

# Is Jesus Coming Back?

## DHOP Study Guide



The second coming of Christ is mentioned more than 300 times in the New Testament! The Apostle Paul refers to it at least 50 times in his Epistles alone. It is claimed that the second coming of Jesus is mentioned 8 times as often as his first coming 2000 years ago. Whole books (1 and 2 Thessalonians) and entire chapters (Matthew 24; Mark 13) of the bible are devoted to it. It is without doubt one of the most important doctrines of the New Testament. Jesus is coming **twice** in the future, not once. He will come once for His beloved church (Rapture) and the second time to judge the world in Power and Glory.

1. How will the manner of His coming be?
  - a. **Personal** – (John 14:3, Acts 1:10,11; 1 Thess 4:16, Rev 1:7;22:7)
  - b. **Literal** – (Acts 1:10, 1 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 1:7, Zech 14:4)
  - c. **Visible** – (Heb 9:28, Phil 3:20, Zech 12:10)
  - d. **Glorious** – (Matthew 16:27, 2 Thess 1:7-9, Col 3:4, Matt 25:31).
  
2. When exactly is He coming back (the first time)?
  - a. No-one knows, as it is hidden in the counsels of God (Matt 24:36-42, Mark 13:21-22). Although we may know His coming is near by the signs that are abundant.
  
3. How will he come (the first time)?
  - a. **Suddenly** - (1 Cor 15:52; Matt 24:27)
  - b. **Unexpectedly** – (2 Peter 3:4, Matt 24:48-51), Rev 16:15)
  
4. What are we supposed to be doing in the mean time? – Luke 19:13
  
5. What are the signs of His first coming?

Scriptures teach that the appearing of Christ again will usher in the Millennial age where he has total rule and sovereignty for a thousand years, prior to God creating a New Heaven and Earth (Isa 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13, Rev 21:1). In the time period prior to His first coming there will be a cross over or transitional period characterized by the following:

  - a. Physical disturbances (signs in the moon, heavens, stars) – Luke 21:25
  - b. Wars (Rumors of wars) – Matt 24:6
  - c. Economic instability
  - d. Moral decay
  - e. Religious apostasy – 2 Thess 2:3.
  - f. Infidelity
  - g. General panic, perplexity and loss of leadership - Luke 21:25
  
6. What is the precise order of events just prior to His first coming?
  - a. After 70 AD, the Jews will be wanderers among all nations, driven from their land and persecuted. Their land will come under Gentile control until the 'times of the Gentiles' be fulfilled (Luke 21:24). One major indication that the time of the Gentiles is drawing to an end is the reformation of Israel as a nation (1948) and gaining Jerusalem back (1967). Never before in History has a dispersed nation been re-born.

<sup>1</sup> Some Excerpts taken from, "Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible" by Myer Pearlman (Pentecostal Classics, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo. 1937, 25<sup>th</sup> Printing 2010).

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- b. During this 2000 yr. time period (approx.) from 70 AD until Christ's coming, Christ's servants (the Church) will carry on His work by preaching the Gospel to all nations, in every language and occupying until he returns (Luke 21:24).
- c. It will seem like Christ is delaying his coming (Luke 18:1-8), when some will prepare themselves diligently, whilst others will be negligent (Matt 25:1-11) and fall away.
- d. At a time when 'no soul knows the day nor the hour,' Christ will appear (Matt 24:36, 42, 50). This event is called the "**Rapture**" in common vernacular although the word Rapture is not found specifically in scripture (1 Thess 4:17). In times past, this event was known as the "Great Assembly" or the 'gathering' of the saints. At this time, He will gather his servants and judge them according to their works (because their salvation is assured) (Matt 25:19, 2 Cor 5:10).
- e. There is some speculation as to the timeframe between the 'Rapture' and the commencement of the following 7 year tribulation period (Matt 24:21), but most scholars agree that it is simultaneous. The definition of when the tribulation starts is the signing of a peace treaty between the Jews and the Antichrist (Dan 9:27).
- f. The **Second Coming** of Christ will occur at the end of the Great Tribulation as he arrives on Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4) for the world to see. Utter oblivion and catastrophe, as it was in the days of Noah and Lot, are the pre-cursors to his 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (Matthew:37-39, Luke 17:28-29). When Christ appears in his second coming, it will be in outward glory and power to judge and rule over the nations of the earth.

### 7. Who is the Anti-Christ? (short response: a punk)

The spirit of the Antichrist is already in the world (1 John 4:3, 2:18, 2:22) and its goal is to deny that Christ came in the flesh (1 John 4:3) and that God has no Son (1 John 2:22). There is a final Antichrist who is to come (2 Thess 2:3). The Antichrist will be the paragon of evil, who will oppose and attempt to usurp any form of Yahweh's rule in the earth. It is believed he will arise from the old world (Rev 13:1) and become ruler over a resurrected Roman Empire and super-state of coalesced nations. He will assume great power politically (Dan 7:8,25), commercially (Dan 8:25, Rev 13:16-17), and religiously (Rev 17:1-15). Knowing that man must have a religion of some kind, he will establish one based on the divinity of man and supremacy of the State. As the embodiment of the State, he will demand worship, and will appoint a priesthood to enforce and foster this worship (2 Thess 2:9-10, Rev 13:12-15).

The Antichrist will carry his doctrine to the extreme of the supremacy of the state. He will have complete control over world commerce, with all people requiring a "Mark of the Beast" to buy and sell (Rev 13:17). With the advent of modern technology in the use of RFID chips and electronic tattoos the resources are literally in place today to fulfill this prophecy. The Antichrist will teach that the State and its laws are supreme to God's. He will command worship and even man's conscience must be subordinated. The OT shadow of this was revealed by King Nebuchadnezzar's totalitarian regime in Daniel chapter 3. A modern example would be the French Revolution, where God was cast out and a goddess was made of, "La Patrie" (the State). Said one of the leaders, "*The State is supreme in all things. When the State has spoken, the Church has nothing to say.*" Loyalty to the State was and will be elevated to the place of religion by the Antichrist and his False Prophet. When all is said and done, his 'rear end' will be thrown into the Lake of Fire for his evil deeds (Rev 20:10).

<sup>1</sup> Some Excerpts taken from, "Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible" by Myer Pearlman (Pentecostal Classics, Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo. 1937, 25<sup>th</sup> Printing 2010).