

The Second Coming of Christ

I. Major markers that precede Christ's second coming

- A. The gospel will be preached in all the world. Jesus said before the end, the gospel will be preached in all the world (Matt 24:14). The gospel will not necessarily be believed, but preached. Christ will not come back to a saved world, but to complete the salvation He has won (Heb 9:28).
- B. All Israel will be saved. Ethnic Israel has been cast away due to their unbelief (Mat 21:43; 1Thes 2:14-16; Romans 9-11), but not completely or permanently (Romans 11). Jews who do not believe in Christ are not saved (Luke 13:24-29; Jn 3:3-5; 1Thes 2:14-16; Rom 9-10). However, there is a present remnant of believing Jews who are saved (Romans 11:5). Jews and Gentiles have been made one in Christ (Gal 2:28-29; 3:7; Eph 2:14-16). Gentiles have become partakers of the promised blessings to Israel (Matthew 8:11-12; Matt 19:27-29, Luke 13:26-29; John 10:16; Romans 11:17; Ephesians 2:11-22, Ephesians 3:4-6; Hebrews 11:39-40; Gal 3:6-29). While there is a remnant of saved Jews presently, in the future all Israel will turn to Christ and be saved (Rom 11:26-27). This will happen when the fullness of the Gentiles is come in (Rom 11:25; Luke 21:24) prior to Christ's second coming (Zech 12:9-10 and 13:1; Joel 3:14-16,21; Luke 13:35). When Israel is saved, their fullness will signify the final consummation of God's redemption, resulting in life from the dead and the full riches of the Gentiles and the world (Rom 11:12-14).
- C. Apostasy and tribulation associated with the revealing of the final Antichrist. These last times since the Lord ascended are marked by many antichrists who deny that Jesus is the Christ (1Jn 2:18-23; 2Thes 2:3). These last days are characterized by tribulation and persecution of believers (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Rom 5:3; 1Thes 3:4; 2Tim 3:12). Warnings of antichrists and persecution therefore apply to Christians of all ages, including the first century believers to whom the Bible letters were written. Prior to the second coming of Christ, a final and fierce antichrist will persecute the saints, resulting in a period of great tribulation such as never before or after (Daniel 12:1; Matt 24:21,29; Rev 7:14). The final antichrist, referred to as the man of sin in 2Thes 2, will oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God will sit in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (2Thes 2:4). Empowered by Satan, this final antichrist, referred to as the beast from the sea in Revelation, will open his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. He will make war with the saints, and overcome them. He will have power over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. All the unsaved that dwell on the earth will worship him (Rev 13:4-8). Because iniquity will abound, the love of many will grow cold (Matt 24:12). Power will be given him 3.5 years (Dan 7:25, 12:7; Rev 12:6, 14, 13:5). He will be revealed for the purpose of being destroyed by Jesus at his second coming (Dan 7:9-14; 2Thes 2:8; Rev 19:11-20).

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II. The manner of His coming

- A. Christ will come again as he ascended--personally, physically, visibly, with clouds (Acts 1:9-11; Mark 14:61-62; Matt 24:26-31; 1Thes 4:16-17; Rev 1:7)
- B. Christ will come in the glory of His Father (Matt 16:27)
- C. Christ will come in his own glory (Matt 25:31)
- D. Christ will come with clouds (Rev 1:7)
- E. Christ will come in flaming fire (2Thes 1:8)
- F. Christ will come with power and great glory (Matt 24:30)
- G. Christ will come accompanied by His saints (1Thes 3:13; 4:14; Rev 20:14)
- H. Christ will come with His holy angels (Matt 16:27; 25:31; 2Thes 1:7).
- I. Christ will come without warning, unexpectedly, as a thief in the night (Mark 13:35-37; Matt 24:37-44; 1Thes 5:1-6; Acts 1:7). That day should not overtake Christians as a thief because true believers are children of light, not of the night, nor of darkness (1Thes 5:1-5).

III. The purpose of His coming

- A. Christ will come again to complete the saints' redemption (i.e., the redemption of our bodies [Rom 8:23]). When Christ comes, the dead in Christ will be resurrected, the living saints will be changed, and we will all be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air (1Thes 4:16-17; 1Cor 15:23). The saints will receive glorified bodies like Christ's post-resurrection body which was a spiritual, physical, flesh-and-bones body not subject to the current physical laws of nature (1Cor 15:12-23, 35-50, 51-57; Luke 24:39-43; Phil 3:20-21; 1John 3:2).
- B. Christ will come again to give reward to His saints according to their works (Matt 16:27; Rev 11:18; 22:12)
- C. Christ is coming to make a new heavens and new earth (2Pet 3:3-12; Matt 19:28; Rom 8:19-23; 9:19-23; Isa 65:17; Rev 21:1).
- D. When Jesus comes again, the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (Rev 11:15). Christ is sitting now at the Father's right hand, but all his enemies have not yet been destroyed (Heb 1:13). By His coming He will destroy the last enemy, death (1Cor 15:22-26).

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- E. When Christ returns, the saints will judge angels and the world (Dan 7:9-22; 1Cor 6:2-3) and will reign with Christ forever (Rev 22:5).
- F. Christ will come again to avenge and give rest to His troubled saints (2Thes 1:7; Rev 6:10).
- G. Christ will come to bring to light the hidden things of darkness (1Cor 4:5).
- H. Christ will come again and resurrect and judge unbelievers (Jn 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15; 2Tim 4:1; 2Thes 1:7-10; Matt 16:27; 25:31-32; Jude 14-15; Rev 1:7; 6:15-17; 11:18; 20:11-15; 22:12).
- I. Christ will come to destroy the beast, the false prophet, and the Devil (Dan 7:9-14; 2Thes 2:8; Rev 19:11-20; 20:10)
- J. Christ will come to consummate His kingdom--The kingdom of God is everlasting and universal (1Chron 29:11-12; Psalm 10:16; 29:10; 103:19; 145:13). The mediatorial aspect of God's kingdom was ultimately rejected by Israel during the Old Testament and during Christ's ministry. The apostles then turned to the Gentiles with the kingdom message. Through the remnant of saved Jews and Gentiles (the church) the kingdom was inaugurated during Christ's ministry and is a present reality for believers today (Psalm 29:10; Matt 12:28; 16:28; Mark 9:1; Luke 11:20-21; 17:20-21; 1Cor 4:19-20; Rom 14:17; Col 1:13). The kingdom also has a future aspect which has not yet occurred (Zech 14:9; Matt 6:10; 7:21; 19:28; 25:31; 2Tim 4:1). The kingdom is spiritual (Matt 12:28; 21:43; 23:13; Lk 17:20-21; Jn 18:36, etc.) and earthly (Jer 23:5; Matt 5:5; 8:11-12; Lk 19:11; Rom 8:18-23; 1Cor 15:22-28; Rev 5:10; 11:15; 21:1). Christ's second coming will bring in the fulfillment of the kingdom which has already begun but not consummated (Rev 3:21; 12:5; 19:11-16). Christ's first coming with the Jewish disciples will continue to grow to include believers from every tribe, tongue and nation. At the second coming of Christ, the saved will be separated from the unsaved. Unbelievers will be punished and believers will be exalted in the future kingdom where believers will reign with Christ forever (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43; 2Tim 2:12; Rev 5:10; 20:6; 22:5). When all enemies (the last enemy being death) are subdued, Christ will deliver up the kingdom to God the Father that God may be all in all (1Cor 15:23-28).