

## The Second Coming of Christ, Lesson 1

What does the Bible really teach about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? Scripture does indeed teach that there will be a real Second Coming. Luke 17:20-37 is one of many passages dealing with this subject. Before delving deeply into the details of the subject, we will first look at what the Bible does not tell us about the Second Coming. Consider the following two verses:

*“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only”  
(Matthew 24:36)*

*“And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority’ (Acts 1:7)*

These verses record the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. He tells us Himself that nobody knows the time of the Second Coming. Anybody who claims to know the date of His Second Coming is therefore lying to you. In fact, it is a dangerous to even speculate whether He is coming back within the next few years or even within the next century—even though He *may* come back any time, even today. I will go into more detail as to why I say that in future lessons. We can hope for it and look forward to the Day when His Promise to return will be fulfilled. However, we are to be working for Him and His Kingdom in the meantime. Read Luke 12:35-40 and you can read it in God’s own Words.

The Second Coming is often equated with the idea of the “last days”, and rightly so. However, the phrase “last days” is often used in the Bible as the time between when Jesus Christ came the first time, died for our sins, was resurrected, and ascended into heaven (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) and the time when he will come the second time. That means the last days is anything from AD 33 give or take a few years until the time that He comes back (almost 2,000 years and counting). People throughout history have always thought that He was coming back soon—and He is—but it’s according to His time, not ours. Read Acts 2:17, when Peter quotes the Old Testament prophet Joel and refers to the days following Pentecost in *the first century* as the “last days”. We see the same thing in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 when we have the phrase “last days” in verse 1. As you read these verses you will see a great description of 21<sup>st</sup> century America. The problem with interpreting this passage only in that way is that in verse 5, the Apostle Paul warns Timothy about people like that in *the first century*.

I hope that I have not discouraged you by saying these things. However, it is necessary that before studying these things we have the doctrine of the Second Coming in perspective and we don’t start setting dates or going beyond what Scripture tells us. As we continue in this study, please continue with your questions and I will try to answer them in the lessons that follow. Lesson 2 will deal primarily with what the Bible does say about the Second Coming and how the Pre-Tribulation Rapture fits in to all this. Until next time, God bless you.

## The Second Coming of Christ, Lesson 2

The Bible clearly teaches in both the Old Testament and the New Testament that Jesus Christ will return to the earth someday. Many Bible passages are very clear about this fact. We read in Revelation:

*“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” (Revelation 19:11)*

This is an obvious reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. Read the following passages for yourself and you will get a good idea of the Scriptural teaching on the subject: Isaiah 63:1-6; Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:27-31; Matthew 26:63-64; Revelation 19:11-20:10.

At this point we will look at what is commonly called the Rapture, which is the doctrine that the Lord Jesus will receive both the dead in Christ (believers who have already died) and those alive on earth at the time just prior to the seven year period of unbelievable hardship and evil known as the Tribulation. I believe this is the best way to understand and reconcile all the passages dealing with the Second Coming of Christ. We could understand the Second Coming of having ‘two stages’ to it: the Rapture for believers only and the Appearing to all at the end of the Tribulation period. There are two main passages that teach this: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 with the key verses reading as follows:

*“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

The Second Coming is also described as being visible to all people on earth whether they are true Christians or not, and primarily for the purpose of judgment. Consider the Lord’s Words:

*“For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His Day.” (Luke 14:24)*

In other words, His Coming will be obvious to everyone, not just the saved. When you read the passages listed near the top of this page, you will further see that one feature of His Coming will be that Jesus will physically come to earth. Notice in the Thessalonians passage above, we meet Him “in the clouds”. If we understand the sequence of event as being Rapture (first part of Second Coming), Tribulation (see Daniel 9:24-27 and Revelation Chapter 6), then physical Second Coming seven years later, we don’t have problems making all the passages fit together. Continue to study and read the Scriptures and conclude for yourself.

The main thing is that you make you make your peace with God now. Whether He comes again in your lifetime or you die a natural death, you will meet Him one way or another. It will either be to spend eternity in heaven or hell. You decide. Until next time, God bless you.

### The Second Coming of Christ, Lesson 3

Who is the Antichrist? This is a common question that is asked by Christians and Non-Christians alike. The short answer is that we do not know and will not know until he is “revealed” during and ultimately after the Tribulation (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 2:8). The Scripture passages that give us the most detail about the Antichrist are 2 Thessalonians 2:2-12 and Revelation Chapter 13. I would strongly recommend that you read these passages before reading the rest of this study because they form a lot of the basis for it.

We can say for sure that Antichrist has not already come since many conditions such as the signing of a covenant between the Antichrist and Israel have not happened yet (Daniel 9:27—in this passage a week equals seven years which is the length of the Tribulation; when we look at the fact that the 69 weeks of Daniel 9:24-27 are 483 years which is the time from the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall to the crucifixion of Christ...ever wonder if that prophecy might have tipped off the three wise men?). If you follow the Rapture view explained in the last lesson in which the visible church will be taken up to meet Christ in the clouds, it would follow that “He Who restrains (unchecked sin)” —that is, the Holy Spirit—would have been ‘removed’ if the Antichrist were presently revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Therefore, we cannot know who he is now or if he is alive now. That means the revelation of the identity of Antichrist is yet future. We can speculate all day long whether he is some religious or political figure alive today, but all we are doing is slandering people when we do that. How would you like it if some preacher identified you or your mother or your son as the Antichrist?

The Antichrist will be a counterfeit Messiah. Genesis 3:15 speaks of Jesus the Messiah as “her seed” which implies the virgin birth since women don’t have seed—men do. The fact that Satan’s seed is mentioned in the same verse implies supernatural origin. Revelation 17:8 implies counterfeit resurrection—read it for yourself. The phrase “God of his fathers” and “by the help of a foreign god” implies Jewish ancestry (Daniel 11:36-39). The phrase “coming out of the sea” speaks of Gentile origin (Revelation 13:1). Most likely he will have both.

The last verse we want to deal with is Revelation 13:18 which speaks of the infamous number “666”. We don’t know what that number represents until he is revealed so we would be wise not to guess now and teach our best guess as fact. We do know that in the Bible 6 is the number of man and 7 is the number of divinity so it is consistent with biblical numerology that such a number would be given here. Also, I like what Henry Alford has to say about it. He refers to Daniel 5:26 and draws the application that the days of humankind on this earth are indeed numbered and we are found wanting because of sin. That’s why Jesus will be coming back some day to make it right. Until next time, God bless you.