

Left Behind for what?

As we have seen clearly in the teaching of Jesus, after He comes and “closes the door”, then people will stand outside knocking and pleading, “sir, open for us”, but he will answer I don’t know you! This is frightening indeed! But consider the following scriptures as clarification of further events at the time of His coming.

Luke 17:26-29 - 26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage **up to the day** Noah entered the ark. **Then the flood came and destroyed them all.** 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But **the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.**

Here Jesus clearly points to the events of Noah and Lot. These were events where God’s people were delivered, but on that very day the wicked who were “**left behind**” were destroyed. This is a very important point because of what Jesus says next;

Luke 17:30-3 **"It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day** no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything.

Just like what? Well this is very clear. Just like it was in Noah and Lot’s case, “on that day” the wicked are destroyed. To put this in the end times timeline for you clearly, Jesus further explains these events to take place during the time of the rapture, that great event when the Christians are “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air at His coming. This is evident by the language referring to people being “taken and the other left.”

Luke 17:32-35 Remember Lot's wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; **one will be taken and the other left.** 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; **one will be taken and the other left.** NIV

Does this passage not clearly teach that those who are “**left behind**” after the rapture will be destroyed just like it was in the days of Noah and Lot? Friend did you know that the Old Testament speaks of this destruction of the wicked again and again? Consider the following passages:

Zephaniah 1:2-3 - 2 "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 3 **"I will sweep away both men** and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble **when I cut off man from the face of the earth,**" declares the LORD. NIV

Zephaniah 1:18 - 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, **for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.**" NIV

Isaiah 13:9-13 - 9 See, the day of the LORD is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. 11 **I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins.** I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. 12 **I will make man scarcer than pure gold,** more rare than the gold of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger. NIV

These things are further clarified by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. Here Paul teaches that when Jesus returns to be glorified in His people he will punish the wicked with everlasting destruction and they will be shut out from His presence.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 - This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 **He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** 9 **They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord** and from the majesty of his power

When will this punishment of the wicked take place? *“On the day He comes to be glorified in His people.”*

2 Thessalonians 1:10 - 10 **on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people** and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. NIV

When will these things happen? In the context it is clear that they happen at “the coming of our Lord Jesus and our gathering to him,” or at the rapture, that time when we are gathered together to meet the Lord in the air. Further these things will not happen until the Antichrist is revealed. Yes that is correct! The rapture takes place after the revealing of the Antichrist. That is what the scripture says very clearly in 2 Thessalonians;

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 - **2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him,** we ask you, brothers, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for **that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed,** the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. NIV

Dear friends, it is important that we take heed to the Apostles words here. “Do not let anyone deceive in any way.” These matters are very important or God would not have put them in the scripture. Just because someone is popular or packages their teaching in easy to understand method does not make the things they teach true. There are many Christian authors who write many good books. But there are also many others who are “peddling the Word of God” for profit. Only when the clear teaching of scripture becomes the plumb line can we be sure of God's truth. I ask you today to ponder these scriptures and others. Be like the noble Bereans and put your teachers to the test!

May I suggest further reading for those of you who are interested in further understanding these important matters.

The Blessed Hope - George Ladd

The Last Days Handbook - Robert P Lightner

If you wish to further dialogue on these matters, feel free to email me at shaan@heavenslight.org