that Jesus compares His second coming will be like the days of Noah!

Luke 17:26-27, ²⁶ And as it **was in the days of Noah**, so it will be **also in the days of the Son of Man**: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Matthew 24:36-44, ³⁶ "But of that day and hour **no one knows, not even the angels of heaven**, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the **days of Noah were**, so also will the coming of **the Son of Man be**. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ **Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.** ⁴¹ **Two women will be grinding** at the mill: **one will be taken** and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, **for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.** ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Compare today with what the days of Noah!

People are carrying on their regular materialistic life, getting married, eating and drinking and ignoring God and His commandments. The wickedness is higher than the days of Noah. Conditions today are perfectly fit this description, it only shows that we are nearing the end!

The flood was a judgement from God on the earth. Same way the coming of the Son of Man will be judgement upon the earth once again. The judgement is very clearly spelt it out in the book of Revelation from chapters 6 to 19. God's Judgements are released on the earth over the final 7 years leading up to the Second Coming of Christ.

Before Judgment:

Prior to Judgement God asked Noah to prepare an ark for Himself and for the animals. Also Noah, a righteous preacher, preached to the people about the judgement through flood.

Noah went into the ark and God closed the door! This shows how God delivers believers from Judgement, removing them to safety before it falls.

The pre-Flood disappearance of Noah into the Ark, lifting him above the Judgements is a perfect picture of the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church, when they will

disappear into Christ and be raised up above the Judgement Zone, just before the world-wide 'Flood' of Tribulation Judgements strike the earth.

Jesus spoke about this in the above-mentioned passage in Matthew 24.

Daniel

At the beginning of the Babylonian captivity Daniel and three of his friends received prominent status in the King's service. They are educated for three years upon arrival to learn the literature and language of the Chaldeans (Daniel 1:4-5).

All four of them received Babylonian names and Daniel's three friend's names were well known by their Babylonian given names than their Hebrew names. They are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Daniel 2:1-6, King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that bothers him so much. King commands the wise men of Babylon to not only give him an interpretation of the dream but to tell him what the dream was.

When they are unable, King Nebuchadnezzar orders the wise men to be killed. Among them were Daniel and his

friends (Daniel 2:13). When Daniel hears about the order he petitions the captain of the guard to give him an opportunity to fulfil the king's request (Daniel 2:24).

Daniel is brought before the king and announced as a man from among the exiles from Judah who can make known the dream and its interpretation. Daniel interprets the dream and giving glory to God.

Nebuchadnezzar amazed about the interpretation and of all things, falls on his face and pays respect to Daniel recognizing that Daniel's God is truly the God of gods. Daniel is promoted ruler over Babylon (next to Nebuchadnezzar, of course) and chief of the wise men. Daniel then promotes Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be put in offices over Babylon while Daniel remained in the court of the king.

Nebuchadnezzar installs an image of gold created whose height was 60 cubits and breath 6 cubits (Daniel 3:1).

In Daniel 3:4-6, commanded everyone should worship this image size of 90 feet height and 9 feet wide.

Daniel 3:4-6, *Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music,*

you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

Commanded that everyone should worship this image whenever certain music is played and if they do not, they will be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Any exile from Judah who worships Yahweh knows that this is strictly forbidden and this becomes a problem for Daniel and to his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Where is Daniel now?

The first two chapters would not exist without Daniel. The rest of the book also would not be complete without Daniel. Surely Daniel must have been around there in the country or travelling somewhere. So, the absence of Daniel is very peculiar.

It is with his absence that a picture of a pre-tribulation rapture can form.

The three friends of Daniel's Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the image and even when they have been asked to do so the second time by the

king himself they refused and answered to him very boldly.

Daniel 3:16-18, ¹⁶ *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

The trio refused to worship and they spoke very defiantly to the king which made the king very angry.

King of Babylon ordered to heat up the furnace seven times!! People who tried to put them in the furnace were getting killed.

Here is the deliverance. Testimony from the king Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Daniel 3:25, ²⁵ *“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like **the Son of God.**”*

Who comes to deliver the people then “*the Son of God*”?

The fiery furnace is easily a picture of the tribulation and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are much like the remnant of Israel.

From the following table you can see the similarities of Daniel and second coming of Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation.

	Daniel 3	Revelation
King	King of Babylon	Ruler of new Babylon Revelation 17-18
Image	Sets up an image for the whole kingdom	Antichrist sets up an image whole world to worship (Revelation 13:14)
Penalty for refuse to worship	Will be cast into the fiery furnace	Will be beheaded (Revelation 13:10)
Number	Image 60x6 Cubits	666 (Revelation 13:18)
Jews	Defy king of Babylon and face death	Flee from Antichrist to Judah (Matthew 25:14-20)
Deliverance	Son of God	Return of Son of God
Dominion	All peoples, nation and languages	Everyone name written in the book of life

Daniel (a picture of the church) is removed prior to the fiery furnace (the tribulation) while his three friends (the remnant of Israel) are being saved (or sealed) by God.