

End Times

The Second Coming of Christ: The Purpose of His Coming

Part 3

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Introduction

Just as Jesus left the earth he will return once again. The Bible calls this the Second Coming of Christ. However, before He returns, the earth will be embroiled in a chaotic and turbulent time called, "The Great Tribulation. But when Christ returns at the end of this tumultuous era, He returns with great power, great judgment and He will bring order and establish His Kingdom on the earth.

Please note the events that will occur when Christ returns:

The Return of Christ will be like His departure:

- 1) The angel communicated to the Apostles on the Mount of Olives that just as Christ left the earth He will return (Acts 1:11).
 - a) This suggests that the eye of mankind will see the return of Christ and His feet will touch the Mount of Olives once again.
- 2) There are two phases of His return:
 - a) The **coming in the air to gather** the saints and
 - b) The **return to earth to judge** the world
 - c) The Bible provides insight into His return:
 - i) Angels and saints will join Him (Joel 3:11, 1 Thessalonians 3:13)
 - ii) Every eye will see Him and know Him (Revelation 1:7, Zechariah 12:10)
 - iii) Great power and glory (Matthew 24:30).

The political aspects of the tribulation indicate a Roman Empire-style of government

- 1) There will be ten cooperating kingdoms (Daniel 7:1-28, Revelation 13:1-10).
- 2) The Scripture reveals that a religious system will dominate the government at the start of the reign, but eventually is overthrown and persecuted.
- 3) The tentacles of the Roman Empire are still evident in society today, for example, the senate, court procedures and the Roman Catholic Church.

- 4) The economic situation is tightly regulated and based on the worship of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-18, 18:1-24).
 - a) All buying and selling will be based on the worship of the Beast and the seal that it accompanies.
 - b) Materialism and commerce will be a priority and glorified above all.
 - c) The great city Babylon will be rebuilt and will become the centre of all world commerce.
 - d) The Babylonian system operates in a cashless society.

The religious system of that day is described as a harlot who rides the beast (Revelation 17:1-6).

The Great Prostitute and the Beast

Revelation 17:1-6

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

- 1) Jesus said that one would come in His name and that the Jews would receive him and deceive many.
- 2) This religious system would have to be a culmination of multi faiths that reject the identity of Christ and His Lordship.
- 3) Eventually, the ruler of the Empire breaks covenant with the religious system and the Jews (Daniel 9:27).
- 4) The system is destroyed (Revelation 17:16) and the world is forced to worship the Beast (Revelation 13:4-8).
- 5) The second Beast forces the world to worship the first Beast through:
 - e) Deception and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
 - f) Force (Revelation 13:7, 15)
 - g) Persecution (Revelation 13:16)
 - h) Restriction of commercial rights – all must have the mark of the Beast.

When Christ returns, He will judge the nations,

- 1) There are two judgments in Scripture, and they should not be confused.
- 2) At the **judgment of the nations**, (Joel 3:11-17, Acts 17:31)
 - a) Christ is seen as sitting on His glorious throne upon the earth (Joel 3:17)
¹⁷ "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."
 - b) It takes place before the millennium and all the nations are gathered. At this judgment there is no mention of a resurrection and no books are opened.
 - c) At this judgment the sheep are given the Kingdom and the goats eternal judgment.
- 3) ***The second judgment*** takes place in heaven (Revelation 20:11-15).
 - i) At this judgment Christ sits upon the Great White Throne and judges the dead.
 - i) Here, there is no mention of a resurrection since it takes place after the millennium.
 - ii) It is here that the ***lake of fire is mentioned***, and the books are opened for judgment.

Upon His return, **Christ will judge the Beast, the false prophet and their armies.**

- 1) In the midst of the great battle against Israel, Christ will return and defeat this great army and its leaders (Revelation 19:11-16).

The Rider on a White Horse

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- 2) They will be cast into the lake of fire (Psalms 2:3-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
 - a) Their armies will be killed by the sword (word of God) that comes from the Lamb Himself (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation 19:21).
 - b) All opposition to Christ will be broken and Satan and his devils will be bound for a thousand years.

Satan and his organized army of demons are bound for one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3)

The Thousand Years

Revelation 20:1-3

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

1) There are various views of what this means and when it will occur.

Amillennialism and postmillennialism suggest that the “binding” is a figure of speech and not literal.

2) Others suggest that the “binding” took place on the cross and his ability is restricted. These views, however, do not agree with Scripture.

3) After the death and resurrection, Bible passages clearly demonstrate that although Satan was defeated, and Jesus stripped him of his power on the cross, he certainly **has not been bound**, consider:

4) He is ruler of this world (John 16:11)

5) He is the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)

6) The god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)

7) The adversary to the believer (1 Peter 5:8).

8) In my opinion, Satan is not bound at this time and this is a future event that is awaiting the return of Christ to the earth.

a) I believe this to be a literal one thousand years as quoted in Scripture.

b) To those who believe that Satan is bound at this time, there is only one thing to say, *“the chain is too long.”*

Creation will be delivered

1) The Scriptures declare that all **creation moans with pain and cries to be delivered** from the curse of sin (Romans 8:19-22).

a) Since the fall of Adam, the earth has been cursed as well as creation (Genesis 3:17, Hebrews 6:8).

i) When Christ returns, He will deliver the earth and creation from the deadly results of the curse, consider:

- Creation will not be hostile (Isaiah 11:1-9)
- The climate will not be volatile
- The earth will produce at a record pace with the ability to feed all its hungry (Ezekiel 34:25)

The Lord's Covenant of Peace

Ezekiel 34:25-31

²⁵ "I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.

²⁶ I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing.

²⁷ Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

²⁸ And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid.

²⁹ I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore.

³⁰ Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people," says the Lord GOD.' "

³¹ "You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God," says the Lord GOD.

- Governments and political agendas will be exposed
- Mankind will not be allowed to destroy himself through war
- The church will be in a glorious and holy state
- Greed and corruption will be exposed and dealt with.

ISRAEL

1) The Apostle Paul states that God has not forgotten or rejected Israel (Romans 11:1-8). The nation will play a significant role in this time period:

- Jews will return to Palestine and be converted (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- The new world leader will make covenant with Israel and allow them to restore sacrifices
- He will break his word halfway through the seven and a half years (Daniel 9:27)
- God will seal 144,000 to Himself – they accept Christ
- Satan is cast out of heaven and persecutes Israel, but the nations come to Israel's aid (Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 1:21)
- More persecution follows the erection of the image in the temple (Daniel 12:11, Matthew 24:15)
- Christ will return and save Israel (Zechariah 12:10-13, Romans 11:25-27)

- The Apostle Paul clearly emphasizes God's love, plan and purpose for Israel (Romans 11:1). He reveals the plan of God - Israel will be saved after the fullness of the Gentiles have come in Romans 11:25. The saving of Israel has many facets to it:
 - 2) Deliverance from earthly enemies (Jeremiah 30:7, Zechariah 14:1-3)
 - 3) Gather and unite the nation (Isaiah 11:11-14), Ezekiel 37:18-25)
 - 4) Make a new covenant with Israel (Isaiah 66:8, Hebrews 8:8-12)
 - 5) The Old Testament saints will be resurrected (Daniel 12:2).
 - 6) Israel will be spared from destruction and annihilation and it will be removed and every eye shall see Him (even those who pierced Him) and the nation shall believe and turn to the Christ whom their forefathers rejected. Their salvation will be both natural and spiritual.

SATAN'S EFFORTS DURING THE TRIBULATION ARE SIGNIFICANT

- 1) It is Satan who works behind the scenes to create this one-world government and religious system.
- 2) It is Satan who:
 - c) Revives the old Roman Empire (Daniel 7:2)
 - d) Stirs up the four Beasts (Revelation 13:1)
 - e) Gives power to the Beasts (Revelation 13:2-4)
 - f) Will at first direct from the heavens, but when he is cast out, he will govern from earth with great fury (Revelation 12:7-13, Luke 10 :18)
 - g) Will persecute Israel (Revelation 12:13-17)
 - h) Will use his methods of operation of lying wonders and counterfeit power (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)
 - i) Institutes devil worship (Revelation 9:20, 13:4)
 - j) Motivates the kings of the earth to come and fight against Israel (Revelation 16:12-16, 19:11-12).