

A Second Look at the Second Coming!

Revelation 19:11-16; Matthew 24; Daniel 7:9-14

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- *What is meant by the "literal" interpretation of Scripture?*
- Many different interpretations leads some to believe that it is impossible to understand the Bible. So for them interpretation is not important, but rather personal interpretation-- *"What does the biblical passage mean to me?"*
- The Bible is not a closed book! God is the greatest communicator. He uses language in its NORMAL SENSE. I call it the "literal" sense.
 - Grammar-- words, sentences, paragraphs-- verb tenses
 - Historical background-- context
 - Literal sense-- no hidden meanings or deeper truths
 - Comparing Scripture with Scripture! The Bible interprets itself! The "whole counsel of God"
- The Four-fold Process of Studying the BIBLE
 - Observation-- *"What does the text say?"*
 - Interpretation-- *"What does the text mean?"* Only one correct interpretation for every text.
 - Application-- *"How does the text apply to me?"*
 - Correlation--*"How does this text connect with other texts in Scripture?"*
- The challenge of fitting all Scriptural passages together so as to tell the full story, the *"whole counsel of God."*

A Second Look at the Second Coming

A. The FIRST LOOK: Jesus returns as the "Warrior-King"

- Revelation 19:11-16-- *"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. 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. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 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. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."*

B. The SECOND LOOK: Jesus returns as the "SON of MAN" Matthew 24

1. Background to Matthew 24, the "Olivet Discourse"

- a. **In response to questions by His disciples. "What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"**
 - Matthew 24:2-- *"Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*
 - Matthew 24:3-- *"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*
- b. **Matthew 24 is probably one of the most mis-interpreted passages of Scripture** for many want to relate what Jesus is saying to those living today awaiting the rapture of the church.
 - 1) The Parable of the Fig Branches and *"this generation will not pass away till all these things take place."*
 - 2) The scene of one taken, one left
 - Matthew 24:40-41-- *"two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left"*

- 3) The command to "Watch"
 - Matthew 24:42-- *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."*

c. **But the context reveals that Jesus is not speaking to us today, but rather to those who will be living during the tribulation period.** And thus He is not speaking primarily to you and I who are waiting the rapture of the Church, but rather to those living during the tribulation who are waiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Jesus Christ warns those living in Jerusalem about the coming of the Great Tribulation.--
 - Matthew 24:15-22-- , *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."*
- 2) Jesus Christ warns His followers that during the great tribulation that there will be false teachers, false Messiahs who will seek to entice them to leave their safe place and thus fall into the hands of the Antichrist.
 - Matthew 24:23-26-- *"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it."*

2. **So, how will these sequestered Jews and believers know when the true Christ returns to establish His kingdom? How will they distinguish the true from the counterfeit?**

- Matthew 24:27-- *"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."*

3. **Jesus elaborates on the Coming of the Son of Man**

- Matthew 24:29-31-- *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

a. **His coming will take place "immediately after the tribulation of those days".**

b. **His coming will be accompanied by unprecedented disruptions in the heavens.**

- Luke 21:25-26-- *"The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."* From Luke's parallel account we learn that *"there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*

c. **There will appear in heaven the "sign of the Son of Man."** Various views:

- 1) An enormous, illuminated "Cross"
- 2) The "Shekinah Glory"
- 3) The Heavenly Jerusalem descending (Revelation 21:2-3)
- 4) The lightning of Matthew 24:27
- 5) The Son of Man Himself. Jesus Christ as the ultimate and final sign of His coming

4. The “Son of Man comes on the clouds of heaven.” Daniel 7

a. The scene of the throne of God and the judgment of the Antichrist

- Daniel 7:9-12-- *“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.”*

b. The entrance of the Son of Man

- Daniel 7:13-14-- *“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”*

c. The Identity of the “Son of Man?”

- 1) Clearly a human being of heavenly origin
- 2) Jesus Christ, in His incarnation, was both the “Son of God” (emphasis on His deity) and the “Son of Man” (emphasis on His humanity)
- 3) Jesus as the “Son of Man” prevalent in the Gospel of Matthew.
 - Matthew 8:20-- *And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”*
 - Matthew 9:6-- *But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” — then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.*
 - Matthew 12:40-- *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
 - Matthew 17:9-- *Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.*
 - Matthew 17:12-- *But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.*
- a) Thirty times refers to Himself as the “Son of Man”
- b) Jesus lays out His mission as the Son of man.
 - Mark 8:31-- *“ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”*
- 4) As the “Son of Man” Jesus will come again.
 - Matthew 26:44-- *“Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.’”*

5. Man’s Response to Coming of the Son of Man

a. For the wicked and unbeliever, the coming of the Son of Man results in great mourning for the day of grace has passed and judgment is imminent.

- Matthew 24:30-- *“the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*
- Revelation 1:7-- *“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”*

- b. But **for the believer** who has prepared himself for Christ's second coming, it will be a welcomed sight!
- a. Their ultimate deliverance or salvation
 - Luke 21:27-28-- *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*
 - Hebrews 9:27-28-- *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."*

 - b. Jesus Christ will send His angels to gather the Elect to enter the kingdom
 - Matthew 24:31-- *"He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*
 - a. The "elect" are those who have their faith firmly in God.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10-- *"have turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

 - b. The "elect from one end of heaven to the other" includes...
 - 1) The Old Testament Saints
 - Hebrews 11:6-- *"desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."*
 - 2) The tribulation saints who were martyred

 - c. The church saints will already be raised and with Christ ready to enter the kingdom

 - d. The "elect from the farthest part of the earth"
 - Mark 13:27-- *"then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."*

Application for us today?

1. As the believers during the tribulation period need to be aware of the presence of false teachers and false Messiahs, so we too need to be aware of their presence.
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15-- *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*
 - 1 Timothy 4:1-- *"the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."*
 - Ephesians 4:14-15-- *"we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ."*

2. As the believers during the tribulation need to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ, so we too need to prepare for Christ's coming for us at the rapture of the Church.
 - Matthew 24:42, 44-- *"you do not know what hour your Lord is coming... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*