

12-29-2024 Sunday Sermon Message

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11

Title: What Will Happen After **"These Things"**

The apostle John **testifies that he looked up to heaven** "after these things."

In bearing witness to the Laodicean church, which was the last of the seven churches, he was bearing witness to what he saw in the Holy Spirit after the end of the church age, that is, after the end of the age of grace. The church in Laodicea is a type of the apostate churches of the last days.

The Apostle John gives us a detailed picture of the apostate church:

**"<sup>15</sup> I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**

**<sup>16</sup> So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

**<sup>17</sup> Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

**<sup>18</sup> I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**

**<sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**

**<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ... door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will sup with me."**(Revelation 3:15-20)

When the apostle John looked up to heaven, knowing that the church age had ended because of the apostasy of the churches, he saw that the windows of heaven had been opened and he heard the voice of God say, "Come up here." It was at this time that he saw himself being raptured in the Holy Spirit. When the Apostle Paul testified about the day of the rapture of the saints, he said, "For the day does **not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;.**"(2 Thessalonians 2:3).

He testified that as soon as the Apostle John was raptured in the Holy Spirit, he immediately became in the Spirit. He was immediately on his heavenly throne. He bore witness of the things he saw. We, too, will see what the Apostle John saw at the rapture:

**" And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**

**<sup>3</sup> 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.**

**<sup>4</sup> And 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.**

**<sup>5</sup> And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."**(Revelation 4:2-5)

The apostle John ascended to heaven and finally saw the great tribulation on earth. Beginning with the appearance of the antichrist first, they foresaw in the spirit the seven years of God's judgment on the earth.

When Christ Jesus, the Lamb, opened the first seal, he saw the Antichrist appear:

**"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."**(Revelation 6:2)

King David foresaw and prophesied in the Holy Spirit the wicked who would appear with the antichrist in the distant future. He called him a wicked man:

**"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.**

**<sup>2</sup> For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.... For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. ... <sup>10</sup> For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. <sup>12</sup> The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.**

**<sup>13</sup> The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.**

**<sup>14</sup> The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.**

**<sup>15</sup> Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.**

**... I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.**

**<sup>36</sup> Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found."**(Psalm 37:1,2,9,10,12-15,35,36)

The prophet Daniel also prophesied of the appearance of the wicked Antichrist:

**" And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."(Daniel 9:27)**

Jesus also spoke of the appearance of the Antichrist:

**"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)Therefore ye shall see the abomination of desolation,"(Matthew 24:15)**

The Apostle John went on to see and testify of what would happen when the seals were opened:

**"<sup>3</sup> And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.**

**<sup>4</sup> And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.**

**<sup>5</sup> And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.**

**<sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.**

**And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.**

**<sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**

**<sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

**<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

**<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun**

**became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood:**

**<sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.**

**<sup>14</sup> And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

**<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;**

**<sup>16</sup> And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

**<sup>17</sup> For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

There is no one who can withstand these great disasters that will not be raptured and will be subjected to those who remain in the great tribulation. Not only that, but the Apostle John testified that the seven trumpet plagues and the seven gourd plagues after the plague of seals were incomparable, When hail and fire mixed with blood rain down on the earth, a third of the trees will be burned, and so will the green grass. Also, a huge mountain will be burned with fire and thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea will become blood. One-third of the living creatures in the sea will die, and a third of the ships will be destroyed. When a great star falls from the sky, burning like a lamp, a third of the water will become mugwort, and many people will die. The third part of the sun and the third part of the moon will be struck and will not shine for the third of the day and the third of the night.

The Great Tribulation is the last seven years of God's reign to judge the Jews and all Gentiles who did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ until the end. It is also the time that was given to us as a last chance. He wants all people to repent and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ so that they will not be subject to the wrath of God. Amen! Hallelujah!