

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

- A. Acts 1:9-11 There will be a **literal**, bodily, second coming of Jesus Christ to the Earth (Rev 1:7).

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11).

- B. Dan 2:44 The **purpose** of Christ's return to Earth will be to fulfill the remaining Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah and establish His forever Kingdom.

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

““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” (Daniel 7:13-14).

I. Christ and the Saved during the Tribulation

- A. The Church will be transported into the presence of the Lord Jesus at the **Rapture** (1 Thes 4:16-18).

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NKJV)

- B. There will be no reference to **condemnation** when the believer stands before the Lord Jesus (Heb 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.” (Hebrews 9:27-28 NKJV)

- C. Christ will judge the quality of work performed through the believer's life on Earth during this period (1 Cor 3:11-15). This is a judgment for **reward**, not condemnation.

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation [with] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on [it] endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NKJV)

- D. Christ will reward the **faithful** acts of the Saints that were accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit as they yielded their lives to Him. These rewards will come in the form of crowns and garments.

1. Christ has promised to reward faithful **service** among believers (1 Cor 15:58; Heb 6:10-12).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1Co 15:58 NKJV)

“For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, [in that] you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Heb 6:10-12 NKJV)

2. The crowns for faithful service.

- a. The **Victor’s** Crown (1 Cor 9:25-27)

“And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we [for] an imperishable [crown]. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as [one who] beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (1Co 9:25-27 NKJV)

- 1) Paul here compares the Christian walk with one of an athlete training for the Olympics. They **discipline** their bodies and sacrifice the pleasures of life in order to be prepared to be crowned at the Bema Seat when the race is completed.
- 2) The Victor’s Crown is for the believer who understands his life is no longer his own and willingly offers his life before God as a living **sacrifice** for His glory (1 Cor 6:19-20; Rom 12:1-2).

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit [who is] in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1Co 6:19-20 NKJV)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Ro 12:1-2 NKJV)

- b. The Crown of **Rejoicing** (1 Thes 2:19-20)

“For what [is] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [Is it] not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.” (1Th 2:19-20 NKJV)

- 1) This is the **Soul Winner's** Crown as we make ourselves available to Him and through Christ God draws a lost world to Himself (John 12:32-33; 3:14-15; Num 21:7-9).

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [peoples] to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die." (Joh 12:32-33 NKJV)

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (Joh 3:14-15 NKJV)

- 2) There is great **joy** when the good news is proclaimed to a lost world and they respond to convicting and convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit and give their lives to Christ (Luke 15:10; Rom 10:13-15).

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Lu 15:10 NKJV)

"For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Ro 10:13-15 NKJV)

- c. The Crown of **Righteousness** is reserved for those believers that have a longing to see Jesus, and therefore desire to live holy (2 Tim 4:8).

"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2Ti 4:8 NKJV)

- d. The Crown of **Life** is given in recognition for the believers who love and trust God, and endure triumphantly over persecution and the trials experienced in life on this side of Heaven (James 1:12; Rev 2:10).

"Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (Jas 1:12 NKJV)

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Re 2:10 NKJV)

- e. The Crown of **Glory** or the Pastor's Crown is reserved for those who faithfully serve God and love, equip, and build up the Body of Christ for the work of the ministry (1 Pet 5:2-4; Eph 4:11-13).

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (1Pe 5:2-4 NKJV)

3. When Christ distributes these crowns in Heaven, we will realize that He did all the work and deserves all the glory. At that moment we will take off our crowns and lay them at His feet because of our desire to honor the One who is our real **Treasure** (Rev 4:10-11; Gen 15:1; 2 Cor 4:6-7).

“The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."” (Re 4:10-11 NKJV)

“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I [am] your shield, your exceedingly great reward."” (Ge 15:1 NKJV)

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” (2Co 4:6-7 NKJV)

4. Therefore, on this side of Heaven our **motivation** for service is the love we have for Christ for the sacrifice He was willing to pay to bring us back into a relationship with God (John 3:16-17; Rom 5:8; 8:1; 2 Cor 5:14-15).

“"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (Joh 3:16-17 NKJV)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Ro 5:8 NKJV)

“[There is] therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Ro 8:1 NKJV)

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” (2Co 5:14-15 NKJV)

- E. At the Marriage Supper of the **Lamb** in Heaven, Christ will introduce His Bride to all creation. The Church will wear the spotless wedding garment provided by Christ Himself (Rev 19:7-8).

“"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV)

- F. The Bride will follow Christ to **reign** with Him during the Millennial Kingdom (Rom 8:16-17; Rev 19:14).

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with [Him], that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:16-17 NKJV)

“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.” (Revelation 19:14 NKJV)

II. The Literal Second Coming of Christ

- A. The Second Coming of Christ will be a **worldwide** event (Rev 1:7; Matt 24:23-27).

“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.” (Revelation 1:7 NKJV)

“‘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]. ‘For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.’ (Matthew 24:23-27 NKJV)

- B. There will appear to be **no hope** for God’s people at the moment of Christ’s return (Zech 14:1- 2; Rom 11:26).

“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.” (Zechariah 14:1-2 NKJV)

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;’” (Romans 11:26 NKJV)

- C. At that moment, Christ will come in all His **glory** and fight for His people (Zech 14:3-4).

“Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, [Making] a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.” (Zechariah 14:3-4 NKJV)

1. Christ will come as a conquering **hero** (Rev 19:11a).

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.” (Revelation 19:11a NKJV)

2. His **identity** will be clear (Rev 19:11b, 13b; John 14:6).

“And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and True.” (Revelation 19:11b NKJV)

“And His name is called The Word of God.” (Revelation 19:13b NKJV)

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6 NKJV)

3. His judgment will be **righteous** at His coming (Rev 19:11c, 12a; Jer 23:5-6).

“And in righteousness He judges and makes war.” (Revelation 19:11c NKJV)

“His eyes [were] like a flame of fire.” (Revelation 19:12a NKJV)

““Behold, [the] days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this [is] His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV)

4. He will come to claim His **Kingdom** bought and paid for through His blood (Rev 19:12b, 13a, 16).

“On His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.” (Revelation 19:12b NKJV)

“He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood.” (Revelation 19:13a NKJV)

“And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:16 NKJV)

5. He will utterly **destroy** the enemies of the Cross at the moment of His return (Rev 19:15; Zech 14:12).

“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.” (Revelation 19:15 NKJV)

“And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.” (Zechariah 14:12 NKJV)

Spending Time with the Master¹

¹ Idea taken from MasterLife “Daily Master Communication Guide”, Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Kay Moore, *The Disciple’s Cross*, LifeWay Press: Nashville, TN., 1996, p. 14.

Day 1: Revelation 21:1-8

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 2: Revelation 21:9-21

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 3: Revelation 21:22 – 22:5

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 4: Revelation 22:6-17

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 5: Revelation 22:18-21

What God said:

My Response to God:

Suggested reading: *Rigged for the Journey*, Chapter 11

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:17

“And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17 NKJV)