

The Second Coming of Christ

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Lesson Focus:

- *To explore the character of Christ's coming*
- *To see the relationship between prophecy and godly living*
- *To look forward to Christ's coming with confidence and joy*

Christ came the first time to:

- *be the savior of the world (John 3:16)*
- *reveal God to us (Matt. 11:27)*
- *provide a sacrifice for sin (Heb. 10:1-10)*
- *destroy the works of the devil (John 12:31)*
- *become a merciful & faithful high priest in things pertaining to God (Heb. 2:16-17)*

The word coming: A translation of the Greek word parousia

Is used to describe the presence of Christ at two distinct events:

1. His coming for His saints: The Rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:15; 5:23)
2. His coming with His saints: Second Advent (Matt. 24:17; 2 Thess. 2:8)

Differences between the Rapture and the Second Advent

<i>Rapture</i>	<i>Second Advent</i>
<i>For His Saints</i>	<i>With His saints</i>
<i>Bridegroom</i>	<i>Judge</i>
<i>Meeting in the air</i>	<i>Christ comes to the earth</i>
<i>Imminent</i>	<i>After Tribulation</i>
<i>Comfort</i>	<i>Wrath</i>
<i>Christ comes alone</i>	<i>Christ comes with armies</i>

The Doctrine of Imminence “at any moment coming”

- ***Rapture passages have no warning signs (1 Thess. 4:13)***
- ***Paul expected the Rapture during his time (1 Cor. 15:51)***
- ***The repeated phrase “The Lord is at hand” (James 5:8; Titus 2:13)***
- ***Corinthians were waiting for Christ’s appearance (1 Cor. 1:7)***

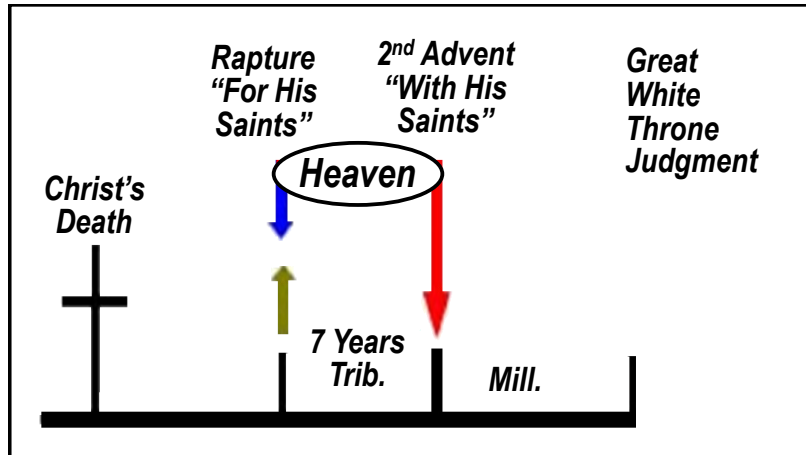
Key Passage on the Rapture 1 Thess. 4:13-18 reveals a:

- ***Return of Christ (4:16)***
- ***Resurrection of the dead in Christ (4:17)***
- ***Rapture/translation of living believers (4:17)***
- ***Union with Christ & saved Christians (4:17)***
- ***Reassurance of comfort (4:18)***

The Rapture of the Church & the Advent of Christ

***Revelation 3:10 supports a
pretribulation rapture of the church***

***Revelation, chapter 20 supports a
premillennial return of Christ***



**Events for the Church after the Rapture:
The Judgment of Believer's Works**

The Location: Heaven (Bema) (Rom. 14:10)

The Purpose: To evaluate our earthly works

The Method: Enduring quality of works (1 Cor. 3:12-15)

The Result: Bestowal of reward or loss of reward

**Events for the Church after the Rapture:
The Marriage of the Lamb**

The Location: Heaven

The Time: After the Rapture; Before 2nd Advent (Rev. 19:7)

The Terminology: Bride and Bridegroom (John 3:29)

The Participants: Christ & the Church

Christ's Second Advent will be a:

- personal return (Acts 1:11)
- visible return (Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7)
- return with angels and saints (1 Thess. 3:13)
- return that shakes the earth (Zech. 14:4)
- return to judge the nations (Rev. 19:15)
- return to establish the Mill. Kingdom (Acts 15:9)

The Tribulation Period

- ***Its nature: Wrath (Zeph. 1:14-18)***
- ***Its duration: Seven years (Dan. 9:27)***
- ***Its source: God (Rev. 16:1)***
- ***Its scope: The whole earth (Rev. 3:10)***
- ***Its purpose: To try them that dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10)
To prepare Israel for its king (Mal. 4:5-6)***

Premillennialism

- ***Christ returns to the earth before the Mill (Rev. 20)***
- ***Christ will rule for 1,000 years (Rev. 20)***
- ***Covenants with Israel will be fulfilled (Gen. 12:1-3)***
- ***At the end of the Mill, unsaved are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15)***

The Nature of the Millennial Kingdom:

- ***Peace (Isa. 2:4; 9:6-7)***
- ***Joy (Isa. 25:8-9)***
- ***Full knowledge (Isa. 11:9; 54:13)***
- ***Fruitful earth (Isa. 11:6-8)***
- ***Prosperity & longevity (Isa. 30:23-25)***
- ***Fullness of the Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)***

In view of our hope of Christ's return, we should:

- ***Purify ourselves, even as Christ is pure (1 Jo. 3:3)***
- ***Be diligent to be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless (2 Pet. 3:14)***
- ***Live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12)***