

THE RETURN OF THE LORD

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RETURN OF THE LORD

“The Expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ”

1.0 Concept:

1.1 Words used in the Scripture:

- 1.1.1 ‘Parousia’ - personal presence, arrival
- 1.1.2 ‘apokalypsis’ - revelation
- 1.1.3 ‘epiphanea’ - appearance

1.2 The events of the last days (‘eschatology’)

- 1.2.1 Inaugurated by the Lord Jesus (Mt. 4:17; 12:28 ff)
- 1.2.2 Jesus made it a present reality which nevertheless remains future (Mt. 9:1; 14:25) Other references: Heb. 1:2; Acts 2:17; James 5:3; I Pet. 1:20

1.3 Hope of His Return

- 1.3.1 Great Expectation Phil. 3:20, 21
- 1.3.2 Glorious Hope
- 1.3.3 Comforting Hope
- 1.3.4 Purifying Hope
- 1.3.5 Promising Hope Jn. 14:3

2.0 Time Of His Return

- 2.1 Man of Perdition (man of lawlessness) comes first
 - 2 Thes. 2:3 1 Jn. 2:18
 - 2 Jn. 7 2:22
 - 2 Thes. 2: 7 – 10 4:3
- 2.2 As a thief in the night - 2 Pet. 3:10
- 2.3 God the father only knows Mt. 24:36
- 2.4 No one knows the time Mk. 13: 32,33
- 2.5 Sudden & Unexpected Mk. 13:35, 36
- 2.6 Preaching of the Gospel Mt. 24:14

3.0 Manner of His return:

- 3.1 In person 1 Thes. 4:16
- 3.2 Visible Mt. 24:30; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16; Rev. 1:7
- 3.3 Sudden & Unexpected Mt. 24:27; 1 Thes. 5:2,3
- 3.4 Glorious & Triumphant Lk. 9:22 – 26; Heb. 9:28; Phil. 2: 5 – 11; Rev. 12:5; 19: 11 – 16.

4.0 Events at His return:

- 4.1 *Transformation and catching up of all believers:*
Mt. 24:40ff; 1 Thes. 4:17; Phil. 3:20
- 4.2 *Resurrection of the dead.*
Lk. 20:27-38; Mk. 12:18 – 27; Is. 25:8; 26:9; Dan. 12:2; Acts 23: 6-8; 24:15

4.3 *Appearance of the Antichrist*

Mt. 24:21f; 2 Thes. 2:3; Rev. 3:10

4.4 *Judgment*

Mt. 16:27; 25:31; Jn. 5:22; Rom. 2:6; Acts 10:42; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 12:23; James 4:12; II Tim. 4:1,8; I Pet. 1:17; Rev. 20:11, 22:12.

5.0 Signs of His return:

5.1 Increase of all Gn. 1:28; Dan. 12:4; Mt. 24:16, 38, 39,46

5.2 Decrease of love: Mt. 24:12

5.3 Natural Calamities & war: Mt. 24:7

5.4 Intensive Tribulation: Mt. 24:9 – 14, 21; 13: 24; Rev. 1:9; 7:14; 2 Thes.1:5,6; I Tim. 3:16

6.0 Some Clarifications:

6.1 *Millennialism:*

Three views are present.

6.2 *Secret Coming?*

6.2.1 No word found in the Scripture

6.2.2 2 Pet. 3:10 = all at the same time

6.2.3 Mt. 24:36 – 44; Lk. 17: 22 – 37 talks about suddenness

6.2.4 1 Cor. 15:51 St. Paul talks about the secret of our transformation

6.2.5 Jn. 5:28, 30 □ One Resurrection; One coming.

6.2.6 Mk. 13:32; Mt. 24:36 Can't know the day of His coming; If secret coming happens before 1000 years rule, we will know the time of His Return.

6.2.7 1 Thes. 4:17. It is deliberate.

6.3 *Numbers:*

6.3.1 666(Beast): means culmination evil imperfection

Rev. 13:1 : deifying secular authority

“ 13:11 : religious power in the service authority.

6.3.2 1,44,000 : symbolic of all faithful believers.

6.4 *Antichrist:*

- a principle of satanic opposition to God's rule throughout history

- Gush the true worship of God

- Acts of tyranny; antagonism to God.

7.0 Some lessons:

7.1 Coming of Christ exercises or continuous pressure on the present. 1 Thes. 1: 7 – 10

7.2 Inspires the church's present – showing God's merciful forbearance (Rom. 2:4)

7.3 Not to provide an eschatological timetable based on the events of history. Mt. 24: 3-5

7.4 Be prepared for His coming.

“He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms that it far off, nor is it he who says that it is near; but rather he who, whether it be far off or near, awaits it with sincere faith steadfast hope and fervent love.” - St. Augustine.
