

The Return of the King

The Second Advent of Christ

Would you open your Bibles to...

Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, amen.

Pray

Intro

√ The Return of the King

When you read the book of Acts you come to understand that the Early Church believed that Jesus would return to the earth very soon after His Ascension...

Certainly, they believed He would return within the lifetime of the Apostles!

Thus, we find that those first Christians often greeted one another with the hopeful salutation...

“Maranatha” – Aramaic for “O Lord come!”
(1Cor. 16:22)

But as the years passed the hope for Jesus’ soon return faded and was replaced with new doctrines that attempted to reconcile Jesus’ final words to mankind...

“Surely I am coming quickly.” ~ Rev. 22:20

With the simple fact that He had not yet come back! So, we find some of our brothers and sisters today teaching that...

Jesus didn't mean that He was literally going to return to the earth, rather He was speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Others suggest that Jesus was speaking allegorically of His presence in the Eternal Age.

Some even claim that Jesus has already returned...but it was a spiritual advent not a physical one.

Finally, we have people today who claim that they are Jesus!

To which I respond...

“Wrong, wrong, wrong!”

Bernard Ramm...

“The ultimate proof that Old Testament prophecies should be taken literally and not spiritually (or allegorically) is that of its 113 messianic predictions that Christ has already fulfilled, all were fulfilled literally.

If the predictions surrounding Christ's first coming are to be taken literally, then by logical extension there is no justification for spiritualizing predictions about His second coming.”

To, which I say...

“Amen!”

In other words, let's take Jesus at His word.

That He is going to literally come back to earth to reclaim what legally belongs to Him and to establish His Kingdom on earth!

So, this evening I want to look at the Biblical evidence for Jesus' *literal* return to the earth so that you won't be swayed by any doctrine that attempts to explain away Jesus' promise to return.

The first evidence that we'll review is the Bible's declaration that Jesus' return will be visible to everyone.

He will Return Publicly (vs. 7)

Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and *every eye will see Him*, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, amen.

And...

Matt. 24:30 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.*

Let's begin by establishing that the Bible declares that Jesus' return will be a *public event!*

Not *secretly* as the Jehovah Witness' claim occurred in 1914.

Not *spiritually* as claimed by the doctrine of Preterism, which suggests that Jesus returned in 70 A.D.

Rather, Jesus' return is a future literal physical event that every living person will be able to see!

We've only touched on two scriptures here that describe the Lord's return at the end of the Age but what they all make clear is that when Jesus comes back...

...no one will miss it!

Additionally, Jesus Himself warned us that we should not believe any account or doctrine that claims He has returned in some secret manner...

Matt. 24:26 “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.

Matt. 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.

Did you get that? Jesus said that His return will be like a flash of lightning...

...no one can ignore it!

Ex. Lightning strikes ~ it gets your attention!

That's Jesus point therefore we want to have settled in our heart and mind that when Jesus returns it will be a public event witnessed by every living person on earth.

He will Return Personally

Since the time of Jesus' ascension to Heaven a parade of counterfeit messiah's have claimed that they are “Jesus” ...returned from Heaven!

Wayne Bent – Lord our Righteous Church NM
Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda – Growing in Grace Church
Appollo Quilboloy – The Kingdom of Jesus Christ the
Name above Every Name Church in the Philippines
Ahn Sahng-Hong – World Mission Society Church of God
David Shayler (aka Deloras Kane) ex. MI5

But the Bible is clear that the Jesus (or “Da Jesus”) who is coming back to earth is the same Jesus who walked on this earth almost 2,000 years ago!

Act 1:11 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."

In other words, the Jesus that is coming back from Heaven will be the same Jesus who walked in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago and today lives in Heaven.

- √ Humanly speaking He is Jewish
- √ A descendant of King David according to the flesh
- √ Still bearing the scars of His passion (John 20:27 & Rev. 5:6)
- √ Fully God!

He will not be...

- √ Asian, Hispanic or an Anglo-Saxon
- √ Tattooed with “666”
- √ Just a man

So, we can reject these counterfeit messiahs because when the real Messiah returns to earth there won't be any doubt about who He is!

He will Return the Same Way He Left

One of the key arguments against the counterfeit Christ's is that they were all born...

That is, there is indisputable proof that all of these guys entered the world the same way we all did...

...they were born a baby.

Thus, since they didn't come from Heaven as the Bible describes Jesus' return, they all claim to be some form of a "reincarnation" of Christ, or to have the "Christ spirit", etc.

But the Bible leaves no doubt as to how Jesus will return to the Earth...

...He will not be born as a child in a manger again but will return as King of kings and Lord of lords accompanied by all of His transcendent splendor and power!

That is, His return will be a supernatural event like His ascension to Heaven...

Act 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Act 1:11 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."

Note the testimony of the angels...

"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." ~ vs. 11

The Bible tells us that Jesus will return just as He departed from the earth...

Visibly
With clouds (the shekinah glory)
Supernaturally – people don't fly!

Which is exactly what Jesus told His disciples...

Matt. 24:30 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.

Finally, we find the most extensive description of the Lord's return in the 19th chapter of the Revelation...

Rev. 19:11 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.

Rev. 19:12 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.

Rev. 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Rev. 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Putting it all together the Bible tells us that when Jesus returns it will be a supernatural event!

He will be accompanied by a great host from Heaven made up of saints and holy angels!

The point, when Jesus comes back, He won't show up in hospital maternity ward like the pretenders...

...He will appear in the sky accompanied by signs in the sky and an awe-inspiring army such as the world has never seen!

So, you can confidently reject anyone who claims to be Jesus who didn't show up riding a flying horse!

He will Return to the Mount of Olives

If you ask a real estate agent what the primary consideration is for setting the price of a home, you all know what they'll say...

“Location, location, location!”

Another clue to help us discern the return of the real King is found in the Bible's description of the location on the planet to which Jesus returns...

Zech. 14:4 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.

As we just read in Acts 1 the angels told the disciples that Jesus would come back the same way He left...

...which was from the Mt. of Olives, ergo He will return to the Mount of Olives.

Obviously, none of these counterfeit “Jesuses” returned from Heaven to land on the Mt. of Olives.

They were born in Cleveland, Davao City, Seoul...

...that is, they did not land on the Mt. of Olives after returning from Heaven!

Therefore, we can ignore their claims because they are just counterfeits...and bad ones at that!

He will Return to Rescue Israel

Another important point to consider is that the Bible tells us what Jesus will do when He returns; His first order of business...

...is to rescue Israel!

Zec. 14:1 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

Zec. 14:2 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.

Zec. 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth
And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.

Note that Jesus begins His rescue mission in Jerusalem—from the Mt. Olives where He intervenes to rescue those Jews held captive by the Antichrist.

But He doesn't stay there because the Antichrist and his armies have massed just north of Jerusalem.

John tells us where...

Rev. 16:4 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

And...

Rev. 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

It's a short battle! The details of which John records a little later in the Revelation where he describes Jesus' return to earth.

Rev. 19:15 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.

Rev. 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

So, when Jesus returns to the Mt. of Olives His first order of business is to deliver those Jews who are held captive in Jerusalem by the agents of the Antichrist.

Then He turns His attention to the Antichrist himself and his armies who have gathered to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

But—that's not where the battle ends! For those familiar with the study of the End Times many believe that a Messianic remnant of Jews will escape the persecution of the Antichrist by hiding in the ancient city of Petra during the last half of the Tribulation.

Well, there's a section of Isaiah that tells us that the Lord will destroy the wicked in the "Day of the Lord" (i.e. when Jesus returns) in the area around Petra ("Bozrah"—the sheep pen)!

Isa. 63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom,
With dyed garments from Bozrah,
This One who is glorious in His apparel,
Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—
"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

Isa. 63:2 Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

Isa. 63:3 "*I have trodden the winepress alone,*
And from the peoples no one was with Me.

For I have trodden them in My anger,
And trampled them in My fury;
Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,
And I have stained all My robes.

Isa. 63:4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.

Did you notice how Isaiah and John use the same imagery—
treading out the winepress of God's fury...

...to describe Jesus' destruction of the wicked when He
returns!

So, at the Return of the real King of kings we find that Jesus will
rescue Israel...

...at which time all living Jews will acknowledge Jesus as their
Messiah as pastor Damian mentioned last week (Rom. 11:26).

Ap. None of the pretenders have rescued Israel

He will establish His Kingdom on Earth

There are a multitude of scriptures that describe the Kingdom of
God that Jesus will establish after His return to the earth,
however for the sake of time we'll just look at one section that
will help us identify the real Messiah...

Matt. 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels
with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Matt. 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate
them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the
goats.

Matt. 25:33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matt. 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, *inherit the kingdom* prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The importance of this section of scripture is that it provides us with the *sequence of events* at the Lord’s return...

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory” ~ vs. 31

Jesus is describing the 2nd Advent—the Return of the King

“Then the King will say (to the sheep)...inherit the kingdom...” ~ vs. 34

That is, Jesus brings the Kingdom of God to earth...

Regenerated to its original state – Matt. 19:28
Replacing all of the kingdoms of Man – Dan. 2
Where the lion lays down with the lamb – Isa. 11
Where we rule & reign with Christ – Rev. 5:10
Jesus rules for 1,000 years – Rev. 20

Obviously, we are not living in such a Kingdom now! Thus, we conclude that all who have claimed to be Christ are nothing more than pretenders because...

...none have established the Kingdom of God on earth!

So, in our brief overview of the 2nd Advent of Christ we’re reminded that Jesus’ return to earth will be a *literal* event that is...

- √ Public ~ everyone will see it
- √ Personal ~ the same Jesus who departed to Heaven
- √ Supernatural ~ on the clouds, on a flying horse, with power, and an awesome army
- √ Landing on the Mt. of Olives

- √ Where He will rescue Israel and those waiting for Him
- √ And finally, He will establish His Kingdom on Earth

So, we can reject any teaching that claims that Jesus has already come back (secretly or spiritually) and any teacher that claims to be Jesus!

But as I mentioned the confusion regarding Jesus' return isn't limited to whether or not the same Jesus is literally going to return...

There are many who are also confused about the *timing* of the Rapture of the Church and the Return of the King.

That is, there are some who believe that the Rapture takes place *at the same time* as the Return of the King—the 2nd Advent at the end of the 7-year Tribulation.

These people hold to the doctrine of a *post-tribulation rapture*...

...guys like George Eldon Ladd, John Piper, etc.

While I love those guys, I reject the post-tribulation rapture because the Bible makes it clear that the Rapture of the Church and the Return of Christ to destroy the wicked are *two different events*.

The Rapture & the Return are Different

- √ Evidence for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture

If you want to dig into all the Biblical evidence that proves that the Rapture and the Return are two different events check out John Walvoord's book...

The Rapture Question

Which includes an appendix titled “50 Arguments for a Pretribulationism.” I’ll just highlight a few for you this evening...

At the Rapture Jesus comes for the Church

1Thess. 4:16-17

At the Return of the King Jesus comes with the Church

Rev. 19:11-14

At the Rapture the saints to up to meet Jesus in the air

1Thess. 4:16-17

At the Return of the King the saints follow Jesus down from of Heaven

Rev. 19:11-14

At the Rapture Jesus does not return to the earth

1Thess. 4:16-17

At the Return of the King Jesus lands on the Mt. of Olives

Zech. 14:4

At the Rapture the dead in Christ are resurrected & the living saints are translated into their glorified bodies

1Thess. 4:16-17 & 1Cor. 15:50-55

At the Return of the King no resurrection or translation of the living saints is mentioned

Rev.19:11-14 & Matt. 25:31-46

At the Rapture the world is at peace

1Thess. 5:3

At the Return of the King the world will have been laid waste by the Seal, Trumpet and Bowl Judgements of God—a time of war

Matt. 24:21-22

The Rapture will come unexpectedly and without any preceding signs...

Mark 13:32 & 1Thess. 5:3

The Return of the King will come at the end of the 7-year Tribulation and will be preceded by specific signs...

Daniel 12:11 & Matt. 24

The Rapture of the Church comes before the Antichrist can be revealed...

2Thess. 2:6-8

At the Return of the King the Antichrist is ruling the world...

Rev. 19:19-20

The Rapture delivers the Church from the wrath of God...

1Thess. 1:10 & Rev. 3:10

The Return of the King is the conclusion of 7 years of God's wrath upon the wicked...

Rev. 6-19

At the Rapture the Lord takes the Church to Heaven for the Marriage of the Lamb...

Rev. 19

At the Return of the King Jesus establishes the Kingdom of God on earth...

Matt. 25 & Daniel 2

My point in all of this is to demonstrate that the Bible describes two very different events...

A promise to rescue the Church—the Bride of Christ from God’s wrath upon the kingdom of the Antichrist during the Tribulation—the Rapture.

A promise to return with the Church at the end of the Tribulation to set up God’s Kingdom on earth—the 2nd Advent of Christ.

Therefore, they cannot be the same event nor can they take place at the same time.

Close

√ The Return of the King

I’ll close with this thought, Jesus said...

Matt. 24:32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Matt. 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

Matt. 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Next week pastor Damian will be looking at Ezekiel 38-39, so I’ll leave it to him to talk about some of the end-time signs that are currently taking place in our generation.

But let me remind you that when we see the signs that Jesus said would precede His return, we can be sure that the Rapture is even closer

Ex. Christmas decorations at Hobby Lobby

Maranatha—Come Lord Jesus!