



Revelation Hope for Uncertainty

PROGRAM 9 - Revelation's Final Event

Message Summary

God's Specific End-Time Plan in Scripture

- God has provided a clear and specific end-time plan for the world within the Scriptures, particularly in the Book of Revelation, which details the climax of human history.
- **Key Texts:**
 - **Revelation 14:14:** "I looked, and behold, a white cloud and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown and in His hand a sharp sickle." (Pictures Jesus' glorious return for harvest).
 - **Revelation 19:11-14:** "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses." (Describes Jesus as a triumphant general rescuing His people).
 - **1 Corinthians 15:51-53:** "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:** States that Christ will descend with a trumpet call, and the dead will rise.

Warnings Against False Christs and Impersonations

- Scripture warns against false Christs and miracle-working figures who will emerge in the last days, emphasizing that Christ's true second coming will be unmistakable and not a localized or secret event.
- **Key Texts:**
 - **Luke 17:23-24 (NIV):** "Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in His day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other." (Warns against following those who claim Christ has appeared in specific locations).
 - **2 Corinthians 11:14:** Mentions that "Satan himself... can masquerade as an angel of light," indicating his ability to deceive.

The Nature of Christ's Return: Not a Secret Rapture

- The idea of a "Secret Rapture," where individuals are whisked away invisibly, is a misinterpretation of texts that describe Christ coming "like a thief in the night." These texts signify an *unexpected* event, not a *secret* or *silent* one.
- **Key Texts:**
 - **2 Peter 3:10 (NIV):** "The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire. . . ." (Combines the "thief" analogy with a loud, visible event).

- **Matthew 24:27 & 30 (NIV):** "As the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man . . . the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." (Emphasizes the visible and global nature of Christ's return).

Specific Events of God's End-Time Plan

- God's Word outlines a series of specific events that will occur at the end of time.
- **Key Texts and Events:**
 1. **Seismic upheavals:** "The heavens roll back like a scroll; mountains and islands are moved; and a great earthquake shakes the planet." (Revelation 6:14; 16:18-20).
 2. **The righteous dead are resurrected:** "The dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28-29).
 3. **The righteous living are translated:** "The righteous who are alive will be caught up together with the resurrected and ascend toward Christ, their Redeemer and meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
 4. **Immortality is bestowed:** "Both the resurrected dead and the translated living receive the gift of immortality for their faith in Christ. 'This mortal must put on immortality.'" (1 Corinthians 15:53).
 5. **The wicked are destroyed:** "Those who deliberately and persistently rejected God's mercy will finally be destroyed." (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:11-21).
 6. **The righteous welcome the returning Christ:** "The redeemed exclaim, 'This is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. . . . We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'" (Isaiah 25:9).
 7. **The righteous journey to heaven:** "The righteous are welcomed into the divine procession and journey with Christ toward their heavenly home." (John 14:2-3).

Two Responses to Christ's Coming

- The coming of Christ will divide humanity into two groups: those who perceive it as a horrifying surprise and those who see it as a wonderful deliverance.
- **Key Text: Revelation 6:15-17:** Describes the wicked praying for mountains and rocks to fall on them, highlighting their terror.
- Have you chosen today, which side you will be on? The good side and the side that looks forward to the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ? Or will you delay to choose and find yourself on the horror stricken side because you never responded to the loving call of Jesus?