

SECOND COMING of CHRIST

By: Athens Clay Pullias Historical and Scriptural Digest pp. 1172-1173

A study of the second coming of Christ is a greatly needed and wonderful study. It is a study, which should be or become a thirst for knowledge of this great event. In this study we should, and we will be counseled, by God's word, the truth, which will strengthen our faith that we will know assuredly that we must be ready for His coming. And that this study will be a reward for the discerning heart and a blessing from our Lord for having lived, loved, and suffered for all mankind. I hasten to say that the study of the Second Coming of Christ is the study of the last coming of the Christ. The greatest emphasis of this study is, "Being ready", because only God knows when Christ will come again, (Matthew 24:36).

The Old Testament ended on a note of hope with the specific promise that Christ would come to save the world from sin. "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight: behold He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).

According to the scripture Jesus came, lived a perfect life, wrought (worked) many marvelous miracles, died on the cross for the sins of the human race, arose again the third day, ascended into heaven, sat down on the throne of his father David, and sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles in establishing the church. In like manner the New Testament ends with an assurance that Christ will come a second time. Revelation 22:20 says, "*He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*" The scriptures reveal the facts concerning our Lord's return.

The Second Coming of Christ Is Certain. (Note these scriptures)

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.*" (Just as people die only once, and are then judged for their sins, Christ died only once for our sins. He took the punishment for the sins of everyone. But only those who eagerly wait for Him will receive salvation in heaven at His second appearance apart from sin. Christ's second coming is not to deal with sin again, but to bring our final salvation).

Matthew 16:27, "*For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He shall reward every man according to his works.*" When Will He come? Just before the final judgment. (See also, Matthew 13:41-43).

John 14:3, "*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*"

1 Thessalonians 4:16, *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God...”*

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, *“...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (There is no saving knowledge of God for those who reject Christ).

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.”*

Revelation 3:11, *“Behold, I come quickly: hold that, which thou hast, that no man takes thy crown.”*

Revelation 22:12, *“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*

The Time of the Second Coming Is Unknown. (Note these scriptures).

Matthew 24:44, *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

Matthew 25:13 admonishes us to, *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour which the Son of Man is coming.”* (Watch...is to be ready).

Note also what Mark 13:32 says to us, *“But of that day and hour no one knows,*

Events That Will Take Place When Jesus Comes the Second Time

1. The Resurrection of *All* the Dead. Matthew 25:31-32, reads, *“When the Son of Man comes in His Glory, and all the holy angels with him. Then He will sit upon the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.”* (He will divide the righteous from the wicked).

John 5:28-29 says for us to, *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.”* (The good will rise to life, the evil to condemnation).

2. The Judgment is the second happening after the Second Coming of Christ. In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, by the inspired word we are given this account, *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, (us is Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy), when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them and on those that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting*

destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power, when he comes to be glorified in His Saints, and to be admired in all of them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

Notice what Jude verses 14 and 15 says, *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*

Revelation 22:12, by His own words, Jesus speaks, saying, *“And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*

(Keeping the word of God and the testimony of Jesus is the key to overcoming, but God deals justly with the fruit of our lives). Remember, we’re relating to the Judgment, and our life’s hope in receiving the great reward when Christ comes to execute judgment on *all*.

3. The Glorification of Those Approved in the Judgment. That will be glory, be glory for me.

O how sweet ‘twill be to meet the Lord, when He comes in glory by and by; what a song of praise will be outpoured; when He comes in glory by and by.

We will have our robes all white as snow, When He comes in glory by and by; O be ready, with the Lord to go; when He comes in glory by and by.

I am longing for that happy day; When He comes in glory by and by; For with Him I will soar a-way; when He comes in glory by and by.

How sweet how sweet when He comes in the sky! What joy! What joy! When He comes in glory by and by!

(Don’t the words of that song give cause to rejoice, and give glory to our Lord?

Here are some scriptures to excite us. Colossians 3:4 says, *“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory.”*

In Mark 13:26-27, *“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of the earth to the uttermost part of Heaven.”*

Philippians 3:20-21, *“For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able to subdue all things to Himself”?*

II Thessalonians 1:10 reads, *“When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”*

I Thessalonians 4:16-18, *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

4. The destruction of the world: 2 Peter 3:10-13, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”*

5. End of Christ’s Present Reign on David’s Throne.

The second coming of Christ will mark the end of His reign, not the beginning, *“But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered the kingdom to God the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him that God may be all in all,”* (1 Corinthians 15:23-28)

The second coming of Christ will be the consummation of God’s long and costly effort to redeem the human family from the bondage of sin. God sent His Son to save us. To that end Jesus died, arose, ascended to Heaven, established the kingdom and reigns over it now. Some day, Jesus will return to judge the world. The redeemed will be delivered to God, the Father; the remainder condemned forever. The work of salvation will be finished,

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall arise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord,” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. (I pray that we may be among that number who shall “ever be with the Lord.”)

Speaking of these glorious events connected with our Lord’s Second Coming, Peter offers this admonishment: *“Wherefore beloved, seeing that you look for such*

things, be diligent that you may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless.” “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen!” 2 Peter 3:14, 17-18.

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The question was asked, “What is the RAPTURE and does it apply to me?”

Mark N. Posey, Minister, of the Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur, AL, answered the question thusly:

“The term Rapture stands for the SO-CALLED coming of a millennial reign of Christ on earth and comes from the Latin, RATARE, which means “take away” or “snatch out.”

“Those teaching this theory claim the following: Christ at His Second Coming will silently remove from this world the righteous just before a terrible tribulation. This tribulation will last for seven years during which time the Lord will pour out His wrath upon all those who have rejected Him. At the end of the tribulation the Lord will return to the earth with 10,000 saints and a great battle will be fought. Christ and His army will be victorious and will then execute judgment upon the ungodly. He will usher in His earthly Kingdom, and reign on earth for 1,000 years.

“At the end of His reign another battle will be fought and evil will be destroyed. A second resurrection will take place and all who remain from the time of Adam will be raised to receive their just rewards (Oxford Dict. Of the Christian Church, p. 428)

“How does this theory stand-up against the scriptures?

First, the word Rapture is nowhere found in the Bible. Therefore, it must be of human origin!

Second, The Lord’s return will not be secretive or silent. John said, “*Every eye shall see Him*” (Revelation 1:7). Paul said His return would be heralded with “*a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and with the trump of God*” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Thirdly, the “tribulation” often was associated with the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 according to the first question the Lord answered in Matthew 24:1-3.

Fourthly, Jesus said there would be only one resurrection and it will include both good and evil (John 5:28-29).

Fifthly, Christ’s Kingdom is not future, but has been in existence for 2,000 years and it is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly one (John 18:36). The return of Jesus is a future event in which *all* humans will be judged (Acts 17:31; Matthew 24:36). The righteous will go to Heaven and the unrighteous will receive Hell as their reward (Matthew 25:46). Time will end and the earth will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:1-12). Are you ready for *THAT DAY*?”

WHEN WILL CHRIST COME AGAIN

By: Mark N. Posey – Minister, Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur, AL

QUESTION: I've heard all kinds of prediction about when Christ will return. What does the Bible say?

ANSWER: Christ's return is a reality (Hebrews 9:28). It is not some riddle to solve nor a code to be broken, but a day to be anticipated. WHEN that day will occur remains a mystery to all except God (read Matthew 24:36). The second coming of Christ has been foretold and a date fixed for it many times in history. William Miller predicted the coming of Christ and waited with his followers in white robes in a hilltop on October 22, 1844. Many thought Jesus would return at midnight, December 31, 1999 (Y2K).

However, when anyone sets a date for the return of Christ, he can be marked immediately as a false teacher (Matthew 24:42; 25:13; Mark 13:32). God did not choose to reveal the time when Christ would return. Therefore, it should not be WHEN that day will occur that concerns us most, but HOW we live until that day arrives. Peter expressed this concern when he said, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of person ought we to be" (2 Peter 3:11).

Questions: Have you been baptized in water for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38)? Are you a member of the Church that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16)? Are you "walking in the light" with God (1 John 1:7)? Are you living in a constant state of readiness (Matthew 24:44)? Is your name in the Lamb's Book of Life right now (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:27; 22:19)? If you answer any of these questions "No," your soul is in a lost condition (Matthew 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

What if your answer is "I'm not sure?"

Friend, don't live in doubt. Obey Jesus today by believing what the Bible says (Romans 10:17), repenting of your sins (Acts 3:19), confessing your faith in Jesus (Matthew 10:32, 33) and being baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16). Live each day in Jesus (Philippians 1:21), knowing that if tomorrow He returns, you will spend eternity in heaven (1 John 5:13; Rev. 22:14). There's a great day coming. Are you ready?

There are many scriptures that address the Second Coming of Christ. All scripture speaking to this study have not been cited. The added scriptures below are not all inclusive either. However the scriptures cited below are noted here, (please read them), as they make emphases to the needed knowledge, that we considered to be a great blessing, when we come to realize that our duty as counseled by the word is for us to, *"be ready, and long for that day when the Lord comes."*

The Lord so comes as a thief in the night, (1 Thessalonians 5:2).
May be saved in the day of the Lord, (1 Corinthians 5:5).
The Lord's word will judge man in the last day, (John 13:48).
When the end comes, the last enemy to be destroyed will be death,
(1 Corinthians 15:24-26).
The gathering together of the elect on that day, (Matthew 24:31).
The appearing with Christ in glory, (Colossians 3:4)
Christ's' coming will be like lightening flashes, (Matthew 24:27).
Gospel of the kingdom preached to the entire world, then the end will
come, (Matthew 24:14).
Don't be troubled knowing that the Lord is coming, (2 Thess. 2:2-3).
We all shall be changed in a moment when the Lord comes,
(1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
Coming of the Lord with power and great glory, (Matthew 24:30).
Eagerly wait, look forward for the Lords' Second Coming,
(1 Corinthians 1:7).
Blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Savior, (Titus 2:13).
Being thankful for the great promise of the life to come, (2 Timothy 4:8).

The cry of 1 Corinthians 16:22 is; O Lord comes! Believers have always desired the Second Coming of Christ, and well we should. What a blessing to be found watching and waiting for the Lord to come. Am I ready? Have I fought the good fight, have I finished the course? Do I know the answer? It is up to me to answer! You cannot answer for me...I cannot answer for you. We will be judged by His word...The word of life, therein is the answer! And Amen!

I can recommend a great article on the "Rapture" written by, Dave Miller, Ph. D. of the Published by the Apologetics Press. Their address is: 230 Landmark Dr., Montgomery, AL 36117. I am sure they are on the Internet and have a Website...which I don't know.

Thank you for your study of this subject. May God bless you in the knowledge gained in having participated in this study?

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