

The Second Coming of Christ

The coming of Christ is one event. There is no secret-rapture, the word “rapture” is not used in the Bible. At the end of time Christ will come again, we will be caught up to go with Christ, this earth will be burned up and “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. II Peter 3:13 The second coming of Christ is in Power and Glory and is one event.

Matthew 25:31-46

This is not what we do to be saved, this is what the saved do they treat others as Jesus’ “brethren” while those who will be lost treated them as “... the least of these ...”

John 5:21-29

I Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Being descendants of Adam we are subject to the same corruption, disgrace and death.

In the resurrection we will bear the image of the righteousness of Christ.

I Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Our nature is not suited to the eternal inheritance of the church or the Kingdom of God and its eternal Glory.

Therefore it is necessary that we die or be changed to a celestial body for a celestial state.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Mystery is something never known before. Those alive will undergo a change and become spiritual bodies like those raised from the dead.

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

In an indivisible point of time we will be changed. The resurrection of all the dead from the foundation of the world and the change of all living on the Earth shall be the work of God in a single moment ... the last trump is Jewish phraseology ... we will be incorruptible fully clothed with a new body to die no more.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

There must be a refinement by death or a change of the living.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

This is quoted from Isaiah 25:8

Death is here personified and represented as a devouring evil being swallowing up all generations of men.

By the resurrection of our bodies and the destruction of the empire of death, God is represented as swallowing him up or ...

Literally that eternity gulps him down, so he is endlessly lost.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?

These words are the Septuagint translation of Hosea 13:14.

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law.

Death could not have entered the world if sin had not entered first.

The dagger of death is sin ... The strength of sin is the Law.

The Law of God forbids all transgression and sentences transgressors to eternal death.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What the Law could not do because it is Law and it cannot provide pardon, God does by the Gospel.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Steadfast is take a seat or to be settled in this teaching of the resurrection ... unmoveable, do not move away, let nothing shake your faith ...

Abounding in the work of the Lord ... which is:

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Your labor is not in vain ... You must not only work by believing, but you must ... labor ... in the Lord ... by putting forth all your strength under His direction and influence.

Paul teaches the Church at Thessalonica about the second coming of Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

We would not have you ignorant ... This was one of Paul's favorite ways of introducing a new and important subject. Paul had not been gone from Thessalonica but for a short time before this was written ... but already the death had descended upon some.

... them which are asleep ... This metaphor was frequently used by our Lord, as in the instances of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:39) and of Lazarus (John 11:11). The very word "cemetery," "[Koi-meter-ion], is derived from the word used here, [koi-mao], and means `a place of sleep.

... ye sorrow not ... Paul is not introducing the doctrine of the resurrection as anything new, but as something they already knew and believed in.

"Paul assumes their faith in the resurrection of the dead and argues from it. It is certain that faith in the resurrection existed from the very first in Christianity.

... even as others which have no hope ... "The belief held generally by the Greeks was that there was no resurrection, that death was the end of all things.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

... if we believe that Jesus died and rose again ... believing the Gospel and coming to Jesus for salvation in the appointed way is the meaning of this next clause:

... them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him... The glorious promises of this passage are for them that sleep Jesus." Thus, again, the supreme importance of being in Christ" appears as a mandatory prerequisite of receiving any Christian blessing. The apostle John wrote: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13); and the same teaching is in Paul's words here.

... them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him ...

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

... we which are alive ... When Paul said "we" he means those who are living, those Christians who are alive until the second coming of Christ.

... shall not prevent them which are asleep ... the word "prevent" means precede or go first. There is no disadvantage to those who die before the coming of the Lord; as a matter of fact, having already undergone the necessary change that must come to all, they are a step nearer the resurrection and shall therefore "rise first" as Paul will say in the next verse.

I 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: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

... descend from heaven ... Paul's words here are still the best way to declare the sudden manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cataclysmic end of this age.

The manifestation will be upon the whole earth, and not merely upon some part of it; and there simply are no words which can adequately convey to our minds and understanding any meaningful description of it.

These words are not to be taken, in a literal sense ... they are figures of speech

**... with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God ...
The coming of Christ will be accompanied by great signs & wonders, such as at
the giving of the Law.**

Exodus 19:16-19 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that [was] in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. 19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

I Thessalonians 4:17 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.

... to meet the Lord in the air ... Not to dwell with him "in the air," but then to accompany Him to the new heaven and the new earth.

All kinds of speculation are postulated and pontificated on these words.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words

I Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

I Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

I Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

... when they shall say... has the equivalent meaning of: "When people are saying. Primarily, it is the non-Christian portion of humanity because this warning is that Christians may not find themselves surprised by the Lord's coming.

... when they shall say, Peace and safety... At the precise moment when humanity feels most secure in their rebellion and sin against God, and at a time when all of the devices of government, society and the world may have produced the environment in which man may fancy that the peace, prosperity and safety of the whole world have been secured - precisely then shall the Lord descend from heaven with a mighty shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God!

I Thessalonians 5:4-5 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

II Peter chapter 1: Add to your faith such virtues as would make it fruitful, for he is shortly to die for the faith.

II Peter 1:11-21 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting [you] in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off [this] my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost

II Peter chapter 2: warnings against false prophets & false teachers.

II Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

... scoffers ... to sport, to play, to jest, to deride, to ridicule

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

II Peter 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation.

They argue that the natural order of seasons, spring, summer, fall and winter ... seed time and harvest ... that which is, is because it's ever been and forever will be ... To reach these conclusions you have to disregard certain important facts.

II Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Gen. 1:6-10 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. 9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [/land] appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry [/land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good.

“divide the waters from the waters” ... Waters above and below.

II Peter 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

“overflowed with water perished” ... Greek *apo-llum-i* was changed

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The future ... day of judgment ... has now been contrasted with the flood.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [*is*] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The passing of time has no bearing on the promises or the threats of God cf:

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight [are but] as yesterday when it is past, and [as] a watch in the night.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The purpose of delay is to exhibit God's longsuffering to give all a chance to ... come to repentance ... Greek – to move on to repentance

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the 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.

... will come ... emphatic in the Greek meaning coming surely

... will come as a thief in the night ... our Lord said cf:

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the 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.

... the heavens shall pass away with a great noise ... an *ono-ma-to-poetic* word meaning the sound will let everyone know what's happening

... elements shall melt ... the atoms will be dissolved by Divine Fiat.

**... the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up ...
He will judge and the world and every 401 K and Cadillac will be burned up.**

II Peter 3:11 [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,

... all these things shall be dissolved ... all man has accomplished.

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting 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?

... looking for and hasting ... hurrying it on by performing our duties faithfully

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

... new heavens and new earth ... there are two Greek words that we translate 'new' one, is young versus old and the other is fresh versus worn out. We are going to a *Fresh* Heavens and a *Fresh* Earth. Be prepared for a great change;

Revelation 21:1-2 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

II Peter 3:15 And account [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Instead of delaying the second coming regard it as the longsuffering of our Lord.

II Peter 3:16 As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

... speaking in them of these things ... Paul taught the same things we're talking about here, in his letters about the Second Coming.

Paul's Epistles are advanced & difficult - for the scripture twisters

... unlearned and unstable wrest ... Greek *stre-bloo* to twist and turn

... as they do also the other scriptures ... Evil men use hard scriptures for ungodly purposes.

II Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know [*these things*] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

II Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and [*in*] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [*be*] glory both now and for ever. Amen.

... the knowledge of our Lord ... not Greek gno-sis but epi-gno-sis which is not just knowledge but rather knowledge towards an object which is ... “our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” ... a knowledge that is ever maturing but is never matured to profound complete knowledge.

Watch & grow in grace. There will be a great resurrection for all people, the only question is whether you are going up or down.

I know some of you out there are thinking: “I’ll just wait until next week. I repent and get my business straight with the Lord then. What is going to happen to you if you are run over by a bus? You can’t plead innocence and say you didn’t know.

**Romans 2:4-6 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;
6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:**

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [*done*] in [*his*] body, according to that he hath done, whether [*it be*] good or bad.

I don’t want to be judged based upon what I have done ... then there is only one escape clause.

II Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

... with his mighty angels,... Here is the reason this as a glimpse of the final judgment. A vast number of angels are usually associated with Christ in New Testament references to the judgment. cf:

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

II Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

.... In flaming fire ... There is no need to speculate concerning the nature of the "flaming fire" that shall herald the Second Coming, for the Lord has just told us ... the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. II Peter 3:10

... taking vengeance ... Everywhere in Scripture this is the prerogative of Almighty God Himself, not that of any man; and its being ascribed here as an action of the Lord Jesus Christ is another proof of His deity. But vengeance there will be. God has a score to settle with sin and with the incorrigibly wicked.

The repetition of the article here indicates two classes of people: those who:

... know not God ... is the fact of their "refusing to know God" (Romans 1:20-28) and they are in no way innocent, but they are: "without excuse." These are usually explained as the pagans.

... obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ... It means those who refuse to be baptized into Christ and they refuse to assume the duties and obligations incumbent upon all true Christians.

The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and God wants us to obey it by dying to sin being buried in a watery grave of baptism and rising out of that water to walk or live a new life.

This Preaching outline used the following Sources: theWord.com for the KJV Bible, Clarkes Bible commentary, the Gospel Advocate Commentary, Coffman's Commentary, B.W. Johnson's Peoples New Testament Commentary.