LESSON IV THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS AND JUDGMENT

I. <u>WE ARE LIVING IN THE KINGDOM AGE</u>

A. The beginning of the Kingdom Age

- 1. (Acts 1:9) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- 2. He restored us to His Original Intent: to rule and reign in this earth. (Gen. 1:26, 28)

(Acts 1:8) But you shall receive power (dominion) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

3. He left us His authority.

(Luke 10:19) Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

4. We are to occupy until He comes.

(Luke 19:11-13) So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business until I come." (In the King James Version, 'occupy until I come.')

5. (Acts 3:20-21) And that He may send the Christ who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

B. We have a promise of His return.

(Acts 1:11) Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

II. RAPTURE - THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

- **A.** Although the Word "rapture" is not found in the Bible, it is a biblical principle. The word "caught up" in I. Thess. 4:17 is translated from the Greek word, harpazo, meaning -- to seize, to catch (away, up), pluck, pull, and take (by force).
 - 1. (Gen. 5:21-24) Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
 - 2. (II Kings 2:8-11) ...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
 - **3.** (Acts 1:9-11) ...while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - 4. (I Thess 4:17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
- **B.** (II Thess. 2:3) Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first (the departure of the church), and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

C. The Antichrist cannot be revealed until the Rapture of the Church.

(II Thess. 2:6-7 Amp.) And now you know what is restraining Him (from being revealed at this time), it is so that He may be manifested (revealed) in His own (appointed) time. For the mystery of lawlessness -- that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority -- is already at work in the world, (but it is) restrained only until he who restrains) is taken out of the way. (The believers ruling and reigning and filled with the Holy Spirit is the restrainer.)

D. Paul received revelation from the Lord about the Rapture of the Church.

1. (I Thess. 4:15) For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

2. We do not need to be ignorant concerning these things.

- a. (I Thess. 4:13-18) But I do not want you to be ignorant...
- **b.** (**I Thess. 5:4**) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
- **c.** (Amos 3:7) Surely, the Lord will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants, the prophets.

E. Live like He is coming tomorrow.

- 1. (Matt 24:44) Therefore, you also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.
- 2. (I Thess. 5:6) Therefore, let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

F. Tribulation - The rule of the Antichrist.

- **1.** We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church.
- 2. Two things we know for certain from scripture:
 - a. The Body of Christ will be raptured at the second coming of Jesus.

(I Thess. 4:16-18) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first... Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

b. The antichrist cannot be revealed until after the Church has departed.

(II Thess. 2:1-8) vs. 3, Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the "departure (of the Church)" comes first and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom (of perdition). (Part in quotes is from the Amplified Bible footnote.)

III. JUDGMENT – Earth is the real permanent home for the believer NOT Heaven.

A. There is a real Heaven and a real Hell (the Lake of Fire... Rev. 20:15)

- 1. (John 14:2-3) In My Father's house are many mansions (God's family tree); if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- 2. (Rev. 21:-10) He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. Vs. 10: And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...
- **3.** (Matt 25:41) Then He will also say to those on the left hand, depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels..."
- 4. (Psalm 9:17) The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

B. The Believer's Sin

- 1. (II Cor. 5:21) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 2. God is not holding our sins against us. (Rom 4:7-8)
- 3. Salvation is not earned; it is a free gift.
 - **a.** (**Eph. 2:8-9**) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.
 - **b.** (Gal. 2:16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...

C. Eternal Life

- 1. (John 17:3) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- 2. (I John 5:11) And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
- 3. (John 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

All scriptures quoted are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise stated. Updated 4/26/08 jgl