

Elementary Children's Church

Lesson 37

The End Times Part 1: The coming of the Lord, the first trumpet rapture

1. Luke tells us in **Acts 1:11**: "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in **like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven." So we know Jesus is coming back. And in **Hebrews 9:28**: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he **appear** the second time without sin unto salvation." And the only requirement to see Him at the second coming? To be looking for Him. The Apostle Paul makes it even more clear in **II Timothy 4:8**, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love his** appearing." This is the call and encouragement to fall in love with Jesus. It's in that encouragement to win His best, and be ready for his appearing and to not be sleeping spiritually and miss it (**I Thessalonians 5:4-7**). Jesus is coming soon and we need to be ready.

2. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, the Apostle John speaks of 7 churches, and how they type the state of believers at the time of the coming of the Lord. Most of the 7 to varying degrees have departed from the love of the Truth. Only 2 churches (Smyrna and Philadelphia) represent believers who have kept the Word dear, and that are ready for the coming of the Lord. Ephesus comes close, many good Christian qualities, but Jesus Christ makes it very clear, as he says in **Revelation 2:4** "I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love."

3. The beginning of the end times kicks off with the second coming of Christ or the rapture/capturing away of the bridal company Saints pictured in Smyrna and Philadelphia. Bridal company readied Saints. The wife has made herself ready Saints, **Revelation 19:7**. She is looking for Him, and she loves His appearing.

4. **I Thessalonians 4:14-18** tells of the bridal rapture. At this moment the church age is over. The time to win Christ Jesus as Bridegroom will be over, and the seven year Tribulation will begin. Paul said in **Philippians 3:11**, "if by any means" (any way possible, Jesus work that readiness and love in my life, through sufferings, testing, trial) "I might attain" to that bridal resurrection. The rapture sparing the bride right before the tribulation begins. Most of God's people will miss this opportunity and be raptured a couple of years later out from the tribulation, and they will be the innumerable multitude with tears in their eyes: **Revelation 7:17**. We are being offered the first trumpet rapture, to be with Jesus, out before the tribulation. The Philadelphia church is kept from the hour of temptation, that seven year tribulation. How glorious to think He loves her so to keep her from such worldly sorrow.