

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Heb 9:28---Joel 3: 2-16---Rev 19: 1-21

There are those that continue in their unbelief, refusing to accept the plan of salvation and to live a holy life. They cannot find any good thing for which to hope in the second coming of Jesus Christ. The preaching of His return can only cause them to fear. He will not be coming back as their Savior, but as their judge **2Thess. 1:7-9.**

The scriptures does not tell us that things are going to get better, but rather worse until the coming of the Anti-Christ **2Tim 3:13---Mat 24: 12---2Thess 2:3.** As a matter of fact, Jesus Christ Himself told us it will become as the days of Noah and Lot in the day of His coming. **Luke 17: 226-30.** God waited until sin had filled it's cup and then His swift judgement fell without mercy. So will it happen to the sinners upon His return.

On the other hand the living hope of the Church of Jesus Christ will be reliazed when the Lord returns to claim His Bride **1Thes 4.13-18.** The bride that is called by His name. Then will the saints appear with Him in glory **Col. 3:4.** The persucuetions, tribulations, and conflicts will come to an end, and the songs of final victory will fill their hearts, and burst from their lips. His coming will solve their every problem, and will bring to pass the promised fullness of redemptive life. **Rom 8:23.**

From the time Jesus Christ assended, His church has anxiously waited for His return. When He calls she (His Church) will meet Him in the air. From across the universe the Heavenly chours of victory and the saints will begin the joyful celebration of the marriage supper of the Lord. While the clouds of judgement and wrath fill the skies the faithful child of God rejoices for he knows the time of his redemption drawleth nigh **Luke 21: 28.**

Many scholars believe that the second coming will take place in two parts. The first being the great catching away, and the second is when He will reveal Hisself to the whole world in judgment and usher in His Millenial Reign **1Thess 4: 13-18---2Thess 1: 7-9.**

These two aspects are portrayed in the marriage supper of the Lord Rev 19: 7-9. Also in the judgement and wrath of Jesus Christ upon the wicked Rev. 19: 11-21.

1. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

When Jesus Christ comes again. He will remove His Church from the earth before His wrath and judgment fall upon the wicked. He gave His life as a sacrifice on Calvary to purchase it with His own blood. And when He returns He will claim, His bride, His Church, called by His name.

A. The Hallelujah Chours

With the fall of the corrupt "Mystery Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots" The Heavenly host will raise their voices in joyful songs of triumph and jublation. Heaven will fill with anthems of praise to God for judging the great harlot. Who slew the saints. The Hallelujah chours will ring. Rev. 19: 1-2---Rev 19 3-4.

B. The Church As His Bride

From the destruction of the Great Harlot who was so depraved and corrupt in character, her evil influences flowed as a river of death to the entire world. Then the scene quickly changes to the spotless church, Jesus Christ's bride, who has made herself ready for her Bridegroom. Her attire of fine linen clean and white contrasts with the gaudy attire of scarlet and gold worn by the Great Harlot. Rev 17: 4---Rev 18: 16. The fine linen represents her righteousness and speaks of her good deeds. The scene is full of joy and gladness, for the Bride is ready and the Marriage will be the complete and formal union between Jesus Christ and His Church. The consumation of redemption, and the fulfillment of all promises and prophecys of victory for the saints.

In the Old Testment the Bride was always Iseral, but the Brid of the New Testment is The Chruch of Jesus Christ.

A. Here are some references to the Old Testament Bride and Bridegroom. Isa 54: 5-6---Isa 62:5---Jere. 2: 32---Eze 16: 6-14 Hosea 2: 19-20.

B. Here are some references to the New Testament Bride and Bridegroom. Matt 22: 2-10---Matt 22: 11-14---Mark 2: 19-20 Matt 25: 1-13.

Moreover, John the Baptist referred to himself as a friend to the bridegroom John 3: 29. In Paul's letter to the church at Corinth he identifies the bride as the Church 2Cor 11: 2. Furthermore, the apostle referred to the relationship of Jesus Christ to His Church as the great model of the relationship between a husband and His wife. Eph 5: 21-33.

C. The Wedding Feast

There are eight steps in the Hebrew Marriage Custom.

1. Betrothal--Engagement.
2. Wedding dowry.
3. Waiting Period--Preparing the Wedding Garment.
4. The coming of the Bridegroom.
5. The Bride goes out to meet Him.
6. Procession to their new home.
7. Wedding Feast.
8. Bridal Chamber.

1. The Church was betrothed to Jesus Christ---Matt 16:18. The wedding dowry 1Pet 1: 19---Eph 3: 25-27. Since the ascension of Jesus Christ the Bride has been making Herself ready preparing the wedding garment. Rev 19: 7. And the Bridegroom has been preparing a home for His bride. John 14: 1-3. At the designated time Jesus Christ will come and get His bride with the Heavenly Host and proceed to the Marriage Supper where the wedding will be celebrated. After the celebration is over He will take His bride to the Bridal Chambers "The Holy City" of New Jerusalem. Rev 21:2

2. Jesus Christ Coming in Power

The calling of the Bride from the earth is followed by one of the most dramatic moments in the Book of Revelations, the emergence of the conquering King, who returns to earth to confront and to punish the nations who follow the Anti-Christ and the False Prophets.

3. The Conquering Warrior

The description of Jesus Christ in this scene reveals His purpose. First of all, He is seen riding a white horse which lets us know that He is a conquerer. The conquering warrior king who is come to smite His enemies. He is no longer the meek Lamb of God. He was then a Savior. He will now be a judge. Rev. 19: 11 "Faithfull" absolute, trustworthy, cannot be bribed. "True" unlike the anti-christ who is a counterfeit. His eyes as a flame of fire describes God's consuming power. And His many crowns represents His Kingship over all the nations of the earth. No longer to wear a crown of thorns, but a royal crown of the Kingdoms of the Earth.

The vesture dipped in blood foreshadows the slaughter of the vast enemies of the earth by His power.

Spoken and Written Word of God

1. Creative Power---Heb 11:3---Gen 1:1
2. Healing Power---Ps 107: 20---Luke 7:7-10
3. Regeneration Power---1Pet 1: 23
4. Resurrection Power---John 5: 28-29.
5. Judgement Power---Rev 19: 15.
6. And His Name is called the Word of God---Rev 19: 13---John 1:1.

The Return of Jesus Christ

It is important to understand that the return of Jesus Christ will be literal, visible, and in person. John 14:3---Matt 24: 30---1Thes 4: 16---Rev 1:7.

He will personally meet the Bride.

He will personally descend to meet the rising church. To join in battle against the nations of the Anti-Christ. Zech 14:5---Rev 19: 19.

Although we do not know where the exact battlefield will be we do know what the Word says about it. Zech 14: 3-4---Zech 14: 9-17.

At His coming, the catching away of the church will occur first, but then comes the time of "The Wrath of the Lamb" Rev.6: 16-17. There will be turmoil in the Heavens and great catastrophic upheavals in the Earth. Rev 6:12-14. When the inhabitants of the earth shall see his coming in great power they shall run to the mountains for a hiding place from His wrath. Rev 6: 15. Not will there be a harvesting of the church but the angel's scycle will also gather the "Rebellious Cluster of the Vine." To be cast into the great winepress of the "Wrath of God." Rev 14: 14-20.

The Battle of Armageddon

It is not easy to comprehend the immensity of the terrible judgment that will fall upon the people of the world during the war "called in the Scriptures" the Battle of Armageddon. Rev 16: 16.

Preparation for this war will take place in Heaven and on Earth. When the angles pour the sixth vial upon the Euphrates River it will dry up, permitting the armies of the East to move more easily toward the Land of Israel. Rev 6: 12. On earth unclean spirits coming from the anti-christ and the false prophet will persuade the nations of the world to gather their armies to destroy God and His influncenes upon the Earth Rev. 6: 13-14. Unknown to them is that they will be marching into the "Great Winepress of the Wrath of God." Rev 14: 19---Rev 19: 15.

Although He is a soon coming King, there is still time. He is still our Savior. Seek Him while we still can. Tomorrow He may be our judge.

If you have any questions about this Bible Study or any other Bible Topic. Please feel free to call or write: Bishop Charles R. Hays, Sr.

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