

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ
The Prophecy Conference
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It has been said that the early church thought more about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, than about death or about heaven. Alexander Maclaren said that "the early Christians were looking not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory. They were watching not for the undertaker but for the upper taker."

While specific language of "Second Coming" is rare in Scripture, the concept is well established (Matt. 25:31; John 14:3)¹ Although our Lord has informed us of a series of events that will take place before His Second Coming (i.e., Matthew 24:3-31), the exact day and the hour of His return is known only by God the Father (Matthew 24:36).

In Acts 1:9-11, we have a record of the Apostles watching Jesus literally and bodily ascend into heaven where Christ was exalted to the right hand of the Father. This served as a symbol of God the Father's full acceptance of the once for all time sacrifice of Christ on the earth. So, based on the promise of the two men dressed in white clothes (angels), Jesus will return a second time literally and bodily. Other Scriptures inform us that this Second Coming of Jesus brings to an end the seventieth week of Daniel, and the culmination of redemptive history (Revelation 19).

The Second Coming is also the starting point for the millennial reign of Jesus on the earth. The return of Jesus functions as an important transition point from this present evil age to the righteous kingdom of Jesus.

Belief in the return of Jesus is an indispensable doctrine of orthodox Christianity. It also distinguishes biblical Christianity from all other belief systems in the world. The New Testament declares the necessity of a Second Coming of Jesus. The word "second" is used in Hebrews 9:28: "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."²

Facts about the second coming:

1. The Second Coming refers to that closing moment in redemptive history when Jesus literally comes back to this earth and his feet will stand on the Mt of Olives (Zechariah 14:3-4), the same place from which He ascended in heaven (Acts 1:9-12). His Second Coming will initiate His millennial reign on earth, which will eventually become His eternal reign in the New Heaven and Earth.

It is also at this time that our Lord will render His judgment upon the nations (Matthew 25:31-46). The basis of our Lord's judgment will be the success or the failure to extend mercy to the remnant of Jewish believers during the Tribulation. For those who are the accursed, their

¹ MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (p. 907). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

² MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (p. 907). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

lack of righteous works will evidence their unconcern (vv. 42–44; cf. vv. 35–36). Such individuals will sympathize with the world dictator and support his cause.

They will be removed from the earth and will be cast into “eternal fire” (v. 41), to undergo **eternal punishment** (v. 46).³ It’s important to keep in mind, this is not the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium (Relation 20:11-15).

The OT believers and the tribulation saints will be raised at this time to inherit the kingdom (Revelation 20:4). 1 Corinthians 6:2 states explicitly that the Saints will sit in judgment of the world.

The twelve apostles will be raised at this time and given the responsibility of judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).

2. At the first coming of Christ, only a few people knew that Jesus had left the glory of heaven to come to this earth and to bear our sins on the cross (cf. Luke 2:1-20). And this He did in obedience to His heavenly Father (Philippians 2:3-11). At the time of His second coming, all who are on earth in that final moment of the world as we know it, will see our Lord’s glorious second coming (Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 1:7).

3. The OT does not give us explicit revelation regarding the extended amount of time between the first and second coming of our Lord. OT prophecy did address the suffering servant (Isaiah 52 and 53), and the victorious reigning King, whose kingdom has no end (Daniel 7:14). But the OT did not explain that these two roles would be fulfilled over two comings. Psalm 110:1-2, implies a gap between the first and second coming. The lack of explicit statements in Scripture resulted in the disciples of Christ and those Jewish people of the first century believing that when the Messiah would appear on earth, he would immediately vanquish Israel of its enemies, establish his kingdom on earth, and restore those golden years of Israel like they had under King David and King Solomon.

Even after our Lord’s death and resurrection, and just before His ascension, His disciples asked Jesus if He was about to restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6).

4. Although the OT does not give us explicit details about the two separate comings of the Messiah, it does give us the reaction of Israel at the time of our Lord’s Second Coming, when they will realize that they had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, at the time of His first coming. This will cause great lamentation to take place (Zechariah 12:9-14; Isaiah 53).

5. The Second Coming must be distinguished from the rapture of the church, which takes place prior to the seven years of Tribulation. At the rapture of the church, Christ comes for His bride, which is the church (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). At the Second Coming, He comes for His crown and throne (Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21). The Second Coming is preceded by a series of prophetic events (Matthew 24:3-28). Whereas the rapture can happen at any moment and signals the beginning of the tribulation, or the time of Jacob’s trouble.

Furthermore, at the rapture, Christ meets His saints in the air (1Thessalonians 4:17) to take

³ Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 81). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

them to heaven (John 14:2-3). At the Second Coming, He descends with them from heaven to the earth (Zechariah 14:4) and establishes His Millennial rule, and the saints will rule with Him.

6. The impeccable character and integrity of Jesus supports the truth of His Second Coming (Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12; Matthew 25:31).

Hebrews 9:28

28 "So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

7. The Second Coming then is one of the non-negotiable fundamentals of our Faith. It is akin to our belief in the Bible as the Word of God, or salvation being secured by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. It is as significant as our faith in the virgin birth of Christ and our trust in the truth that in Christ all the fullness of deity dwelt in a bodily form.

8. The Second Coming of our Lord will be the focus of ridicule in the last days (2 Peter 3:3-13).

In the last half of the nineteenth chapter of Revelation, we come to the actual recording of this event, which is the culmination of redemptive history, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This is the preeminent event of this book. I have broken this section down into two parts:

I. The Coming of The Conquering King (Revelation 19:11-16)

The name Jesus or Christ is never used in this passage. Instead, our Lord is described by different titles that reveal something of His person and His mission.

- A. His titles (vs.11b)
- B. His judgment (vs.11c)
- C. His eyes (vs. 12a)
- D. His head (vs. 12b)
- E. His secret Name (v. 12c)
- F. His clothing (v.13a)
- G. His revealed name (v.13b)
- H. His armies (v.14)
- I. His weapon (v.15)
- J. His ultimate title (v.16)

II. The Victory of The Conquering King (Revelation 19:17-21)

- A. The angelic command (vs.17-18)
- B. The assembled opposition (v. 19)
- C. The defeat of the opposition (vs. 20-21)

The Second Coming of Jesus will put an end to the present age and to Daniel's seventieth week, which features a Satan-inspired global reign of the Antichrist, a one world government, one world religion and a one world ruler. This final and evil world empire will last only three and a half years.

The Second Coming is also the starting point for the millennial reign of Jesus on the earth. The return of Jesus functions as an important transition point from this present evil age to the righteous kingdom of Jesus.⁴

The Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ will put to an end to the world as we know it. It will be the culminating event at the end the seventieth week of Daniel. The final world empire, which is under the rule of Satan through the global reign of the Antichrist.

Practical Implications

1. One of the new attitudes that Paul spoke of as an indicator of true conversion of the soul, is an anticipatory mindset toward the second coming of Christ (Matthew 6:9-10; 24:44; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:11-13).
2. All who hope in and for the Second Coming of Christ indicate their confidence in that truth by a present lifestyle of purity or holiness and godliness (1 John 3:2-3; 2 Peter 3:11).
3. Those that wait for this essential event in redemptive history must be steadfast and patient (James 5:7-11).
- 4 The genuine believer in Jesus Christ can be assured that the treasures they have in Christ and the assurance of their eternal destiny is carefully protected by the power of the Lord until we enter the final phase of our salvation (1 Peter 1:3-9).

1 Thessalonians 3:11–13 (NASB95)

- 11** Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;
12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you;
13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

⁴ MacArthur, J., & Mayhue, R. (Eds.). (2017). [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (p. 907). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

