

CHAPTER NINE

JESUS' SECOND COMING

Jesus will come for His Church in a Rapture, a visible catching up into the air (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 10:42; 1 Cor. 15:50-55; Thess. 4:16-18; 2Thess. 2:1; 2 Tim 4:1; Rev. 1:7; 22:12, 20) and will come back with His Church to land on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14: 1-9; Acts 1:11; 10:42; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2Thess. 2:1, 8; 2 Tim 4:1; Rev. 19:11-21). Paul teaches about this mystery of the Rapture of the saints that we will not all sleep, but will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we (all dead and living believers in Christ, the Church) will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

- a. Jesus will come for His Church in the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:4; 2Thess. 2:1; Rev. 1:7) and will return with His Church to the earth in the *parousia* (Acts 1:11; 2Thess. 2:1; Rev. 19:11-16).
- b. He promises that He is going to prepare a place for us and will come back and take us to be with Him (Jn. 14:2-3).

To this end, Jesus will fulfill the pending aspects of Messianic Prophecies and Promises. In addition, God's eternal Will and Purpose for the Earth and humanity will be achieved.

- a. ***God, through His Son Jesus will Judge the Living and the Dead:*** Judgment is reserved for all men; both believers and unbelievers (Jn. 5:26-29; Acts 10:42; 30-31; 2 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 9:27). Believers on their works after salvation (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12) but unbelievers for not believing in Jesus (Jn. 3:18; 3:36; 5:24; 16:8-11; Rom. 1:16-23). And a day is fixed for judgment. Jesus must return to judge all men for their allegiance to Him and also for everyone's work. In His eternal judgments, sinners will be condemned and cast into Hell fire, but the faithful believer will be rewarded, according to his works in Heaven. The Chapters on Judgment will amplify these; meanwhile the following Scriptures will do some good.

It is important for us believers to undergo the chastening of the Lord while alive; and to learn to judge ourselves in the light of Scripture. On the other hand we must warn the unbelieving in whatever means possible not to fall into the hands of the Lord. If God judged His Son on the cross on our behalf, then Jesus will not spare in judgment. Always remember that Heaven and Hell are both real (1 Cor. 11:31-34; 2 Cor. 5:10, 11; Heb. 12:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:17).

- b. ***To Return and Rule on Earth with His Bride as the Reigning Messiah:*** The Bible is full of prophecies on the two advents of Jesus, the Christ. The Old Testament scriptures clearly presented the two portraits of the Messiah; the Suffering Messiah

(Isa 53:1-12) and the Reigning Messiah (Isa 9:6, 7; Zech. 14; Rom 1:2, 3). As the reigning Messiah, He must return to restore all things to Israel and reign as the son of David (Acts 3: 20, 21; Luke 1:32, 33). Therefore, He will return not only as Judge to subject God's enemies to Himself, execute judgment on evil and sin, but also to rule and reign forever as Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords on earth (1 Tim. 6:11-16; Rev. 19:11-21). This will fulfill all the Messianic prophecies in the millennial reign (20: 1-6). Thereafter, Jesus will hand over the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

The Time of His Coming

The time of His coming is unknown to any man or angel (Matt 24:36). Yet certain signs will show the times (Matt 24:1ff; 2 Tim 3:1-5). In any case Jesus advises all believers not to follow signs but to concentrate on evangelization in every generation until the close of the unspecified time for the Church Age (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:1-11 vv. 4-6, 8; 2:16-21 v. 20). *"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before that great and notable day of the Lord come:** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Acts 2:16-21). The Church Age hence ends at the beginning of the eschatological period of time called the "**day of the Lord**", the Great Tribulation (Acts 2:20 see Matt. 24:21).

If this is the case then how do we resolve the imminence of His Coming with looking for signs? To many, this has been the greatest headache in handling eschatology. But Scripture speaks for itself. At the time of Daniel, we are told that the meanings of some of the words were sealed until the later days (Dan 12:9, 13). So the generation to witness the Return of Christ will be the only people to understand important pointers through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-19; Eph. 1:13, 14; Rev. 1:1-20 v. 4-7, 9-10; 19:9, 10; 22:17). Not only that, the Scriptures teach that the return of Jesus is in two phases (2Thess. 2:1, 2): a) **the mystery of His coming in the Air to Rapture the Church** (1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2Thess. 2:1-2) and b) **His final Appearing, the Parousia with the Church to land on the Mount of Olives** (Zech. 14; 2Thess. 2:1-2, 7-10; Rev. 19:11-21). It means that the Rapture will remain a mystery only to be discerned by prepared gospel-preaching, word-abiding and Spirit-filled believers (1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; 2 Tim. 4:7, 8; Rev. 1:1-11; 19:9, 10). Strangely, the intensity of the signs shows exponential high up close to and immediately after the Rapture (the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16; 2Thess. 2:2). This will be at the commencement of the great and terrible day of the Lord and the revealing of the man of sin, Anti-Christ (Matt. 24:9-28; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2Thess. 2:3-12).

Now after Pentecost, all the apostles agreed with the Lord on teaching our being ready at any time (Matt 24:36-39; 42-44; 1 Cor 1:7; 1 Pet 4:7-10). The Church was to expect repeated falling upon of the Holy Spirit in every place the gospel is preached with the Holy Spirit send from heaven (Jn. 17:20; Acts 1:8; 5:29-32; 1 Pet. 1:12). The former and later rain was to be seasonal spiritual tempo in the Church Age; but with a falling away (Jer. 5:24; Hos. 6:3; Joel 2:23; Acts 2:16-21; 2Thess. 2:3). The early Church, however, was guided by warnings given by the Lord on the desecration and destruction of Jerusalem and the then magnificent Temple followed by a great dispersion in A. D. 70; but which has a repeatable future occurrence of the Tribulation Temple that would be rebuilt in troublous times (Dan. 9:24-27). They also asserting that they were in the last days were prepared to be faithful even to the point of death to their Master notwithstanding the signs of the times.

The truth is the last days' signs (Matt. 24:4-8; 1 Tim. 4:1-7; 2 Tim. 3:1-5) will only continue in greater frequency and intensity; for they have become part of us, in the Church age. They are the beginning of labor pains. Just how long labor will take is never stated; but with labor, birth will come. For the early Church, their preoccupation was consistent hard-work in kingdom living and business (Acts 2:42; 20:35; Rom. 16:6)! The import of the matter lies in the fact that apart from seeing intensity and frequency of signs, most of the clearly stated sequential signs of His Coming (e. g. Matt. 24:9ff; 1 Thess. 5:3; 2Thess. 2:3) have reference rather to the Tribulation which starts after the Rapture.

It is, therefore, not advisable to develop an-unhealthy-signs seeking habit. When we look for signs we do not get them. We either will fall into the trap of scoffing (2 Pet. 3:3-5) or be given some other signs (Matt.12:38-40; 16:1-4). You see, signs just show up themselves and we discern them. That's all!

Reasons for the Return or Second Coming (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Tim. 4: 1; Rev. 11:15)

There are several reasons why Jesus is returning to the planet earth. In His incarnation, He came to live here as the God-man. He died and was buried for our sins. He arose and ascended into Heaven, but before that He promised to come back. Some of the main reasons for His coming are below stated. The Second coming of Christ is to fulfill Pending Messianic Prophecies and to later usher in eternity. These will be fulfillment of Messianic prophecies pending in the second Advent (Acts 1:1-11):

- a) There are several Messianic prophecies being pending to be fulfilled in due course at the Rapture of the Church.
 1. To bring many sons to glory in their final redemption – where the Rapture will complete our redemption (Eph. 1:7, 13-14; Heb. 9:28; 1 Cor 15:50-58; 1 Thess 4:13-18) and rewarding of saints (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 19:1-10) while the Appearing will result in the final redemption and appearing of saints (2Thess. 2:1, 2; Rev. 19:11-21) together with all other saints of God (Dan. 12:1-4, 7-13; Jn. 5:17-34 vv. 25-29; Rev 20:1-6). This will be “the gathering of His

- people”(2Thes 2:1) and will involve two things, 1) *the translation of the living saints in Christ* and 2) *the resurrection of the just in its order* (Is. 53:11; Dan. 12:2, 3; 1 Cor.15: 22, 23). It will ultimately result in the liberation of the earth from bondage when Christ and glorified saints come back to live on it(Matt. 9:28; Rom. 8:21).
2. To open and pour out of His Spirit the spirit of supplication to the Jews or Israel as a nation to be His witnesses after the Rapture of the Church (Zech. 14:10; Dan. 9:24-27; Rom. 11:25-29).
- b) There are several Messianic prophecies pending to be fulfilled in due course after the Rapture of the Church. There will be direct judgment on this sinful world and destruction of satanic forces, Satan himself with his angels and sin in what is called the eschatological" day of the Lord" (Is. 13:6; Joel 2:1-12; Zeph. 1:14-18; 3:8-20; Dan. 2:44-45; Mal. 3:1-4; 4:5, 6; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess. 5:2, 3; 2Thess. 1:3-10; 2:7-10). It will be immediately preceded by the Rapture of the Church (1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18); and marked by signs, wonders and miracles as great upheavals in nature as God’s means of judgment on sin (Matt. 24:8-25:46; Acts 2:20; 10:42; Rev. 6-19). It will be marked also be unprecedented wars and ending in great battle of Armageddon in the plain of Megiddo (Joel. 3:2; Rev. 11:18; 16:13-16; 19:11-21).It will finally witness the victory over sin as Christ finally destroys the works or sinful acts due originally to Satan (2 Pet. 3:9, 10; 1 Jn. 3:8) in the total submission of all to Christ (Phil. 2:11).
1. To judge and punish sin on earth including the Man of Sin, the Antichrist (Matt. 3:11, 12; 2Thess. 2:1-12; Rev. 6-19). The seventh trumpet sound will witness unparalleled judgment on evil or the ungodly and sin, in what is termed “the mystery of God should be finished” in God’s final defeat of evil (Rev. 10:6, 7) in preparation for eternity beginning with the Millennial Rule of Christ (Rev. 11:15-19 cf. Gen. 3:15-25 v. 15; Rev. 13:8).
 2. To redeem the present earth from its curse with the return of Christ with the glorified saints back to earth (Zech. 14; Matt. 19:28; Rom. 8:21-23; Rev. 19:11-19 cf. Gen. 3:17-19).
- c) There are several Messianic prophecies pending to be fulfilled in due course in the Millennium. After all these God will continue judgment on sin. There will be the righteous rule of Christ on earth.
1. To set up His Millennial peaceful kingdom with Satan bound for a literal 1000 years of prophetic 360 calendar days (Is. 65:1-25; Rev. 20:1-6).
 2. To rule as the Messiah, the Ben-David in the Millennium (2 Sam. 7:13; Is. 9:1, 7; 11:1-5; Matt. 1:1, 6; Lk. 1:32-33; Rom. 1:4; Rev. 11:15; 20:1-6).
- d) There are several Messianic prophecies pending to be fulfilled in due course after the Millennium. But to give way to the city wherein dwells righteousness (2 Pet

3:10-13), Satan will finally be cast into Hell fire with the wicked dead after the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 19:20, 21; 20: 4-6, 11-15).

1. To overthrow all evil and death from this existing planet earth, cast the Devil, all demons and unbelieving dead in literal Hell fire (2 Pet. 3:7-13; Rev. 20:7-15).
2. To create a new Earth and new Heavens for eternity, thereafter (2 Pet. 3:7-13; Rev. 21; 22).