

LESSON THIRTY-FIVE: AWAITING THE LORD'S COMING

If we, the believers, live a life in the Triune God that is sanctified, spiritual, victorious, and one spirit with the Lord according to that which was covered in the previous ten lessons of this volume, we will surely await the Lord's coming with eager expectation.

I. THE LORD'S PROMISE

1) "The Son of Man [the Lord] is about to come" (Matt. 16:27); "I [the Lord] come quickly" (Rev. 22:20).

In these two portions and in many other verses in the New Testament, the Lord definitely promised that He will come again.

II. WHAT THE LORD'S COMING IS TO THE BELIEVERS

A. The Rapture of the Believers

1) "The Lord Himself...will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are living, who remain, shall be caught up at the same time together with them in clouds into a meeting of the Lord in the air; and so we shall be always together with the Lord" (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

2) "So also shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken...Two women shall be grinding at the mill; one is taken" (Matt. 24:39-41).

Both passages clearly show us that, when the Lord comes back, He will rapture us who belong to Him from this dark world and this corrupted earth to meet Him and be together with Him forever.

B. The Transfiguration of the Believers

1) "From which [the heavens]...the Lord Jesus Christ...will transfigure the body of our humiliation, conforming it to the body of His glory, according to the operation of Him who is able even to subject all things to Himself" (Phil. 3:20-21).

These verses reveal to us that the Lord Jesus will come from the heavens to transfigure with His great power the believers' body of humiliation, conforming it to the body of His glory. This is for the redemption of our body, which will free us from all the problems in the old creation (Rom. 8:23).

C. The Rewarding of the Believers

1) "Behold, I [the Lord] come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book [because he will be rewarded]" (Rev. 22:7).

2) "Behold, I [the Lord] come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one according to his work" (Rev. 22:12).

第三十五课：等候主来

我们信徒若照本卷前十课所说的，在三神里面，过着圣别、属灵、得胜与主成为一灵的生活，我们就必热切期待的等候主来。

壹 主的应许

(一)“人子(主)要...来临”。—“我(主)必快来!”(太十六 27, 启二二 20)

主在这两处, 和新约好些别处的经文里, 都确切的应许我们, 他要再来。

贰 主再来之于信徒

一 提接信徒

(一)“主必亲自从天降临, ... 那在基督里死了的人必先复活, 然后我们这些活着还存留的人, 必同时与他们一起被提到云里, 在空中与主相会; 这样, 我们就要和主常常同在。”(帖前四 16~17)

(二)“人子来临也要这样。那时, 两个人在田里, 取去一个, ... 两个女人在磨坊推磨, 取去一个。”(太二四 39~41)

这两处经文都是清楚告诉我们, 主再来的时候要把我们属他的人, 从这黑暗的世界, 败坏的地上提去, 与他相会, 永远同在。

二 变化信徒

(一)“主耶稣基督, 从那里(天上)降临; 他要按着他那甚至能叫万有归服自己的动力, 将我们这卑贱的身体改变形状, 使之同形于他荣耀的身体。”(腓三 20~21)

这节经文启示我们, 主耶稣从天上再来, 要用他的大能, 将我们信徒卑贱的身体变化成为同形于他荣耀的身体, 就是叫我们的身体得赎, 脱开在旧造里一切的难处(罗八 23)。

三 赏赐信徒

(一)“看哪, 我(主)必快来! 凡遵守这书上预言之话的有福了(因为要得赏赐)。”(启二二 7)

(二)“看哪, 我(主)必快来! 赏罚在我, 我要照各人所行的报应他。”(启二二 12)

3) “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever...to give the reward to Your [the Lord God’s] slaves the prophets, and to the saints and to those who fear Your name, to the small and to the great” (Rev. 11:15-18).

The above three passages indicate to us that, when He comes again to possess the kingdom, the Lord will reward all those who belong to Him (Of course, some will receive His punishment, because He said, “My reward is with Me,” implying that there is not only reward but also punishment.)

III. THE ATTITUDE THE BELIEVERS SHOULD HAVE TOWARD THE LORD’S COMING

A. Waiting

1) “We should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:12-13).

Regarding the coming of our Lord, we should have a godly living in which we await His glorious appearing. This appearing should be the blessing we hope for.

B. Watching

1) “Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes” (Matt. 24:42); “And take heed to yourselves lest at some time your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare; for it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth. But be watchful, at every time beseeching, that you may prevail to escape all these things which are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34-36).

These two portions of the Scripture tell us that we must be careful and watchful, and we must be beseeching, so that when the Lord comes we may overcome and be able to escape all the calamities which will come upon all peoples on the earth and to stand before Him.

C. Loving

1) “Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord...will award to me in that day; and not only to me, but also to all those who have loved His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8).

Even more, we need to desire and love the Lord’s coming again, not that we may gain His reward, but that we may gain His lovely Self.

2) “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20).

This should be the longing and cry of those who love the Lord and who love His coming again. This should also become our constant prayer.

(三)“世上的国,成了我主和他基督的国,他要作王,直到永永远远。...赏赐你(主神)的奴仆众申言者和众圣徒并敬畏你名的人,大的小的。”(启十一 15~18)

以上三处经文都告诉我们,主再来,得着国度的时候,要赏赐一切属他的人。(当然也有的要受他的责罚,因为他说,赏罚在我。不只有赏,也有罚)

叁 信徒对主再来该有的态度

一 等候

(一)“在今世过自守、公义、敬虔的生活,等候那有福的盼望,就是至大的神和我们的救主,耶稣基督之荣耀的显现。”(多二 12~13)

我们对于我们主的再来,应当过着敬虔的生活,等候他荣耀的显现。这是我们所该盼望的福。

二 儆醒

(一)“你们要儆醒,因为不知道你们的主那一天要来。”—“你们要小心,恐怕因酗酒、沉醉并今生的思虑,累住你们的心,那日子就如同网罗忽然临到你们,因为那日子要这样临到全地面上一切居住的人。但你们要时时儆醒,常常祈求,使你们得胜,能逃避这一切要发生的事,得以站立在人子面前。”(太二四 42,路二一 34~36)

这二处经文告诉我们,要小心、儆醒,且要祈求,使我们到主要来的时候得胜,能逃避所有要临到地上一切人的灾祸,得以站立在他面前。

三 爱慕

(一)“从此以后,有公义的冠冕为我存留,就是主...在那日要赏赐我的;不但赏赐我,也赏赐凡爱他显现的人。”(提后四 8)我们对主的再来要盼望,更要爱,不是为要得他的赏赐,乃是为要得着他可爱的同在。

(二)“主耶稣啊,我愿你来!”(启二二 20)

这话该是每一个爱主,并爱慕他再来的人,所有的心愿和呼声!这也该变作我们常有的祷告。

LESSON THIRTY-SIX: RAPTURED TO MEET THE LORD

After we have believed in the Lord and are saved, because of the demand of the divine life which we have received and because of the intensity of our love toward the Lord, we desire to pursue a life that awaits the Lord's coming. In such a life of loving the Lord and waiting for the Lord, we also expect, according to that which is revealed and prophesied in the Bible, to be raptured to the Lord, to meet together joyfully with Him.

I. TWO CATEGORIES OF RAPTURE

According to the Bible, the rapture of the believers is divided into two categories according to the difference in their individual life and work before the Lord after their salvation. The first is the rapture of the overcoming believers, and the second, the rapture of the majority of the believers.

II. THE RAPTURE OF THE OVERCOMING BELIEVERS

A. The Need

1) "For then there shall be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21).

The Lord Jesus prophesied here that, at the end of this age, great tribulation, such as is unequalled either before or after its time, will come upon the people of the world.

2) "...and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare; for it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth" (Luke 21:34-35).

"That day" refers to the day mentioned above, the day of the coming of the great tribulation, which is unequalled before or after its time. At the end of this age, the day of the great tribulation will suddenly come as a snare upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

3) "...the hour of trial which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

This verse tells us that the great tribulation, which is about to come, is to try the people of the whole inhabited earth.

4) "Whenever they say, Peace and security, then sudden destruction comes upon them, as birth pangs to a woman with child, and they shall by no means escape" (1 Thes. 5:3).

The coming great tribulation mentioned previously will come suddenly upon men when they are saying, "Peace and security," that is, when they are seeking peace and security. It will come upon them as birth pangs to a woman with child, and they will by no means escape.

第三十六课：被提见主

我们信主得救以后，一面因着我们里面所得神圣生命的要求，一面又因我们向主之爱的迫切，我们就愿追求过一种等候主来的生活。在这种爱主，等候主的生活中，照着圣经所启示并预言的，我们也期待被提到主面前，与主相会、欢聚。

壹 两种的被提

照圣经所说的，我们信徒被提，按我们个人得救后，在主面前生活、工作的不等，分作两种。一种是得胜信徒的被提，另一种是大体信徒的被提。

贰 得胜信徒的被提

一 需要

(一) "那时必有大灾难，这样的灾难，就是从世界的起头直到如今，都未曾发生过，将来也绝不会发生。" (太二四 21)

这是主耶稣预言，到这世代的末了，必有空前绝后的大灾难，临到世上的人。

(二) "那日子就如同网罗忽然临到...全地面上一切居住的人"。(路二一 34~35)

这里所说的那日子，指前面所说空前绝后的大灾难临到的日子。那大灾难的日子要在这世代的末了，如同网罗忽然临到地上一切居住的人。

(三) "那将要临到普天下，试炼一切住在地上之人试炼的时候。" (启三 10)

这里告诉我们，那将要来的大灾难，乃是要试炼普天下的人。

(四) "人正说平安稳妥的时候，毁灭忽然临到他们，如同产难临到怀孕的妇人一样，他们绝不能逃脱。" (帖前五 3)

前面所说要来的大灾难，乃是在人正说平安稳妥，就是人正在寻求平安稳妥的时候，要忽然来到，如同产难临到怀孕的妇人一样，人绝不能逃脱。

According to the revelation in the foregoing Scriptures, the believers who live in this corrupt, dark age, which will be beset with calamities, definitely need to be raptured that they may be delivered out of this evil earth to be with the Lord, whom they long for.

B. The Promise

1) "But be watchful, at every time beseeching, that you may prevail [or, be counted worthy] to escape all these things which are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

In the original language, "to stand" in this verse is in the passive voice; hence, it has the meaning of being put in a certain place, referring to our being raptured to the presence of Christ. In this word the Lord promised that if we are watchful and beseeching so that we overcome to escape (or, are counted worthy to escape) all the coming tribulations, we will be placed in, that is, raptured to, His presence.

2) "Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

In this word the Lord promised us that if we keep the word of His endurance, He will keep us out of the hour in which the people on the whole earth will be tried, that is, He will take us out of the hour in which the whole earth will suffer the great tribulation.

C. The Fact

1) "...so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two men be in the field; one is taken, and one is left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; one is taken, and one is left" (Matt. 24:39-41).

This is the Lord's prophecy, that at His coming, some believers will be raptured and others will be left.

Undoubtedly, those who are raptured are the believers mentioned previously, who overcome or are counted worthy to escape; those who are left are the believers who are defeated and who remain.

2) "And she [the woman] brought forth a son, a man-child, who was about to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne" (Rev. 12:5).

The woman refers to the totality of God's chosen people throughout the generations. The man-child refers to the overcomers among God's chosen people, who will rule the nations. Before the end of this age, the overcomers among God's chosen people will be raptured to God and to His throne in the heavens.

3) "...the Lamb standing on mount Zion [in the

照以上圣经所启示的，活在这败坏、黑暗，要受灾祸，世代中的信徒，确有被提的需要，叫我们脱开这邪恶的地上，去与我们所向往的主同在。

二 应许

(一) "你们要时时儆醒，常常祈求，使你们得胜，能（或作，能算配得）逃避这一切要发生的事，得以站立在人子面前。"(路二一 36)

这里的“站立”，在原文是被动式，所以含有被摆在之意，指被提到基督面前。主在这话里应许我们，若我们儆醒祈求而得胜，能逃避（或作能算配得逃避）这一切要来的灾难，我们就要被摆在，就是被提到他面前。

(二) "你既遵守我忍耐的话，我也必保守你免去那将要临到普天下，试炼一切住在地上之人试炼的时候。"(启三 10)

主这话也是应许我们，我们若遵守他忍耐的话，他必保守我们免去全地上的人受试炼的时候，就是将我们提去，离开全地受大灾难的时候。

三 事实

(一) "人子来临也要这样。那时，两个人在田里，取去一个，撇下一个。两个女人在磨坊推磨，取去一个，撇下一个。"(太二四 39~41)

这是主预言，到他来临的时候，有的信徒被提去，有的被撇下。被提去的，当然是前面所说得胜，或能算配得逃的信徒；被撇下的，当然是失败、留下的信徒。

(二) "妇人生了一个男孩子，是将来要用铁杖辖管万国的；她的孩子被提到神和他的宝座那里去了。"(启十二 5)

这里的妇人指历代神选民的集大成，男孩子指神选民中的得胜者，就是将来要辖管万国的。在这世代的末了来到之前，神选民中的得胜者，就被提到天上神和他的宝座那里去了。

(三) "看哪，羔羊站在（天上的）锡安山

heavens], and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand...These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruit to God and to the Lamb” (Rev. 14:1-4).

This word of prophecy discloses to us that before the end of this age, a group of overcomers, signified by the one hundred and forty-four thousand, will be raptured to the heavens to stand with the Lamb-Christ on the heavenly mount Zion. Purchased from among men, they are those who follow the Lamb absolutely and who have become the firstfruit to God and to the Lamb.

D. The Time

1) “I also will keep you out of the hour of trial which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth” (Rev. 3:10).

The hour of trial for all those who dwell on the earth is the time of the great tribulation. Here, the Lord promises the overcoming saints that He will keep them from the hour of trial; that is, He will take them away from the earth, which is under trial, to the heavens before the great tribulation.

2) “...a man-child...was caught up to God and to His throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness...so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days,” that is, “a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:5-6, 14).

One thousand two hundred and sixty days, or three and a half years, is the time during which the people of the earth will be tried by the great tribulation. Before the three and a half years, the overcoming man-child, the overcoming saints, will be raptured to God and to His throne in the heavens.

E. The Place

1) “Caught up to God and to His throne”(Rev. 12:5); “On mount Zion [in the heavens]” (Rev. 14:1).

These two verses show us that the overcoming believers who are raptured before the great tribulation are taken to mount Zion in the heavens, where God and His throne are.

F. The Conditions

1) “But be watchful, at every time beseeching” (Luke 21:36); “Watch...be ready...” (Matt. 24:42-44); “...looking for their own lord...that when he comes...” (Luke 12:36).

The items mentioned in these verses—to be watchful, to beseech at every time, and to look for the Lord’s coming—are the conditions for us to be raptured as the overcomers among the believers.

2) “...those who have loved His [the Lord’s] appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8); “You have kept the word of My

上，同他还有十四万四千人，...羔羊无论往那里去，他们都跟随他。他们是从人间买来的，作初熟的果子归与神和羔羊。”(启十四 1~4)

这段预言的话给我们看见，在这世代的末了来到之前，还有这里十四万四千人所指明的一班得胜者，被提到天上的锡安山，与羔羊基督同站在那里。他们是从人间买来的，完全跟随羔羊的，成了初熟的果子，归与神和羔羊。

四 时候

(一)“我也必保守你免去那将要临到普天下，试炼一切住在地上之人试炼的时候。”(启三 10)

试炼一切住在地上之人的时候，乃是大灾难的时候。在这里主应许得胜的信徒，要保守他们，免去这试炼的时候，就是要在大灾难之前，将他们从要受试炼的地上，提到天上去。

(二)“男孩子，...被提到神和他的宝座那里去了。妇人就逃到旷野，...被养活一千二百六十天，”就是“一年、二年、半年”。(启十二 5~6、14)

这里所说的一千二百六十天，就是三年半，是大灾难试炼地上之人的时间。乃是在这三年半之前，得胜的男孩子，就是得胜的圣徒，被提到天上神和他宝座那里去了。

五 地方

(一)“被提到神和他的宝座那里。”—“在(天上的)锡安山上”。(启十二 5, 十四 1)这两处经文给我们看见，得胜信徒在大灾难前被提，是提到天上神和他宝座所在的锡安山。

六 条件

(一)“时时儆醒，常常祈求。”“儆醒，...预备。”“等候...主...回来”。(路二一 36, 太二四 42~44, 路十二 36)

这些经言所说的时时儆醒，常常祈求，儆醒预备，和等候主回来，都是我们得作信徒中得胜者被提的条件。

(二)“爱他(主)显现。”“遵守我(主)忍耐的话”。“得胜的，又守住我(主)的

[the Lord's] endurance" (Rev. 3:10); "He who overcomes, and he who keeps My [the Lord's] works [which the Lord accomplished and will accomplish] until the end" (Rev. 2:26).

The items mentioned in these verses—to love the Lord's appearing, to keep the word of the Lord's endurance, and to overcome and keep the works which the Lord accomplished and will accomplish, that is, to keep all that the Lord has accomplished for us—are also conditions for us to be raptured as the overcomers among the believers.

III. THE RAPTURE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE BELIEVERS

1) The fact—"And He who sat on the cloud [the coming Christ] thrust His sickle over the earth [that is, sent the angels], and the earth [the believers] was reaped [raptured]" (Rev. 14:16).

This verse speaks of the rapture of the majority of the believers, which is apart from that of the overcoming believers.

2) The persons—the resurrected saints and the believers "who are living, who remain" (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

These verses indicate that the majority of the believers who will be raptured are the dead saints, who will be resurrected, and the believers who are living and remain after the rapture of the overcoming believers.

3) The time—"...the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together [being raptured] to Him...the day...will not come unless...the man of lawlessness [Antichrist] is revealed" (2 Thes. 2:1-3); "...at the last trumpet" (1 Cor. 15:52).

These two passages tell us that the time of the believers' rapture will be after the revelation of Antichrist, at the end of the great tribulation, when the angel sounds the last trumpet and the Lord comes to gain His kingdom (Rev. 11:15; 1 Thes. 4:16).

4) The place—"...in clouds...in the air"(1 Thes. 4:17).

The majority of the believers will be raptured to the air, unlike the overcoming believers, who will be raptured to the throne of God in the heavens.

5) The condition—"The harvest [the believers]...is ripe" (Rev. 14:15).

The condition for the rapture of the majority of the believers is maturity in life. Like the unripened harvest that cannot be reaped, an immature believer cannot be raptured.

工作（主所完成并要完成的事工）到底的。”（提后四 8，启三 10，二 26）

这里所说的爱主的显现，遵守主忍耐的话，和得胜又守住主所已经完成，并将要完成的事工，就是持守主所为我们完成的一切，也都是我们得作信徒中得胜者被提的条件。

叁 大体信徒的被提

（一）事实—“那坐在云上的（再来的基督），把镰刀扔在地上（就是差遣天使），地上的庄稼（信徒）就被收割（提去）了。”（启十四 16）

这是说到得胜信徒之外，大体信徒的被提。

（二）人一复活的圣徒，和“活着还存留的”信徒（帖前四 16~17）

这是指出大体被提的信徒，就是已死复活的圣徒，和得胜信徒被提之后，活着还存留的信徒。

（三）时候—“我们主耶稣基督...来临，和我们聚集（被提）到他那里，...那日子以前，必有...有那不法的人（敌基督），...显露出来。”“末次号筒（吹响）的时候”。（帖后二 1~3，林前十五 52）

这二处经言是说到信徒被提的时候，就是在敌基督显出之后，大灾难末了，天使末次吹号，主来得国的时候（启十一 15，帖前四 16）。

（四）地方—“到云里，在空中。”（帖前四 17）

大体的信徒是被提到空中，不象得胜的信徒是被提到天上神的宝座。

（五）条件—“庄稼（信徒）已经熟了”。（启十四 15）

大体的信徒被提的条件，是生命成熟。没有一个不成熟的信徒能被提，犹如不熟的庄稼不能被收割。