

MOSAIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Christ's second coming

Acts 1:11, Revelations 1:7

MATERIAL FOR GROWTH GROUPS

NOVEMBER 2023, week 1-4

CONTENT

Week 1: Anticipating the Rapture

Week 2: Assurance of the Coming of Christ

Week 3: Signs Preceding the End of Time

Week 4: Final Judgement

WEEK 1

ANTICIPATING THE RAPTURE

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Goal: To learn how to awaken our eternity consciousness and to appreciate and anticipate the rapture of the church.

Introduction

Though the term rapture is defined in different ways. The main idea of rapture is that; believers will be caught up prior to judgement on earth on Jesus’s second coming. A day is coming when we will be changed. We will put on an incorruptible body; where immortality will swallow up mortality(a). It will happen so fast that you will not have time to prepare. This world is not getting any better just like in the days of Noah (b) and that is why you must live your life preparing for that day; that you may be counted worthy to meet the Lord in the air(c) .“Caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 17 is synonymous with “snatching away” not secretly but openly(d). That’s the word used for RAPTURE. So, no matter where you are, if you are prepared to meet Jesus at the time of rapture, the power of God will snatch you away. Hallelujah!!!!!!!!!!!!

(a)1Corinthians15:53 (b) Mattew24:38-41 (c) 1Thessalonians4:16-17 (d) Luke 21:36

Discussion

1. What does “Christians will be raptured to heaven” mean to you?
1. What was your first reaction/impression about the rapture? You can share a dream or vision if you had one.
2. Do you see yourself being raptured when it finally happens? In preparation for rapture, how do you live a rapture-conscious life? How do you tell your fellow neighbor your conviction?
3. When are you expecting the rapture to take place? Are you excited about it?
4. How do you help a loved one, your neighbor, or anyone you know to prepare for rapture?

Conclusion

Christian rapture to heaven means that Christians will be delivered from this world and be taken to heaven (e)The rapture of the church is only for every branch that remains in the vine because every branch that beareth no fruits the father cutest away (f). You must abide in Christ. When is this going to take place?... Anytime! Anytime soon. It's closer than it had ever been. The evidence from the scripture is openly clear. Those who will be raptured are all those who are in Christ Jesus, who are alive and remain(g). It is time to put away sin from our heart, and ensure we are indeed a part of the body of Christ, and serve the Lord with our Spirit, Soul and body. It is also time we become very focused and set our affections on heavenly things (h). This is not the time to be distracted or get into things that can cut off your relationship with God. Your thinking must be dominated by the word of God (i). Live the heavenly life on this earth. We can prepare ourselves and others for rapture by; LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF HIS FIRST COMING as we can see in the parable of the gold coin in Luke19: 11-27, BE DISCERNING, Twice in Mark 13 Jesus warned

His disciples not to be led astray by false claim: “Watch out that no one deceives you... false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect” (vv. 5-6,21-22). “Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming”, DON’T LOSE HOPE, LIVE AS IF TODAY WAS THE DAY, KEEP ON DOING THE WORK JESUS LEFT US TO DO and KEEP ON ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER ABOUT CHRIST’S SECOND COMING (Mark 13:32-3)

(e) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (f) John 15:5-6 (g) 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (h) Colossians 3:1,2 (i) Colossians 3:16

Prayer

Thank you Holy Spirit for refreshing and reviving my consciousness Concerning the rapture I receive the strength and wisdom to abide continually, to stay prepared and focused on my kingdom assignments. I refuse to be distracted or entangled by the pleasures of this world. I choose to bear fruits that last in Jesus's name. Amen

WEEK 2

ASSURANCE OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

Scripture: Rev 1:7 KJV, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen Goal.”

Goal: To help participants understand that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will come back to the earth.

Introduction

In our previous study, we realized the rapture of the church is eminent and a reality. We learned that it demands our consistency in remaining or abiding in Christ. Truth be told, it can happen at any time and on any day and that should strike a joyous string in our hearts. Rather than see it as a fearful event, let's have a sparkling expectation of being raptured in His appearance(a). Being assured of His second coming is also eminent. In this coming, we are going with Him Glory!!!. His first coming happened exactly as written in these prophecies(b)(c)(d). When Jesus ascended to heaven as the book of Acts recorded, we are told He will come in like manner(e) and surely all will see. In fact, there are more prophecies in the Bible about His second coming than about His first coming. Since the prophecies of His first coming happened exactly as written, we can believe that the prophecies of His second coming will be fulfilled in the same way.

(a)2Thess3:13 (b)Isaiah 9:6-7 (c) Micah 5:2 (d) Matt 2:4-6 (e) Acts1:10-11

Discussion

1. Are you excited about Jesus coming again? How do you picture it
2. What questions would be running through your mind if you had experienced Jesus ascending to Heaven after walking with him for 3years?
3. What is the “blessed hope” you’re looking forward to when Jesus comes back and how do you convince the people who don’t believe in Christ’s second coming? Titus 2:12-13
4. Now that you’re assured of the Lord Jesus’ return and you being a part how do you intend to live your life?
5. Why do we have to return with Him?

Conclusion

Christ told the disciples that He was leaving the earth to go prepare a place for them in His father's house(f). Enoch in his prophecy said He would come with ten thousand of His Saints (Jude 1:14); we are not exempted. The angels in Acts 1:11 re-echoed that Jesus who was taken up from them into heaven shall return in like manner as they have seen Him go into heaven. We are assured of the blessed hope of the glorious appearing and coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ(g). When we shall come with Him, we shall reign with Him as heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ(h). Presently we have to be on the watch, alert, on guard, prepared, and well-informed so as to keep living in the light of our assurance of Jesus Christ’s coming.

(f) John 14:2,3 (g) Titus 2:13 (h) Rom8:17, Matt25:33,34 ,2Tim2:11-12

Prayer

Thank you Lord for the revelation of your Word. I receive the wisdom to live every day in preparation and fervency of spirit. According to Luke 12:35, I choose to be dressed ready for service and to keep my lamp burning for my King, Jesus.

WEEK 3

SIGNS PRECEDING THE END OF TIME

Scripture: Matthew 24:13-14, “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Goal: Learning about the signs that will precede the end of times.

Introduction

With so much chaos and confusion in the world today, many wonder if we are living in the End Times. Maybe you’ve heard predictions of when the end will come or perhaps you’re too afraid to even think about it. It’s true that the world is straying from God, and the Bible points to several warnings we can see all around us[a]. But, in John 16:33, Jesus Christ says, “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” By understanding what God says about the end of the world as we know it, there can be peace in our hearts. The scriptures have been very clear about the end times as much as it was clear about the first coming of Christ. It all started with signs and will end with signs; the birth of Jesus [b], His vicarious death [c], His appearing[d], and His second coming[e] through numerous prophecies. These prophecies are mostly always a mystery and a puzzle to the world until the set time of manifestation but unto you, it is given to know[f].

(a) 2Pet3:3-4, 2Thess2:3-4 (b) Gen 3:15, Isa 7:14 (c) Isa 53:7 (d) 1Pet1:7 (e) Jude1:14-16, Acts1:10-11 (f) Luke 8:10

Discussion

1. How do you honestly feel about the end times? What questions always ran through your mind?
2. Which of the signs do you see clearly happening in your current habitation or around the world?
Read: Matthew 24:3-14
3. What’s your preparation strategy and why should you not be troubled by the signs you see?
4. You were invited to a show and were asked to share your conviction about the end time. What can you explain to them and how do you assure them of salvation in Christ?

Conclusion

It is essential to understand that we are people of prophecy and our lives are dependent on prophecy. The signs preceding the end of time should not put fear in you but rather should stir you up to be conscious of who you are in Christ(e). Most of the signs can be clearly seen around us and that alone creates a vivid distinction between the people of God and the world (f). We see so much deception, a falling away from the faith, tribulations, national conflicts, the rise of mockers and false Prophets, natural disasters, unnatural usage of the body(g), and Christians being persecuted. For us to stand firm, the preceding signs of the end were given us before time and this should be our inspiration, signs to be watchful in prayer, well-informed towards spiritual growth, and consistent in preaching(h).

(e) 1Jn 4:17 (f) Matt13:24-30 (g) Rom1:24-27 (h) 2Tim4:1-5

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the light of your word in my heart. Thank you for advanced knowledge and insight into the last days. I refuse to fall into the snares of the devil. I am wide awake by the spirit of God and I refuse to look back. I march forward in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen

WEEK 4

FINAL JUDGEMENT

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Goal: To understand the consequences of our stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and our actions.

Introduction

The final judgment primarily refers to the final destiny of mankind that will ultimately and dramatically take place when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead^(a) and the reward or retribution that day will bring^(b). The rule of judgment is the standard of God's word as revealed to men. You will not be judged beyond the word of God^(c). The word of God has been given to us the same way your textbooks were given to you before class and exams. Nothing will take us by surprise on that day because everything was made plain in the scriptures. The timing of Christ's return remains unknown to us^(d), but attendant events of that final day are plainly disclosed in Scripture: [I]the White throne judgment^(e); where all will appear before God, [II] the Bema judgment, or the Judgement seat of Christ^(f); where the Righteous will be judged. *Bema is the greek word for judgement seat.* [III] the Judgement of the nations^(g) and [IV] the judgment of Satan and rebellious spirits^(h). Consequently, everyone will receive the appropriate reward or punishment.

(a) 1Pet4:3-5 (b) Rev 22:12 (c) Luke 12:47 (d) Matt 24:36 (e) Rev 20:11-15, Jn 5:28-29, Acts 24:15 (f) Rom 14:10, 2Cor 5:10 (g) Matt 25:31-33 (h) Rev 20:10

Discussion

1. If God is so forgiving, why is there a judgment day?
2. How do you feel about the turnout of events in the final judgment? Share your ideas
3. Have you noticed the difference between the White Throne judgment and the *Bema* judgment?
4. What will be your exhortation to an unsaved soul interested in knowing the end of all things? And, what can you do to help others prepare for the final judgment?

Conclusion

No matter how good and lovely your teacher is to you, you will still have to write the final exams according to standard. It's the same with God. There's no escape route. You will have to go according to the rules of the exam and make a choice of passing with the standard being Christ. Evidently, your passing is based on your preparation. It's the same way with the final judgment. The white throne judgment can only spare those with Christ as their standard^(h) and the *Bema* seat judgment is God's system of rewards in light of Righteous works⁽ⁱ⁾. The Judgement of the nations as highlighted will be a separation of the sheep from the goats to inherit the Kingdom prepared⁽ⁱ⁾

and the Judgement of Satan and Rebellious spirits is already decided for destruction. We're in times of preparation and we have been given various clues through signs and the manual of His word. The word of God is our comfort, strength, hope, help, guidance, and more^(k). Christ in you is the hope of glory. Don't allow fear and negligence to decide your destiny.

(h) Rev20:15 (i) 1Cor4:5, Matt6:20 (j)Matt25:34,41 (k) 2Tim3:16

Prayer

Thank you Righteous Father for giving me your precious Holy Spirit by which you lead, guide, and counsel me to walk in righteousness and to bear forth fruits of Righteousness. I run the full distance and keep the faith in the name of the Lord Jesus.