

Questions on Christ's Coming

Revelation 14:1-5, 14-16

Introduction:

- A. So far in Revelation there have been three references to the Second Coming of Christ.
1. Rev 1:7 – emphasizes the v_____ return of Christ.
 2. Rev 11:15 – emphasizes the r_____ of Christ on the earth.
 3. Rev 14:1 – emphasizes the _____ who are with Him.
- B. Asking questions is a great format in learning. Here are four questions to explore.

Since Christ's Second Coming is mentioned in Revelation, where in Revelation is the rapture mentioned?

- A. The rapture is described in Rev 14:14-16 as a h_____.
1. This is a g_____ harvest, where the harvest in verses 17-20 is a terrible harvest and obviously refers to the gathering of unbelievers for God's eternal judgment.
 2. This is a gathering of believers for the c_____ of their salvation.
- B. The 144,000 are pictured in Rev 14:1 as being with Jesus on Mt. Zion.
1. Verse 3 states that this group has been p_____ from the earth.
 2. Verse 4 states that this group has been purchased from among mankind as f_____ to God and to the Lamb.
 - a. Believers are harvested f_____ (gathered up to Christ)
 - b. Unbelievers are l_____ and harvested second.
- C. 1Thess 4:13-17 describes the harvest of believers in detail.
1. The harvest involves a_____ believers whether alive or dead at Christ's coming.
 2. The alive believers will not p_____ the believers who have already died.

Which comes first, the rapture of the living saints, or Christ's coming with the departed saints?

- A. 1Thess 4:14-16 teaches us:
1. Verse 16 - The Lord will d_____ from heaven with the trumpet of God (this is the 7th and last trumpet of Rev 11:15)

- a. Right now, Jesus is in heaven sitting at the r_____ hand of the Father (1Pet 3:22)
 - b. Jesus made this journey to heaven _____ days after His resurrection in full view of over 500 believers.
 - c. These believers were told that Jesus would r_____ the same way they saw Him go (Acts 1:11).
2. Verse 14 - Jesus descends bringing with Him the s_____ of the departed saints (i.e. believers)
 - a. Right now, all d_____ believers are merely spirits without physical bodies.
 - b. 1Thess 5:23,24 states that at Christ's coming, the physical bodies of all believers will be perfectly r_____.
 3. Verse 16 – the dead in Christ will rise f_____ (their bodies rise up to join their spirits – 1Cor 15:51-53).
 4. Verse 17 – afterwards, the alive believers will be caught up together to meet Jesus in the a_____ (this is the rapture).
 - a. The rapture is not taking believers to h_____
 - b. The rapture is taking believers into the air.
- B. In light of the above scriptures:
1. The coming of Christ with the departed saints occurs f_____
 2. The rapture of the living saints occurs a_____.

How much time is there between the coming of Christ with the departed saints and the rapture of the living saints?

- A. 1Cor 15:51 gives us the time frame.
1. It all happens in the twinkling of an e_____.
 - a. The decayed bodies are transformed into i_____ bodies as they rise to their corresponding spirits.
 - b. The living saints are raptured up, their bodies transforming into a body that lasts f_____.
 - c. Even though there is an order, it happens so fast that an observer would see it all as happening at the same time.
- B. There is only o_____ return of Christ, not two.
1. There is no such thing as an i_____ return.
 2. There is only one v_____ return.
- C. Rev 14:1 pictures the Lamb as standing on Mt. Zion with the 144,000.
1. This is the final d_____ of Christ's descent from heaven.
 2. This is the place from which all believers will r_____ with Christ on the earth (Rev 5:9.10)

How does the symbolism of the 144,000 fit into Christ's coming?

- A. Chapter 7 sees the 144,000 as being from every t_____ of Israel.
1. Not every tribe is listed. The tribe of D_____ is missing.
 2. Therefore, the term Israel must not be in the physical sense but the spiritual sense.
 - a. Gal 3:7 states that all believers regardless of their physical ancestry are d_____ of Abraham.
 - b. Gal 3:8 – all the nations of the earth save people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and people.
- B. Chapter 14 descriptions of the 144,000:
1. Verse 3 – those who have been p_____ from the earth. (Jesus purchased them with His b_____ - Rev 5:9,10).
 2. Verse 4 – those who are sexually undefiled by w_____ (spiritually speaking), following the Lamb wherever He goes (practical explanation).
 - a. God called Himself a h_____ to Israel (Jer 31:32)
 - b. God chastised Israel for playing the harlot by w_____ Molech (Lev 20:5).
 - 1) A harlot is a w_____
 - 2) So Israel is pictured as a man defiling himself with women by worshipping other gods.
 - c. The 144,000 will never stray but will perfectly follow the Lamb.
 3. Verse 5 – Those who are blameless from all s_____ (they are not just righteous in God's sight but are in a state of sinlessness – perfect in body, soul, and spirit as 1Thess 5:23,24 promises).
 4. Verse 4 – those who are the f_____ to God and to the Lamb. The meaning of firstfruits (Ex 34:26)
 - a. They are the f_____ of the harvest
 - 1) Believers are harvested first at Christ's c_____ (Rev 20:6 calls this the first resurrection; Jn 5:29 calls this the resurrection to life).
 - 2) Unbelievers are harvested second after Christ's _____ year reign on the earth (Jn 5:29 calls this the resurrection to judgment)
 - b. They are the b_____ of the harvest – unbelievers are the rest of the harvest and are thrown into eternal judgement.
 5. Verse 3 pictures the 144,000 before the throne of God singing a new song.

- a. How can the 144,000 be on Mt. Zion and before God's throne in heaven?
 - 1) The length of time on Mt. Zion is _____ years.
 - 2) After that time believers will be transferred to h_____ before God's throne as the earth is being destroyed and as God makes a new heaven and earth.
- b. Only the redeemed can s_____ the song because Jesus did not die for angels, or for heavenly beings, only human beings. It is a song of redemption.

Conclusion:

- A. The topic of the Second Coming should never be a point of con_____ but of discussion and understanding.
 1. Whether a person is pre-trib, post-trib, mid-trib, pre-millennial, post-millennial, a-millennial, or whatever does not affect one's s_____ nor one's every day living
 2. But all must believe in the v_____ return of Christ.
- B. Why discuss the different aspects of the second coming?
 1. It is a major s_____ of the scriptures (every book mentions it except for Philemon, 2nd John, and 3rd John).
 2. It is a matter of what we s_____ believe.
 - a. Many believe something because that is what they were told growing up.
 - b. If God's word challenges your long-time beliefs, what should you do?
 3. It is a matter of p_____.
 - a. Jesus taught that we are to be on the a_____ for His coming (Matt 24:42; 25:13; Mk 13:35).
 - b. The days for believers world-wide preceding Christ's coming will be extremely difficult.
 - 1) Those that think that they will escape all this by being raptured will not be prepared.
 - 2) Those that are on the alert will be prepared to face the difficulties.