

New Testament Prophecies Related to the Second Coming of Christ

Representing two distinctly differing lines of prophecy in regards to two distinctly differing groups of people.

Group # 1 — Christ's coming for the Saints.

John 14:3 and 1 Cor 15:50-58 compare with 1 Thes 4:1318

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let not your heart be troubled John 14:1 2. Believe in God — Believe in me. 14:2 3. If it were not so I would have told you . . 14:2 4. I will come again. 14:3 5. I will receive you 14:3 6. Where I am there you may be also 14:3 7. Resurrection of them that are Christ's at his coming 1 Cor 15:23 8. Let not your heart be troubled John 14:1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sorrow not as others 1 Thes 4:13 2. Believe In Jesus — Believe in God. 4:14 3. I say unto you. 4:15 4. Coming of the Lord — Himself 4:15 5. Meet the Lord in the air 4:17 6. Ever be with the Lord. 4:17 7. Dead in Christ are raised first 4:16 8. Comfort ye one another with these words 4:18 |
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Group # 2 — Christ's Coming to the Sinner

2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 compares with Revelation 1:7 & 19:11-21

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lord revealed from heaven 2 Thes 1:7 2. Taking vengeance 1:8 3. Admired by saints 1:10 4. Vengeance in flaming fire 1:8 5. Man of sin destroyed 2:8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heaven opened Rev 19:11 2. Doth judge and make war. 19:11 3. Saints following in white raiment . . . 19:8,14 4. Eyes as a flame of fire 19:12 5. Beast and false prophet cast into lake of fire 19:20 |
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Groups 1 and 2 Contrasted

Group 1

Rapture and Reception of Saints

- 1. Meet Him in the air 1 Thes 4:17
- 2. Received by Him John 14:3
- 3. Rewarded Revelation 22:12
- 4. Comforted John 14:1; 1 Thes 4:18
- 5. Resurrection of those asleep in Jesus 1 Thes 4:16
- 6. Forever with the Lord 1 Thes 4:17
- 7. Not as a thief 1 Thes 5:4
- 8. Only saints see Him Acts 1:11

Group 2

Revelation and Rejection of Sinners

- 1. Meet Him on the earth Rev 19:19
- 2. Destroyed by Him 2 Thes 1:9; 2:8
- 3. Punished 2 Thes 1:9; Rev 19:20
- 4. Terrified — Wail at His presence . . . Rev 1:7
- 5. No resurrection 2 Thes 1&2; Rev 19 resurrection 1,000 years later Rev 20
- 6. Destruction from the presence of the the Lord. 2 Thes 1:9
- 7. As a thief — to kill and to destroy John 10:10; 1 Thes 5:2; Rev 19
- 8. All kindreds see Him Matt 24:30; Rev 1:7

Time Between these two comings of Christ

Two periods of time each described as 42 months, 1,260 days, or 3½ years. Revelation 11:2,3; 12:6,14; 13:5. Also referred to in Daniel 9:27 as the 70th week.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,
 . . . He will shew you things to come.
 John 16:13

**That ye may be mindful of the words
 which were spoken before
 by the holy prophets . . .
 2 Peter 3:2a**

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.
 And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me,
 Fear not; I am the first and the last:
 -- I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold,
 I am alive for evermore, Amen;
 and have the keys of hell and of death.
**Write the things which thou hast seen,
 and the things which are,
 and the things which shall be hereafter;**
 The mystery of the seven stars
 which thou sawest in my right hand,
 and the seven golden candlesticks.
 The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:
 and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest
 are the seven churches.
 Revelation 1:17-20

“Write the Things Which Shall be Hereafter”

In the center fold of this handout you will find a time chart that intends to give an overview of how Biblical prophecy may unfold before us. You will find events listed on that chart that are not specifically mentioned in the book of Revelation. We want to highlight these other events in this pamphlet.

The Book of Revelation Interfacing with Other Bible Prophecy

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him to show unto His Servants things which must shortly come to pass...” is intended to give further clarity to prophecy given in other places in the Bible. It is not given to replace other prophecies, nor to contradict them. But neither does the Book of Revelation cover in detail all that we may learn in other passages.

There are major subjects of prophecy in the New Testament which speak to the issues of the future that bring much hope to the Christian. There are very disturbing events and activities described in the Old Testament and in the Book of Revelation that we may be tempted to not take literally if we interpret them as taking place during the church age. It is our endeavor to see the prophetic aspects of the Book of Revelation in their proper context.

First, let us confirm that Old Testament prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled are worthy of our attention and close examination. Here is what the Apostle Peter said in some of his last writings:

“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:” 2 Peter 3:2

Secondly, let us identify three anchor points of prophecy. These are known as the “**Day of the Lord**” and the “**The Coming of Jesus for the Saints** (Resurrection and Rapture), and “**Jesus’ Coming With His Saints in Judgment.**” For many, since these are all in the future they are easily confused. But with close study, they are clearly distinct one from another. And even though we learn about the Day of the Lord event first, it is obvious from the New Testament that Christ’s coming for His Saints is the first on the time line.

The Day of the Lord (the second of the three prophesied events)

The Day of the Lord is first mentioned in the book of Isaiah and even in these very first references describe in vivid detail a most frightening time in history. As in Jewish time frame, this day begins with the evening and darkness and goes into the day dawn and the day star arising.

believed) in that day. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

At the close of the tribulation when the Jews repent of their rejection of Christ as their Messiah and cry out for Him to save them, then Jesus will return to save them and set up His kingdom. Zechariah 12 - 14, Romans 11:15-36.

Even though the Book of Revelation has no direct mention of when the church is taken up to heaven, it is plainly revealed they are there in the marriage supper of the Lamb and return with Christ in the armies of heaven.

Other Prophetic Events not Mentioned in Revelation

- The three world powers that morph into the Antichrist’s rule as described in Daniel 7
- The invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog - Ezk 38-39
- The miraculous re-gathering and salvation of Israel - De 30:1-10; Jer 30:1-11; 32:37-44; Zech 12 - 14; Rom 11:25-29
- The rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Mat 24:15; 2Th 2:3-4
- And there may be more. Some of these we can only speculate when God will include them in the timeline before us. But we know He will keep His promises.

Jesus Coming for His Saints

John 11:25-26 compared with 1Thess 3:13-18

I am the resurrection and the life v25	The Lord Himself shall descend v16
He that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live v25	We shall not prevent them which are asleep..dead in Christ shall rise first v15-16
Whoso liveth and believeth shall never die v26	We which are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. . . v17

Lets look at the two other great event that are our anchor points in the study of future events.

The Coming of Christ for the Church

In 1Thessalonians 4 the Apostle Paul introduces Christians to the truth of Jesus' return for His Church. This includes both those who are asleep and those who are still living. Clearly this was a subject of which they were ignorant. There is no direct reference in the Old Testament scriptures to this truth. In the same conversation (very next chapter), Paul goes on to refresh their knowledge of the Day of the Lord, and refers to the fact that he does not need to give them information on this event because it was already taught in the Scriptures they had grown up with.

In contrast to the Day of the Lord, the Coming of Christ for the Church:

- is imminent, no signs must precede His coming.
- is in a time of prosperity and normality.
- was not prophesied in the Old Testament but the Day of the Lord was.
- is the source of great comfort for the Christian.

Jesus had referenced this great event through different promises. One is given in John 14:2-3 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* John 14:2-3

Other passages in Jesus' ministry are Matthew 24:36-51, Luke 17:20-37, Luke 21:28-36. Sometimes these passages are confused because they are placed after verses that refer to the tribulation period. We learn of the sequence, the first Christ comes for His saints and then he Comes with his saints because of the imminency of His coming for His saints. See also Hebrews 9:28 and Hebrews 10:35-37

Christians in multiple verses are assured they need not fear the Antichrist because of the fact of Christ's coming for the saints (2Thessalonians 2:1-2 and 1Thessalonians 3:13-18 and 4:8-11)

The Coming of Christ as King in Vengeance

Compare these verses from 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-10 with Revelation 19. *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was*

The Day of the Lord term is used nineteen times in the Old Testament (Isa 2:12; 13:6, 9; Eze 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Am 5:18,20; Ob 1:15; Zeph 1:7,14; Zec 14:1; Mal 4:5) and five times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; 1 Th 5:2; 2 Th 2:2; 2 Pe 3:10). It is also alluded to in other passages (Rev 6:17; 16:14).

It is generally accepted that the "day of the Lord" is the special period of time when God's will and purpose for His world and for mankind will be brought to a conclusion. It is when the Lord Jesus exercises his Lordship to bring the earth under His dominion. It includes catastrophic events: on the earth (earthquakes and darkness), in the heavens (the moon as bright as the sun and the sun seven times as bright, or completely dark), in the battles of mankind. Eventually the Day of the Lord yield a "new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2Peter 3:10"

Old Testament saints and scholars continually wondered if they were not about to enter this dreaded time of judgment of God. In answer to this the prophets said:

- it would come after Elijah's future ministry, Malachi 4:5 (which is understood to be the ministry of John the Baptist, Matthew 11:12-14).
- it would not come until after the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-20

After these two events were fulfilled it is no wonder Christians in the early church speculated whether or not the Day of the Lord had already come. In fact, some were sure they had missed the resurrection (2 Tim 2:18) and had entered into that terrible time of the day of the Lord that was prophesied to follow. In response to this, the Apostle Paul prophesied two more events that must be fulfilled before we can enter this terrible time of tribulation.

- the apostasis (falling away, departure or great separation)
- the Antichrist is revealed

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" 2 Thessalonians 2:3

There are a number of reasons why we believe the book of Revelation from chapters 4-20 describes in detail this "day of the Lord." The vivid descriptions of the travail of the earth, of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and of the climactic judgment of the earth all parallel this period of time. Revelation especially describes when all this gives way to the dawn of a glorious reign of Jesus on the earth.

The Things Which thou Hast Seen (near the cross) The Things Which Are (Church age, from the cross until the Rapture) and The Things Which Shall be Hereafter (from the Rapture until the Final Defeat of Satan)

