

REVELATION ABOUT RAPTURE

AP (MRS) OYENUE MARGARET OMOLOLA

It was the 31st day of the month of January, year 2019. I was in a church which didn't appear like any particular denomination but a universal church.

The Church was in her full strength, Service was on; Sunday School, Praise and Worship and other Church activities were being observed. We were so engrossed in these activities that no one seemed to notice what was happening outside.

Suddenly something prompted me to look towards the church entrance, to my amazement I saw the Lord standing at the entrance just about stepping in.

He was so close than anyone could have imagined, I moved towards Him, as if to greet or welcome Him with reverence and great suprise.

Just within a moment the church building changed to TV screen on a wall and everyone in service appeared on the screen still engaged in one activity or the other without a knowledge of the Lord's presence.

Together we both watched the scene for a short time. While this was on, I turned to look at the Lord's face and noticed His countenance was so sad; it appeared like that of someone whose heart has been greatly wounded.

Futhermore, I could also sense deep anger beneath His sad looks – He was obviously hurting! But in spite of this, He remained calm. Then with a tone of seriousness He said to me, "I'M ABOUT ROUNDING OFF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH".

I knew in plain language ..He meant "RAPTURE IS ABOUT TAKING PLACE" yet the attitude of the church couldn't in any way inform us of how close this decision is.

When I heard this, I was a bit confused because I've always believed the church is still going to witness a revival that would bring great harvest of souls into the church and that Nigeria as a Nation has a vital role to play in the ENDTIME REVIVAL before the Lord returns.

I therefore knelt beside Him holding his ankle in tears and asked Him; what about the endtime revival?

I reminded Him of how I had earnestly prayed for this event, how come He wants to bring church activities to a close while we believe the church still awaits revival;

Then the He said, "THE NO OF DAYS, MONTHS AND YEARS REMAINING CAN NO LONGER ACCOMODATE SUCH"



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REFLECTION

When the Lord rounds off the activities of the church on earth, Doors of PLACES of Worship would be permanently shut.

Activities such as Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings / Revival Hour, Deliverance Programs, Intercessory Prayers, Sunday Schools and Glorious Sunday Services would no longer hold, no, not anymore!!!

Outreaches / Evangelisms and Open-Air Crusades would become outrightly impossible.

Women of Virtue and Men of Valour Groups or Welfare Department would no longer be able to meet after service.

Nothing like Chorister's rehearsals, Sunday School Previews, Worker's Preparatory Meetings again.

Believer's Class, Worker's in-Trainings, Discipleship Classes, Youth Conferences, Minister's and Leadership conferences; all of these would end because THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE REMOTE CONTROL PUTS A STOP TO THE ACTIVITIES AND THE SAINTS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP TO BE WITH HIM.

Globally, there will be news of saints or Believers in Christ sudden disapperance from the earth.

Hear what the Lord says in Matthew 24 vs 38-42;

24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noa entered into the ark,

24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

The whole world would be thrown into great confusion afterwards, as many who could not make RAPTURE would witness the great tribulation, they won't be able to buy or sell, no freedom of movement unless they take the mark of the beast (666) which is a mark of eternal separation between God and man. Revelation 13 vs 15-18

The recent global pandemic is just a shadow of what will happen immediately after rapture.

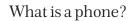
In the vision shared above, everybody was busy working in their different departments but none was careful or vigilant enough to focus at the entrance. People were simply not watching yet they were preoccupied, for who? For the one they weren't expecting. What a contradiction!!!

Someone who is watching will be expectant, he will be on guard and at alert like a vigilante, he won't allow for distractions or focus on offences else His coming meets him unprepared.



YOUR PHONE AND YOUR HEART

MR SEYE MICHAEL OKI



A smartphone performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps. However, the basic function of a phone is for communication. The medium of communication can be via voice, video or text.

How does it work?

It's a system that transmits voices over a distance using radio signals, by converting acoustic vibrations to electrical signals.

Your Heart

According to the dictionary, the heart is defined as a hollow muscular organ that pumps the blood through the circulatory system by rhythmic contraction and dilation. In vertebrates there may be up to four chambers (as in humans), with two atria and two ventricles.

Why is it important to know the functions of your smartphone and your precious heart?

The content of your phone is a reflection of your heart. Let's see Matt. 12:34-35 (KIV)

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."

In verse 34, look at the keywords "mouth" and "heart". Don't forget that one of the modes of communication we analysed earlier is voice. What sort of conversation comes out of your mouth when you make calls or share voice notes on social media? Are they words of wisdom or encouragement? Does God take delight in those words?

An apple tree will never produce avocado because a fruit is a product of the seed. By looking at Matt.12:35, you can see that if you don't have good things on your smartphone or social media platform it shows that your heart is far away from God. Your digital identity is the output of your spiritual status.

Looking at the definition of the heart, we can see that it pumps blood and that symbolises life. Can an unbeliever give his/her life to Christ Jesus if given the chance to go through your browsing history, playlist or videos?

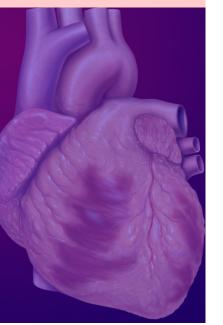
If God were to send an angel to bless you based on the things you saved on your phone, are you sure the angel won't return the gift to God?

The Way Forward

The book of John 14 verse 6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Being a Christian goes beyond going to church or bearing a Christian name. Christianity is a lifetime journey and everything around you must speak of the goodness of the Lord. Am I saying you shouldn't use a smart phone? No. I actually like it and by God's grace I enjoy building innovative solutions on that platform but the content of your phone must match your heart and Jesus must be honoured by this. Shalom!









"AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH..."



AP (MRS) OYENUE MARGARET OMOLOLA

I recall as a student during my primary and secondary school days that each time a new Mathematics topic was to be introduced to us, the subject teacher would ask us to open our text books to a given illustration page from where

examples would be written on the chalk board to explain and expound on the topic. The essence of doing this was to ensure that the topic we were about to be taught was well understood, so we could thereafter attempt some exercises on our own. At the end of the lesson, the teacher would ask, 'Do you understand the topic?' Majority of us would of course usually chorus 'Yes'. However, if for any number of reasons, our answer happened to be 'No`, then the teacher would begin the cycle all over again, using the same given examples.

Following this drill, we would be asked to solve or attempt certain exercises on our own. This could look something like these;

- 1.) 12e + 2s + 4e 8s = ?
- 2.) 10a 8b + 7b 9a = ?

From our initial understanding of the examples, we knew the first step in solving these algebra questions was to collect like terms, then add or subtract the resultant figures as the case may be; and we arrive at the answer. This is made simple because we carefully followed the examples step by step.

As I furthered my academics, I realised the above procedure is not peculiar to primary and secondary schools alone, it also applies to other levels of learning. Kudos to all our teachers and lecturers.

A similar scenario played out in Matthew 24: This actually prompted this innitiative, and also reminded me of how taking a careful study of examples could give us clue to understanding a given puzzle or mystery.

In verse 1 of Matthew chapter 24, the disciples came to Jesus to show Him the beauty of the temple structure. This they did with the intention of making Him admire the building, but His response to their comment left a puzzle in their hearts; Jesus affirmatively told them, "Do you not see all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down".

Prior to this conversation, we saw Jesus rebuke the scribes and the pharises for their hyphocritical lifestyles, Matthew 23 vs 29, He said to them, "Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"

In verse 37, He lamented over Jerusalem saying; "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under wings, but you were not willing! Behold your house is left to you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall see me no more till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord".

Jesus was so sad the Jews missed the time of their visitation. It was a perfect timing for them to acknowledge and receive Him as their Messiah but they missed it because of their insensitivity and unbelief. The knowlege they had about the Messiah was different from how He appeared, so they couldn't relate the two.



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They have always believed that when the Messiah comes, He will be made king and restore the kingdom back to Isreal; In contrast, He announced to them that His kingdom is not of this earth and therefore walked through the earth preaching the kingdom of God.

We would wonder why the disciples admired the temple and even made reference to it to Jesus at such a crucial time He just finished expressing sorrow over Jerusalem's failure to identify Him as their Messiah. Does it mean they felt indifferent about the situation? Should we say they couldn't read His emotions or they were just being carried away by the magnificient structure of the temple or it's beauty? This is simply not different from a situation of someone who just lost something so precious and dear to him, and shortly after the incident, his close associates came, calling his attention to the latest car in town; what a contradiction!!

Surprisingly, this is the true picture of what obtains today. Most people the Lord is depending on to feel His pains for a dying world are busy admiring the prosperity of a "World" who desperately and urgently needs their help. Jesus needs His church to see the way He sees, He needs us to see the world and all it's beauties as something which will soon fade away. When we see this way, we will pity those who do not have hope of eternal life no matter the level of their successes, when we see sinners prospering, we would be concerned about their end rather than admire their porshe cars.

Prosperity is good, it's a key instrument in spreading the gospel. Erecting a big cathedral is not a sin either. But of what use is a worship centre full of worshippers who have no hope of eternity with God talk less of being expectant of the Lord's return? This is really sad! The world started with nothing and will certainly end with nothing, Gen 1:1.

Now, coming back to the response of Jesus to the disciples' comment about the temple, "Do you not see all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down". The disciples knew He was prophetically speaking beyond the temple destruction, they could establish a connection between it and His earlier teachings on His second coming and the end of the world. This therefore prompted them to seek His attention privately for further clarifications. They asked Him plainly, "Tell us, when shall these things be and what will be the sign of your coming, and the end of the world?

He then began to explain to them from verse 4 of Matthew chapter 24. Then in verse 35 to 39, He hits the nail on the head;

Let's carefully look at what He told them:

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away". But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. "But as it was in the days of Noah, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be". Wow what an expo!



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For us to understand how important illustration is, Jesus likened the kingdom to varieties of things and events. Most importantly He responded to the disciples question about His return and the end of the world by referring them to what happened in the time of Noah, which means example is key and if anyone needs a clue to a puzzle or mystery he should carefully study the given example. Jesus wants us to take a careful study of what happened in the time of Noah.

In this edition we will briefly take a stroll to the Days of Noah, in Genesis chapter 6 verse 11 to 18:

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and was filled with violence. And God said to Noah "The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and outside with pitch, And this is how you shall make it; The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, it's width fifty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark and you shall finish it to cubit from above and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second and third deck. And behold, I myself am bringing flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But with you will I establish my covenant, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons, and your wife and your son's wives with you"

From the above scripture, four major things happened:

- 1,) The earth was corrupt and filled with violence just as it is today.
- 2.) There was a special alert in the form of announcement and notification that the world then was to be destroyed but the people couldn't care less. They probably ridiculed Noah. This alert can be likened to the midnight cry in Matthew 25 : 6 "Behold the bridegroom coming, go out and meet Him!"

Pls note here, this cry is on going now. God is raising several "Midnight Criers" to announce the second coming of Jesus. Even the incident happening globally is a form of cry indicating the end is near but the saints must escape through RAPTURE as Noah did before the destruction of the world.

- 3.) An escape route was provided for Noah and his family because he was found being righteous. He built and entered the ark with his family members as instructed by God
- 4) The world (people) didn't care, they were given sons and daughters in marriage, it was business as usual, they were running their lives normally without being sensitive to the warnings. then suddenly rain began, flood came and all flesh in which there was breath of life died except Noah and his family.

In conclusion, we need to ask ourselves, "How is the question the disciples asked the Lord and Noah's example related to us?"

What will happen before this present world is destroyed?

These and some other questions will be answered in our next edition if Jesus hasn't returned. But before then, peradventure you're reading this piece and you are not sure of your salvation yet, please take a bold step today by confessing your sins to the Lord and forsaking them, because tomorrow might be too late. And if you're a child of God, I congratulate you, let's ensure we straighten our ways and remain in Him till His appearing. Don't be carried away by any side attraction , the benefits of every material gain end here on earth, Whatever is not eternal is eternally useless! Remain rapturable till we meet again next month.

LITTLE FOXES

Evangelist Bolanle Doyin-Hassan

(Eligibbor Dorcas Mercy Foundation International)



By the special Grace of God, We are going to be talking about the phrase "LITTLE FOXES" using this column, we are well aware that there are certain destructive vices that are not expected to be found in any believer. These some usually refer to as "The Big Sins" – Adultery, Fornication, Armed robbery, Murder, Idolatry, Necromancy, Witchcraft, etc. But what we usually consider as little, insignificant, inconsequential, minor are the real vices that subtle, cannily, & quietly destroy the vine!

Let's look at the two key words;

Little: when we say something is little, it means it is small in size or degree. It is also often used to convey an appealing diminutiveness or express all affectional condescending attitudes.

Foxes: A fox is a Carnivorous Mammal of the dog family with a pointed muzzle and bushy tail proverbial for its cunny or sly ways. Though very beautiful and attractive but highly deceitful and trickish. To understand the little foxes that destroy the vine, we must first know and comprehend what the VINE stands for. Songs of Solomon 2:15 – Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes. Nehemiah 4:3 – Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

THE VINE - John 15:1,2 & 5, 16.

In John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman". In this parable or allegory, Jesus describes himself as the true vine and who have become His disciples as "the branches" Hence by remaining attached to Him as the source of life, they produce fruit. God is the gardener who takes care of the branches in order that they may bear fruit.

Any fruit which appears on the vine does not derive its life from the branches or from the leaves but from the vine itself.

So what fruit are we expected to bear – The fruit of the Holy Spirit. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Gal 5:22-23(NKJV). These verses give us a vivid picture of the Christian life as our Lord intended it should be. We should be loving, joyful, restful, patient, kind, good, trustworthy, humble and disciplined. These are graces which should be characterize us as Christians. Now what are the little foxes that ruin the vineyards. i.e. the little foxes that hinder the growth and take away the tender fruit? These are the sins of the Spirit. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2Cor 7:1(NKJV)

The sins of the flesh are the gross sins of adultery, murder, blasphemy, drunkenness, etc... The Sins of the spirit are the little foxes that creep in almost unnoticed and spoil the vine & take away the fruit.

These are the wrong things we think, the wrong things we say & the wrong things we do.

These implies; The Heart Sins, Lip Sins, Behavior Sins

- 1. The heart sin, the secret sin, the deep things that permeate our hearts that are not open to anyone. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 (NKJV). These are zsins such as: Jealousy, hatred, impurity, these are the little foxes that spoil the vine and these are the sins of the spirit that hinder the fruit of the spirit in our lives. You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your Countenance. Psalm 90:8(NKJV)
- 2. Then the lip sins

The little foxes such as unruly, undisciplined tongue can do, especially when we consider the lip sins such as; A lying tongue, A critical tongue, A tale bearing tongue

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3(NKJV). In my distress I cried to the LORD, and he heard. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given to you, or what shall be done to you, You false Tongue? Psalm 120:1-3(NKJV)

3. Then the behavior sins! These are the kind of attitude disposition—usually aluminate in obvious negative and unbecoming behavior. The kind of behavior that makes people around us to put a question mark on our salvation. The types of behavior that people around us conclude that we have unclean heart and a wrong spirit. The main issue is that these little foxes rob our lives of the fruit that the Holy Spirit is waiting and wanting to produce in and through us! What is the victory way to deal with these little foxes? There is no other solution than to kill (destroy) them deliberately. We must not accommodate them because they are vices and their ultimate goal is to destroy the branches and our relationship with the vine and the husbandman. By the grace of God, we shall be looking into these foxes one after the other in our subsequent studies.

LETTER TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

MRS IWORIMA PRAISE (RCCG ABUJA)



HISTORY OF THE LETTER

The letters to the seven churches is the first and a very important part of the book of revelation. The word "revelation" means "to unveil" or "to explain." In the very first verse we read that God inspired the book of Revelation "to show His servant things which must shortly come to pass" (Revelation 1:1).

The book of Revelation was attributed to be written by John the Apostle, who is the son of Zebedee (Mark 3:17) and the author of the Gospel John and the three Epistles of John. Although John literally wrote Revelation, the Book makes it clear that the source of the revelations is Jesus (Revelation 1:1-2).

PURPOSE OF THE LETTER

Revelations are usually progressive and in layers of fulfillment therefore, bible scholars believe that though the book was written to the seven churches in Asia minor, its interpretation and lessons have about four purposes or representations.

- 1. They were actual physical churches all in Asia minor which is now the modern-day country of Turkey.
- 2. They represent prophetically the seven eras of the history of the church, from the time of John's writing to the beginning of the Tribulation which marks the end of the Church era. This means that the church in Ephesus would be the first century/apostolic church, moving on through the dark/middle ages, to the Laodicea church being the last church that represents the end-times church.
- 3. They represent individual church structure, the seven type of churches available per time in every generation.
- 4. They represent the seven different kinds of Christians in the church era.

The bottom line is that the things that Ephesus faced, we face, the things that Smyrna faced, we face and so on and so on. In almost every church today, you will find "Ephesian" Christians, "Sardis" Christians, and "Laodicean" Christians. The problems, temptations, promises, and blessings are all still issues that we wrestle with today

The purpose for the letter is:

- a. To prophetically describe conditions that would prevail in each successive era, where the same lessons would be applicable.
- b. That the letters to each church will be read in all the churches, that means it must be thoroughly studied and taught in all churches.
- c. To convey universal lessons that describe and deal with universal human tendencies.

The important thing is that the messages to the seven churches are still timeless and very relevant. They reveal the spiritual condition of God's Church throughout history, and explain how you can resist and overcome the challenges and temptations on the $C\ h\ r\ i\ s\ t\ i\ a\ n$ j o u r n e y .

THE CHURCHES

1. The Church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7): lost its first love

Ephesus was the largest city of the roman province of Asia. It was a flourishing commercial and export city for Asia. The church in Ephesus was founded by Paul the Apostle and it is a gateway to the Asia minor.

The church in Ephesus had many admirable qualities but one tragic flaw. Christ commended them for their good works, perseverance, discipline especially in guarding against false teaching. But their flaw is lack of love, they forsook their first love. This "forsaken love" can mean that the Ephesians had become less devoted to Christ or that the work they did was no longer motivated by love for one another because work without love can be very dangerous.

The lesson in the letter to Ephesus teaches that truth and love must go hand-in-hand. A church that upholds doctrinal purity at the expense of showing love is just as flawed as a church that upholds congregational harmony at the expense of truthful teachings. Instead, Jesus reveals that a church fashioned in His image must teach God's Truth in love.



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MRS IWORIMA PRAISE (RCCG ABUJA)



2. The Church in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11): the suffering Church

Smyrna was a seaport city about 35 miles north of Ephesus. It has been described as the most beautiful of the seven cities. Today it is called Izmir, Turkey.

Christians faced intense persecution in this city. Smyrna was the home of Polycarp who was the first Bishop of the church in Smyrna, he was martyred because of his faith in the second century around A.D. 155. You may recall that when Polycarp was told to renounce Christ he said, "eighty-six years I have served the Lord, and He never wronged me; how then can I blaspheme my Lord and Savior?" Polycarp's strong faith was typical of the faith of the Christians who were in Smyrna at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation. The church in Smyrna illustrates the critical importance of endurance and holding on to your belief during difficult times. Like the church in Smyrna, Christians are persecuted worldwide in obvious and insidious ways. This letter warns all Christians that although we may suffer greatly, the length of tribulation will be short compared to the promise of eternal life.

3. The Church in Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17): the compromising church

Pergamos is a city about 35 miles north of Smyrna, it was nicknamed by the Lord the city of Satan because of its pagan worship and idolatry. The city of Pergamos was renowned for its pagan practices. The letter to the church there lauds the congregation for upholding its faith despite the city's pervasive pagan worship. Because of the prevalence of idol worship, some of the Christians here began to combine Christianity with paganism. Promoting the teachings of Nicolithan and Balaam.

Like the Christians in Pergamos, it's easy to normalize the non-Christian behavior of those around us and allow those behaviors to dilute our Christian values (<u>1 Corinthians</u> 15:33). But the Bible urges us to "not conform to the pattern of this world" but be transformed by the renewal of our mind in accordance with God's Word (Romans 12:2

Who is Balaam and Nicolithan?

Balaam was the prophet hired by King Balak to help curse Israel and make them sin against God.

He was a prophet who worked for money, he tried to make merchandise or sell his prophetic gift, his service and teachings are just for monetary gains or wages of unrighteousness according to 2 Peter 2:15. When our Christian service is based on monetary reward or gain or we commercialize the gospel, we are followers of the doctrine of Balaam.

Balaam also destroyed the people of God by seducing them to commit whoredom with Moabite women Numbers 25:1-3, He lured the people of Israel to sin. People with the doctrine of Balaam teaches compromise, freedom to do anything forgetting that we are called and separated to be holy unto God. The doctrine of Balaam believes that a little sin doesn't hurt. They perverted the doctrine of grace and replace it with license to sin because whatever Satan cannot curse and crush he seeks to corrupt through compromise.

Nicolithan is from two greek words Nikos which means to conquer or subdue and leos which means people. When we combine the two words it means one who conquers or subdue the people.

These are people that use force to subdue and control the people of God through occultic means and demonic control, they also eat things sacrificed to idols and dine with devils.

