

The Glorious 2nd Coming of Jesus

(Matthew 24:25-31 NASB) “Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.... 29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

I. After The Tribulation of Those Days

- a. The Great Tribulation is the concluding 3½-year period that marks the end of this age. It is characterized by intense trials and profound challenges. During this time, both the Jewish people and the body of Christ will endure immense pressure as they confront demonic opposition led by the Antichrist and his empire. Believers will face severe persecution and even death, while many will abandon their faith due to the influence of false prophets. Additionally, lawlessness will increase, leading many people's love to grow cold

(Matthew 24:9-12, 21 NASB) “Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. 12 And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will become cold. 21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again”

(Revelation 13:7-10 NASB) “It was also given to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation. 8 All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”

- b. During the Great Tribulation, God will release a series of 21 judgments—comprised of 7 seal judgments, 7 trumpet judgments, and 7 bowl judgments—aimed at the Antichrist and his followers, effectively cutting off their resources. It is crucial to understand that these judgments are not directed at punishing the church or the Jewish people. Instead, God will protect, provide for, and preserve believers throughout this tumultuous period. In the midst of the chaos, God’s care for His faithful will be evident, shielding them as the divine judgments unfold.

(Micah 7:15 NASB) “As in the days when you went out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles.”

(Exodus 8:22-23 NASB) “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the Lord, am in the midst of the land. 23 I will put a division between My people and your people...”

(John 17:15 NASB) “I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one.”

(Revelation 12:13-14 NASB) “And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman [Israel] who gave birth to the male Child [Jesus]. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time, times, and half a time [times = 2 years, time = 1 year, half a time = .5 years, 3 ½ years in total], away from the presence of the serpent.”

(1 Peter 2:5-9 NASB) "...but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example of what is coming for the ungodly; 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the perverted conduct of unscrupulous people 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from a trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment."

(Revelation 9:3-4 NASB) "Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."

(Psalm 27:4-5 NASB) "One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. 5 For on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock."

(Psalm 91:1, 9-10 NASB) "One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty. 9 For you have made the Lord, my refuge, The Most High, your dwelling place. 10 No evil will happen to you, Nor will any plague come near your tent."

- c. In the midst of God's glorious protection and despite the Antichrist's relentless fury, the church will victoriously endure to the end, ensuring that the gospel of the kingdom is preached in all nations. During this period, the church will experience an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in line with the prophecy in **Joel 2**, which corresponds to the time of the 6th seal. This will enable believers to perform greater signs, wonders, and miracles. Although the church will endure suffering, this will only further manifest the spirit of glory upon her, signifying God's abiding presence and power.

(Matthew 24:13-14 NASB) "But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. 14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

(Luke 21:19 NASB) "By your endurance you will gain your lives."

II. The Son of Man's 2nd Coming

- a. Jesus emphasized that His second coming would not be a hidden event for only a select few, but a spectacular moment visible to all, just like lightning that stretches from the east to the west, illuminating even the darkest night (The Great Tribulation). He made it clear that His return would be loud, unmistakable, and evident to everyone. At the sound of the "Great Trumpet" **(Psalm 47:5; Isaiah 27:13; Zephaniah 1:14-16; Zechariah 9:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Revelation 7:15-19)**, He will descend, riding on His chariot with clouds of fire **(Ezekiel 1)**, as a mighty Warrior King. In this awe-inspiring moment, He will overthrow the Antichrist and his empire, establishing His everlasting Kingdom.

(Ezekiel 1:26-28 NASB) "Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. 27 Then I noticed from the appearance of His waist and upward something like gleaming metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him. 28 Like the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord"

(Zechariah 9:14 NASB) "Then the Lord will appear over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning; And the Lord God will blow the trumpet, And march in the storm winds of the south."

(2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NASB) “...When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

(Revelation 11:15-19 NASB) “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, “We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign...” 19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.”

(Revelation 19:11-16 NASB) “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- b. His glorious return doesn't take place in an instant, but happens as a triumphant global procession that takes place over a period of about 30 days (**Daniel 12:11**) in three stages: Stage 1) Jesus travels across the sky on the clouds to rapture the saints at the sound of the 7th trumpet. 2) Jesus, along with the armies of heaven and glorified saints, touch down on the earth (likely at Mt. Sinai) and march up through the Middle East delivering Jewish captives (**Deuteronomy 33:2; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah 14:5 Isaiah 19:1; Isaiah 63; ect...**). 3) Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, from the Mount of Olives and overthrows the Antichrist.

(Revelation 10:7 NASB) “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets.”

(Romans 11:25-27 NASB) “For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” 27 “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

(Zechariah 14:2-5 NASB) “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be taken, the houses plundered, the women raped, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be eliminated from the city. 3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. 4 On 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 forming a very large valley. 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 from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!”

III. The Rapture of The Church

(Matthew 24:31 NASB) “And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

- a. At the conclusion of the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, Jesus will gather believers to meet Him in the air. For believers, this will be a moment of immense celebration and joy, marking the fulfillment of their faith. However, for those who have rejected Jesus, it will be a time of overwhelming fear and terror.

(Titus 2:13 NASB) “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”

(Matthew 24:30 NASB) “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”

(Revelation 1:7 NASB) “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him...”

- b. In **1 Thessalonians 4**, Paul mentions that believers who are alive at the time of Jesus' second coming will be caught up together in the clouds to "meet" the Lord in the air. The Greek term used for "meet" (*apantesis* – a friendly encounter or meeting) is often associated with the Greek term for “coming” (*parousia* - the visible arrival and remaining of someone). In ancient times, when a significant individual was approaching a city (*parousia*), a delegation from the city would go out to meet (*apantesis*) him and then escort him back into the city. Similarly, this implies that when Jesus returns, He is not taking us away to Heaven; rather, we have the honor of meeting Him in the sky and escorting Him to Earth.

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NASB) “For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...”

- c. Paul also tells us that at the sound of the final trumpet, when we meet Jesus in the sky, we will be given glorified, resurrected, and imperishable bodies that we will have for eternity. Receiving these new bodies underscores that we won't merely exist in a spiritual form for eternity; we will have tangible, physical existence.

(1 Corinthians 15:50-55 NASB) “Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?”