

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 14

November 26, 2023



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24 Elders Bowing down in God's Throne by Pat Martinko Smith cir 1982-1992

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Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Fourteen

RAPTURE TIMING AND GOD'S THRONE PT. I

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THE RAPTURE TIMING

JESUS IS THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT OUR SALVATION

Now that we have defined the True Church it is incumbent on us to define the person who enabled us to be in it and what the extent of our salvation is.

Jesus is the person who claimed to be God and willingly died on that Roman cross many years ago to enable us to receive our salvation.

WHAT OUR SALVATION GUARANTEES

1. We are His Child

John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (KJV).

2. We are Not Condemned

John 3:17

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (KJV).

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (KJV).

3. We are New Creatures

II Corinthians 5:7

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are past away; behold, all things are become new (KJV).

4. We are Accepted and Forgiven by God

Ephesians 6:6-7

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved: ⁷ in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (KJV).

5. We possess Eternal Life

John 10:28

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand (KJV).

6. We are Reconciled to God

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (KJV).

7. We are at Peace With God

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (KJV):

8. We Have Passed from Death to Life

I John 3:14

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (KJV).

9. The Holy Spirit Dwells in Us

II Timothy 1:14

¹⁴ That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us (KJV).

10. We are Forgiven of All Our Sins

Colossians 2:13

Canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands (ESV).

11. We are Adopted into The Family of God

Galatians 4:5

⁵ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (KJV).

12. Our Names Are Written into The Book of Life

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life (KJV).

13. We Receive The Righteousness of Christ

Romans 3:22

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference (KJV).

14. We are Friends of God and No Longer His Enemies

I Corinthians 12:13

¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you (KJV).

15. We have an Inheritance in Heaven Waiting for Us

I Peter 1:4

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you (KJV).

16. We are Sealed by the Holy Spirit Until the Day of Redemption

Ephesians 1:12-14

¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ: ¹³ in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (KJV).

17. We are Not Saved to Wrath

I Thessalonians 5:9-11

⁹ For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together

with him. ¹¹ *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (KJV).*

Matthew 3:7

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

So, Matthew is saying that there is a way to flee from the wrath to come. How do you flee from the wrath to come? It's going to come over the entire world. The only way to flee is to be in Christ and to be with Him off the earth. That's the only way you are going to get out of it. The Lord Jesus also was quoted by Luke saying the same thing.

Luke 21:34-36

³⁴ *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (KJV).*

The Tribulation is coming on the entire world. The only way to escape it is to be off the world and stand before the Son of Man, Jesus. In other words, to be Raptured before the Tribulation.

There is therefore no reason for God to punish those children of His who have believed in Him – no reason. That is not a purpose for the tribulation. As a matter of fact, He's said exactly the opposite. When you and I come to Jesus Christ and we accept Him, He has taken the punishment for us. We don't get punished again. There is no reason for us to get punished. He has taken this burden upon Himself.

When we believe in Christ, He has taken the punishment for our sins. When He died, He suffered all present, past, and future sins from the lives of mankind on the planet.

It is Jesus that conducts the Tribulation (Revelation 6:1).

We are going to see that there is an absence of the Church from the text starting from the beginning of Revelation chapter 4. It ended at the end of chapter 3 and does not reappear until Chapter 19 verse 7 – the Second Coming with His Saints. The word church doesn't even appear until Chapter 22 verse 16

The opening of the seals starts in Chapter 6. The whole focus in that period is on the nation Israel. It's a godly correction for the nation Israel. Until they beg for Him to return, He doesn't come back. That's the whole reason for the Great Tribulation. Jeremiah 30:7 says, *Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.* Remember, Jacob's name was changed to Israel. And this is the time of Israel's trouble. Two thirds of them are going to perish (Zechariah 13:8). One third died in the Nazi Holocaust, but two thirds are going to die in this massive correction. it's important for us to realize this,

WHY THE CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION:

The Tribulation has three distinct purposes.

To Make and End of Wickedness and Wicked Ones. (Sinfulness Isaiah 13:9; 24:19–20)

To Bring About Worldwide Revival (Revelation Chapter 7).

To Break the Power of the Holy People (Daniel 11–12).

The third main purpose of the Tribulation is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish nation. In Daniel 11–12, the prophet was given a vision of what conditions will be like for his people (Israel) during the Tribulation. Then, in Daniel 12:5–7, a question is raised as to how long this period will be allowed to continue:

Daniel 12:5–7

⁵Then, I, Daniel, looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on the brink of the river on this side, and the other on the brink of the river on that side. ⁶And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? ⁷And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half; and when they have made an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished (ASV, 1901).

This passage provides a third goal of the Tribulation. It is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jewish nation. The Tribulation will continue and will not end until this happens. So, from this, the third purpose of the Tribulation can be seen: God intends to break the power of the holy people in order to bring about a national regeneration.

There is therefore no reason for God to punish those children of His who have believed in Him. That is not a purpose for the tribulation. When we believe in Christ, He has taken the punishment for our sins. God will not punish us for our crimes (sins) against Him twice. When we believe we make peace with God. The long war is over. He loves His prisoners of war.

Chapter 4

Revelation 4:1

¹After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter I (KJV).

John is lifted up to God's Throne Room in much the same manner that we have seen in the Program for the Rapture given to us in I Thessalonians 14:16-18. We can take much comfort in this as God tells us to "Comfort one another with these words." (I Thessalonians 14:18). Are we doing this for each other? Follow the Bible as it commands us and we will be blessed! The same voice which we will hear someday is the voice that John heard telling him to "Come up hither!" John receives the invitation to enter the presence of The Lord in His Throne Room. The next time we see the door open in heaven in the book of Revelation is chapter 19 when Jesus comes back with us (saints) to win the battle of Armageddon. God frequently intervenes into time and space with the sound of a trumpet. In Exodus 19:13 we read that God warned the Israelites that at the proper time the trumpet blast would sound for a long time to signify that they should now approach the mountain. To make Himself again known, God does what no human can do. He

blows long increasing in volume over a long period of time. He wants His people to realize that it is Him and none other.

Revelation 4:2

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne (KJV).

This passage is directly parallel to Daniel 7:9 which states:

Daniel 7:9

⁹I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah and Ezekiel both saw the Throne Room of God. Psalm 103:19 says; *that “the Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom ruleth over all.”*

Revelation 4:3

And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald (KJV).

John describes the One who sat on the throne in terms of precious stones. This description is of color not shape in that we know that spirits have no shape. Jasper is “most precious,” crystalline and purple in hue. The sardine or sardius is also described as exceedingly precious, and of a beautiful bright, red, carnation color. It is capable of a high and lasting polish. Uniting the qualities of tint and brilliancy belonging to the purer specimens of these precious gems, they have the appearance of flames, and have a smokiness-pure, purple, fiery, red, crystalline, flashing light. These gems were on the high priest’s breastplate as the first and the last of the twelve jewels on the breastplate. John is trying to use the only words he can use to describe an indescribable place. “*He that sat*” is the Lord, God the Father who is described as being like the named jewels not a gem or jewel. The text shifts from a simile to gems to an actual rainbow encircling the Throne of God. The rainbow is beautiful and colorful and represents God’s covenant with all flesh never again to destroy the earth or its inhabitants as in the flood (Genesis 9:11, 17). We are given the impression that although this is a throne of judgment for all the earth as the planning of the greatest most extensive war to ever come on the earth is occurring, the war will consume the earth and many of its inhabitants. Those who stay on the earth through the war will enter the kingdom age as true believers. This rainbow is emerald green drawing us to the general color of nature which is green.

From Exodus 28 we see the same stones set as the first and the last in the breastplate of the high priest. They represent Reuben as “*see a son*” and Benjamin as “*son of my right hand.*” Christ is God the Son and sits at the right hand of God the Father in the throne room making intercession for us. So not only do these precious gems represent the brilliance of fire before the throne but also the Lord Jesus as the first and last as well as the son who makes intercession for us. He does this for us as the high priest (Cohen Gadol) did for Israel.

The first Stone was the Jasper representing Reuben-The First



Last Stone is the Sardius representing Benjamin-The Last

Romans 8:34

³⁴Who [is] he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (KJV).

Revelation 4:4

⁴And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold (KJV).

While the text does not clearly state who these elders are, we are given enough information to understand their identity. They have:

1. White Garments which in this book are symbols of salvation. Only human beings need salvation. No celestial being needs this as they were not lost to begin with.
2. Wearing Crowns. This is a strong clue. The Greek word is *stephanos* and that is the crown given to a victor as a result of some achievement. It is not the diadem or the crown for royalty. This type of crown is given to the overcomer at the Bema Seat of Christ for the exercise of God given spiritual gifts for the body of believers.
3. Elders. This title is always used to describe humans in positions of authority either in the synagogue or the Church.
4. 24 Elders. This represents the Church and not angels or other levels of celestial beings.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XV

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