



Pine View
Baptist Church
Augusta, GA

Wednesday Night Service

"Questions About Prophecy – Part III"

1. *Will backslidden Christians be taken in the rapture?*

Some teach a partial rapture theory saying that only Christians in fellowship with the Lord will be taken in the rapture. They teach that sinning or unbaptized Christians will be left behind. Those who hold this position teach that sin or disobedience will be punished during the tribulation period. But this position is not correct. (Read: I John 1:7) This verse says, "The blood of Christ His son, cleanses us from all sin." Those who think backsliders will not be taken in the rapture have confused rewards and forgiveness of sin.

2. *What will happen to the children of Christians at the rapture?*

Technically, children before the age of accountability are not saved in the sense of going through a regeneration experience. What is regeneration? To be made new it is our salvation experience. However, they are safe. (Read: Matt. 18:3-6, 19:13-14) All children who die before the age of accountability go into the presence of God at death. Why? God would not want children of saved parents to be left to be raised by the ungodly and suffer the wrath of God in the tribulation.

3. *What will be the response of the unsaved when Christians are missing because of the rapture?*

During the tribulation, the anti-Christ will rise to power and he will have an answer for the disappearance of Christians. (Read: II Thes. 2:11) People during the tribulation will be deceived and they will believe the lies of the anti-Christ. (Read: II Cor. 4:3-4) The "God of this age" refers to Satan. He has blinded the eyes of unbelievers and lies to them. During the tribulation period, the anti-Christ will do the same.

4. *What will the anti-Christ do at or after the rapture?*

- a) The anti-Christ will arrive on the scene and overcome a death wound. (Read: Revelation 13: 3 & 12)
Regarding these verses, there are two beliefs: Some believe the anti-Christ will be killed and rise from the dead. The word anti-Christ means "Substitute Christ". So, he will do what Christ did and arise from the dead. Many will follow him thinking he is the Messiah. Others believe that this will not happen. Only God can rise from the dead, so the anti-Christ will not rise from the dead.
- b) The anti-Christ will reveal himself as a world ruler. (Read: II Thes. 2:8) The "lawlessness one" refers to the anti-Christ. Satan and the anti-Christ will unleash their fury and abomination upon the earth.
- c) The anti-Christ will gain world-wide leadership as he brings the nations of Europe (the revived Roman Empire) into realignment and with them there will be a confederation of the nations. (Read: Rev 13:1) The Christians in John's Day saw that the form of the monster was that of imperial Rome. Rome's power will come from the beast who was given power from the dragon.
- d) The anti-Christ will do great miracles in the power of the false prophet. (Read: Rev 13:13) He will duplicate the miracle of when the fire fell down from heaven at Pentecost.
- e) The anti-Christ will have great powers of speech, persuasion, and conciliation. (Read: Rev. 13:5) The anti-Christ will persuade people to accept his leadership, and many will follow him.
- f) The anti-Christ will attempt to solve the financial problems of the world and offer a solution to the financial problems of the world that all will accept. (Read: Rev. 13:15-18) All people will be given a mark and those who have this mark will be able to buy and sell goods. Those who don't have the mark will not be able to buy and sell goods. Some believe that those who refuse to take the mark will be executed.

What is the mark? We call this mark “the mark of the beast.” This mark will be placed on one’s head or forehead. The number is 666 which refers to total imperfection. Some believe this mark “666” will be placed on people marking their allegiance to the anti-Christ while others believe we will be given an identifying number like a social security or ID number.

- g) The anti-Christ will set up a unified world religion with himself being the head of it. (Rev. 13:12) He will want all people to worship him. Some scholars believe that those who don’t worship him will be punished or even killed.