
JESUS CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN

CONFUSION ABOUT THE SECOND COMING. In these days there is a lot of interest in whether Jesus Christ will actually come back to earth or not. Another point of great interest is, if He is, when will it be? This is nothing new for the subject seems to come to the fore whenever there is a huge or worldwide crisis. There is also a great deal of confusion over it - mainly because many who speak about it don't know what they are talking about. Over the ages many have felt they had figured out from the Bible just when He will come. One of the outstanding incidents revolved around William who predicted the Lord would come in 1843. When the date came and went without an appearance of the Lord, Miller did some refiguring and came up with 1844. When that prediction failed, Miller gave up and out of his followers came the Seventh Day Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses. Many others felt sure they could produce the correct date. Edgar Whisenant wrote a book entitled *Eighty-eight Reasons Christ Will Return In 1988*. It sold 4 million copies. Christ did not come! He then wrote Jesus would come in 1989. A short time later another book appeared entitled: *Millions Disappear - Fact or Fiction?* (attributed by many to Peter Ruckman, which I personally believe, having read it) which did not set an actual date but stated: "...God...allows us to make a very close guess when the Rapture will take place." Ruckman says in case you miss the Rapture you should, "Start working your way to Heaven" for once the Rapture has taken place the only way to be saved is keep the Ten Commandments, give your money to the poor, get baptized, take up your cross and hold out till the end. Salvation by works! There is nothing more plain in the Word of God that man never was and never can be saved by keeping the Ten Commandment or performing any other works; see Hab.2:4, Gal. 2:16, Rom.4:4,5, 10:1-4, 11:6, etc. A few years ago Harold Camping, owner of Family Radio, set a date in 1995 for Jesus' return. Like all the others he bombed out! Now, he says that we are in the Tribulation and all churches should be closed while we wait for it to be over and for Christ to come. Of course, you are still supposed to send money to him for the purpose of getting the gospel out (small "g" since it is not THE GOSPEL).

IMPOSSIBILITY OF DATE SETTING. The Bible is clear: There is no way of knowing when Christ will come neither for the Rapture of the Church nor His return to earth (The Revelation). The Scriptures clearly teach that the Rapture of the Church - its meeting with Christ in the air - is imminent. That is, it may be at any moment. Paul looked for it in his day. You have the Rapture described in I Thess. 4:13-18. The context is the same in chap. 5 where in v.2. it says, "**That the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in**

the night." You can't tell when the thief is coming! When asked about the establishment of His Kingdom, Jesus said as plain as could be in Acts 1:6,7; "**It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own hands.**" *The truth is God doesn't want us to know and therefore we can't know it!* Our task is to faithfully preach the Gospel until He does come.

CONFUSING THE RAPTURE & REVELATION. The Bible speaks of two advents of Christ - that is *appearings* of Christ on earth. The first is obvious! The Second Advent is when He appears on earth a second time. The Bible also speaks of His coming to the air for His Church (I Thess.4:13-18, I Cor.15, Titus 2:13, etc.). This is not an advent! It applies only to the Church. The Church does not appear in any way in the Old Testament - it is a *mystery* (Eph.3:1-9)! Something that was secret and could not be known until God revealed it! The Rapture never appears in the O.T. but the Revelation appears many, many times. Many, even some who claim to be Dispensationalists, confuse and confound the Rapture and the Revelation. They are separate events, separated by seven years of Great Tribulation. Matt. 24, 25 do not refer to the Rapture but to the Revelation; that is, when Christ comes to deliver Israel, judge the nations and set up his Kingdom. None of this happens at the Rapture! The Rapture takes place in the air - the Revelation on earth. The Rapture deals only with the Church - the Revelation has to do with all on earth, Jew and Gentile though in different ways. The Rapture is a message of comfort and deliverance to God's Church ("Blessed hope") while the Revelation brings judgment to the world and salvation to the nation of Israel. Now, it is clear there are definite signs in the Bible which must occur before the Revelation, just read Matt. 24, 25. However, no one can predict when these things will happen since it is preceded by the Rapture of the Church, which is imminent and cannot be discerned no matter how learned or *spiritual* one seems to be. However, some fools will no doubt keep trying. Jesus said concerning the Revelation, His coming to earth: "**Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.**" Matt.24:44. The best we can say is it will be seven years after the Rapture.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. In II Tim.2:15 we are told: "**Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of God.**" There are plenty of people who "*wrongly divide*" the Word of Truth. Sadly, many of God's people do not study the Word of God for themselves but get everything they know from someone else.

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Now, we can learn from others, but it is also quite possible to learn what is untrue from them. To understand this one must have a *proper* understanding of Dispensationalism. When I was first saved, 52 years ago, many Fundamental Baptist Churches were Dispensational - that is not true today. Now only a relative few are and Dispensationalism is generally viewed as a ridiculous aberration. I have said it many times over many years; it is impossible to have a clear and full understanding of Scripture apart from a proper knowledge of Dispensational truth. It is also absolutely imperative to understand that while God has dealt with man in different ways and according to different knowledge which He has given, *there has ever only been one way of salvation - by grace through faith!* We urge you to get our 16 page booklet on the subject (\$1 pp.)

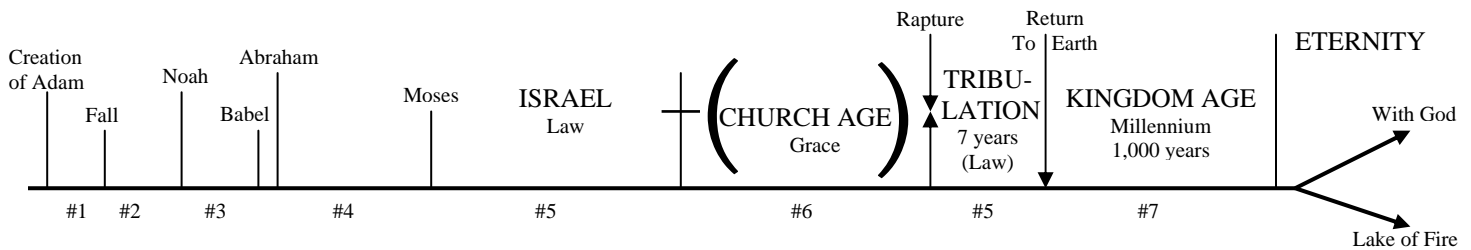
THE BIBLE IS CLEAR - HE'S COMING AGAIN! This statement cannot be refuted. It can be explained away, it can be twisted into a *spiritual* coming, but just taking Scripture at face value, the testimony is overwhelming. Jesus Christ is coming back to this planet in a body - a glorified body even as He went up to Heaven (Acts 1:9).

TESTIMONY OF JESUS. Jesus spoke so many times in no uncertain words about His return to this world. One of the greatest and most reassuring passages is 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 an prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also."** He spoke of it so many times it hardly seems necessary to quote any more. Just one more will suffice: **"Be ye ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."** Matt.24:44. By the way, if Heaven (and Hell) is only a state of mind or condition, why did Jesus call it **"a place"**? When He comes at the Rapture, all in this dispensation who have been born again through faith in His death and resurrection will be caught up to meet Him in the air and **"so shall we ever be with the Lord."** If you are not saved, you will face the judgment of the Tribulation. You also should know that the Bible teaches if you enter the Tribulation having heard the Gospel but rejecting it, you will

have no opportunity for salvation; read II Thess. 2:8-12. When He comes at the Revelation He will consign all the unbelieving to hell Matt.25:41,46 and take the believing into His Kingdom, the thousand year reign of Christ on earth. The Old Testament as well as the New is full of statements concerning the righteous reign of Christ *on earth*.

WITNESS OF FULFILLED PROPHECY. Hundreds and hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled - literally! Prophecies which no man could make successfully concerning individuals, nations, world kingdoms, Israel, as well as of Christ, have been fulfilled even to the very letter. Many of them required that the prophecies be made thousands of years in advance of fulfillment. God said in Daniel four kingdoms would rule the world in succession. God said Israel would be carried away to Babylon and after 70 years, a heathen king who knew not God would restore them to their land! It happened! Concerning Jesus the Bible said He would be virgin born (Isa.7:14), He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) though His parents were from Galilee, that He would ride into Jerusalem on an unbroken donkey, that He would die on a tree (cross) though the Jewish method of capital punishment was stoning; and on and on. It can be said without equivocation that all prophecies, thousands of them, that have thus far been fulfilled were all fulfilled literally - *not spiritually* as some like to say. As surely as He was virgin born, crucified, buried and raised from the dead in a glorified body, Jesus Christ will come again! If that is not true, you might as well throw away your Bible for it is inconsistent and irrelevant.

ARE YOU READY? What is your answer? Over and over again the Word of God declares that when He comes it will be sudden and unexpected - **"In such an hour as ye think not!"** Jesus said, **"Be ye ready."** Are you ready? Maybe you are one of millions in America who have heard the Gospel, but still you are not ready. You have not repented of your sin and received Jesus Christ as your Savior. Do you think you'll escape judgement when He comes? God says, **"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"** The answer is you won't! Trust Christ NOW! **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."**



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CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 438, BELMONT, MA 02478

Rolland C. Starr, Pastor