THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

That to which all Scripture looks forward and to which all history presses is the second advent (coming) of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. At that time God's purposes, for which the Son came into the world, will be realized. Redemption will have been accomplished and sovereignty will have been manifested on earth. A great deal of prophecy is related to this coming and the events associated with it.

— Dr. Dwight David Pentecost

This is not a “new doctrine:"

Jude 1:14-15

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, [15] To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. It is a doctrine that is thousands of years old.

It is also the last challenge given us in Scripture:

Rev. 22:20-21

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. [21] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

In this study tonight, I will give you many, many verses from the Holy Bible that clearly teach Jesus will return to this earth.

Please remember: the rapture of the church that we studied last time and the second coming of Christ we highlight tonight are TWO DIFFERENT EVENTS, separated, I believe, by a space of seven years.

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, and after many appearances to His followers, Jesus met for the final time with his remaining 11 disciples on the Mount of Olives:
Acts 1:1-11  New American Standard

The first account I (Luke) composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. [3] To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. [4] And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6] And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" [7] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; [8] but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." [9] And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. [10] And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; [11] and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

I love Luke’s passage in verse 3 that Jesus’ resurrection was shown by “many convincing proofs.” Remember Luke was a trained Greek physician.

Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives (east side of Jerusalem - see picture at top of page 3). The angels told the crestfallen disciples that Jesus would return to the earth the same way He left it. That must mean His “landing” would again be the Mount of Olives. The Old Testament corroborates that: Zech. 14:3-9 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. [4] And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. [5] And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! [6] And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. [7] For it will be a unique day
The Mount of Olives on Jerusalem's east side. The valley between the camera and the hillside is the Kidron Valley. The beautiful church building (middle left side) is located in the center of the Garden of Gethsemane. The villages of Bethany and Bethphage are on the other side of the hill. Somewhere on that ridge, Jesus ascended back to Heaven (Acts 1).

which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. [8] And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

[9] And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

As you look at the picture above, think of that entire ridge splitting in two, north and south, forming a deep valley toward the east. Just 18 miles away is the town of Jericho. The topography plummets at this point toward the Dead Sea (just south of Jericho), from the Jerusalem elevation of 2600 ft above sea level to 1300 feet BELOW sea level.

The Second Coming of Christ takes place BEFORE the Millennium. The Rapture of the Church will have taken place seven years earlier. During that time, all the saints of God will be with our Lord at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. On earth, all hell has broken loose under the cruel tyranny of the Antichrist. When Jesus returns Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet will all be pitched into hell.

There are some who attempt to “spiritualize” the return of Christ; but make no mistake about it, it will be a LITERAL ADVENT. Here are some of the things that will take place when He comes back:

1. His return will be seen around the world (through television, I believe) as a flaming fire: 2 Thes. 1:8 ...In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2. Jesus will appear in the clouds of heaven with power and glory: Matthew 24:30
And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3. The previously-raptured saints of God will return with Him: 1 Thes. 3:13 To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

4. Every eye shall see Him: Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

5. He will destroy the Antichrist: 2 Thes. 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

6. He will sit upon His throne: Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

7. He will judge all nations: Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

8. He will rule over an earthly kingdom: Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

9. Every person on earth will bow to Him and His authority: Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

10. His capital of world rule will be in Jerusalem: Jeremiah 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.
11. He will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem: Ezekiel 43:2-5  And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. [3] And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. [4] And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. [5] So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house.

Ezekiel 44:4

Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord: and I fell upon my face.

12. His rule will cause barren wildernesses to thrive: Isaiah 32:15  Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

THE RAPTURE WILL BE A “SECRET CATCHING AWAY OF THE BRIDE” WHILE THE SECOND COMING WILL BE VISIBLE AROUND THE WORLD

Any number of scriptures establish the fact that the second coming of Christ will be a full and visible manifestation of Jesus to this entire planet. Just as His ascension was visible to those on the Mount of Olives, so His return to the Mount will be visible. Television could be a reason for this.

Rev. 1:7  Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Matthew 24:30  And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

There will be a stupendous demonstration in the skies that make the Alaskan northern lights seem like flashlights by comparison. Matthew 16:27  For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 25:31  When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
We know that at a minimum there are over 100 million angels. Try to imagine looking into a light beyond human comprehension and seeing not only the descending Jesus but a hundred million angels fill the sky – not to mention millions upon millions of glorified saints of God descending on this earth!

IN THE MEAN TIME.....

1. The followers of Christ are to be WATCHFUL: Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. [43] But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. [44] Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Luke 12:35-38 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; [36] And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. [37] Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. [38] And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

2. The followers of Jesus are to be serious-minded, sober, vigilant. 1 Thes. 5:2-6 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. [3] For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. [4] But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. [5] Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

3. The followers of Jesus are to be repentant before Him: Acts 3:19-21 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; [20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [21] Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

4. The followers of Jesus are to be never ashamed of Him: Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful
generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the
 glory of his Father with the holy angels.

5. The follower of Jesus is to be disconnected to the world system: Matthew 16:26-27
For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? [27] For the Son of man shall
come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man
according to his works.

6. The follower of Jesus is to live a sanctified life: 1 Thes. 5:23 And the very God of
peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be
preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. That word
“sanctification” means “set apart” for the Lord.

7. The follower of Jesus may face severe persecution. 1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice,
inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be
revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. Today, so many preachers are
telling folks how they can be rich and successful. Some are, some are not. It has
precious little to do with the way God sees them. In the light of Christ’s return to this
earth, having “stuff” seems an awful waste of His death on the cross.

8. The follower of Jesus will endure temptations and the severest trials of faith. 1 Peter
1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that
perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and
glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

9. The follower of Jesus anticipates and longs for His return: 1 Thes. 1:9-10 For they
themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye
turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; [10] And to wait for his
Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us
from the wrath to come.

1 Cor. 1:4-8 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is
given you by Jesus Christ; [5] That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all
utterance, and in all knowledge; [6] Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed
in you: [7] So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ: [8] Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless
in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you read the paper tomorrow, or watch the news on your computer or TV, consider
how totally different everything would be if Jesus were on His throne in Jerusalem and
was the absolute monarch over all the earth!

MEGIDDO AND CHRIST'S RETURN

The Lord willing, in a few days I will climb through the ruins of Tel Megiddo, overlooking the Valley of Armageddon. (Picture of Megiddo on next page)

A tel is an artificial hill, built by cities through the ages building on top of previous cities in the same location. Megiddo is a key example of such a hill. In ancient times, it was a very important city-state. 26 civilizations built on the site as it was located strategically at the head of a pass through the Mount Carmel Ridge overlooking Armageddon Valley. We know there was a civilization there 9000 years ago. The end of people living there coincided with the final Babylonian invasion of Israel in 586 B.C. The Israeli king Josiah died in battle there against Egypt and its ruler Pharaoh Necho II. Kings Solomon and Ahab had military installations there. The famous water tunnel is there, basis for Michener's classic novel The Source.

I always take our tour groups to the spot in the picture where there is a letter X. The view of the Galilee from that spot is breathtaking. While we are there (under a well-situated tree) I read from Revelation 19 that tells of Jesus' return. It is His return, flanked by all His saints who were raptured earlier, that ends the Battle of Armageddon and establishes His rule on the earth for the next 1,000 years:

Rev. 19:11-21

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

[17] And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God: [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.
And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Rev. 20:1-4

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded...
for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the
beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in
their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

We recall from our previous prophecy studies that at the end of the Tribulation period, the
armies of the world meet to fight for global supremacy: Rev. 16:16 And he (God)
gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. But
before they can engage in battle, Jesus returns and ends the conflict with a word from His
mouth.

David prophesied the response of earth’s armies when they behold Jesus returning:
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against
the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us break their bands asunder, and
cast away their cords from us. [4] He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the
Lord shall have them in derision. [5] Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath,
and vex them in his sore displeasure. [6] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of
Zion. [7] I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son;
this day have I begotten thee. [8] Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for
thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. [9] Thou
shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s
vessel. [10] Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed
are all they that put their trust in him.

The response of God to this human “summit conference” is given in the above passage.
God quietly sits on His throne in the heavens and chuckles - chuckles at puny man, even
in their corporate might as though they could rebel against Him and prevent Him from
accomplishing His purpose in setting up the Millennial kingdom. God’s purpose is
irrefutable and unchangeable. God speaks to the Messiah, the Son, the King who will
reign on David’s throne over all the earth (verse 9), “Thou shalt break them with a rod of
iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.) This is the decree of the
Father that the Son is going to smite the nations of the earth and is going to rule over the
very nations that rebelled against Him, for all might and authority has been given by God
to the Father into the hands of God the Son.

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More on the Return of Christ and the various judgments that follow when next we meet
on Wednesday, May 13th.