



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



Advent—JESUS Is Coming--Prepare

December 28, 2008

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Introduction:

This morning we are still looking for the coming of Christ. We have maneuvered through the Advent season and have spent time preparing for celebrating His first coming and also preparing ourselves to be ready for His second coming.

Today we are going to consider scriptures that indicate what His second coming will be like. In the revelation that was given to John while he was on the Island of Patmos, Jesus revealed Himself to John in a way that was unmistakable. The vision was powerful, moving and left John with a unique picture of God in His splendor and work yet to come.

Rev. 1:7-8 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending”, saith the Lord, “which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

I. Every eye will see Him.

When Jesus comes back everyone will see Him. I'm not sure exactly how that will happen, but God's word is clear here that He will be seen by all. When He is seen, people will recognize Him as the Savior, as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His identity will not be a mystery.

Here are some insights from scripture about will happen when Jesus comes back:

A. First signs of His second coming:

1 Thes. 4:16-18 - For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who

have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words.

Those who have fallen asleep in Jesus or those who have died in Christ will be resurrected from their graves. Then we who are alive and are still here when Christ comes back will be gathered with those resurrected saints in the clouds to meet Christ in the air and we will be forever with the Lord.

B. No one knows the exact moment.

Matthew 24:36 - "However, no one knows the day or the hour when these things will happen,

not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.” In the time of Noah, there was warning for 120 years and finally the day arrived when the flood came. It seemed sudden, but it had taken 120 years to get there. God’s word indicates that when Christ returns it will be with the same kind of suddenness.

C. There will be a separation.

Matthew 24:40-42 - "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. So be prepared, because you don't know what day your Lord is coming." There will be a moment when those who are left behind will wish they had responded to the message of Christ and those who are taken will wish they had shared the message with those left behind. **Luke 17:24** - **For when the Son of Man returns, you will know it beyond all doubt. It will be as evident as the lightning that flashes across the sky.**

D. The coming of Christ will happen quickly.

Just like lightening flashes quickly across the sky, so the coming of Christ will happen suddenly. When it happens, there will not be time to repent, time to get ready, time to pray, witness or any other thing. Light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second or 299,792,458 meters per second. When we travel on the highway, we travel at 55-65 miles per hour which is about 1/10 mile per second. We travel slow compared to the speed of light.

E. Jesus’ return will take place when it is not expected.

Matthew 24:42-44- talks about the thief and how he comes unexpectedly. The thief comes when people feel they are safe and secure. Thieves strike when people are not expecting them. I saw a documentary recently where a professional jewel thief was being interviewed as to how he had stolen so many gems. He would watch for people to let down their guard. He would see them be careless about securing their property, leaving doors unlocked, gems sitting out in the open or in the top drawer of a dresser. That is when he struck. Do not get careless about how you

live or allow your guard to be compromised. Stay intent about being ready when Jesus returns.

As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it also be in the days of the coming of the son of man. **Philip. 3:20-21** - **But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere.**

He is going to come back and change every body into one that will be able to enter and inhabit the place where Jesus has been preparing for us to live with Him. We know that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven and so there has to be a change.

II. All clans of the earth will mourn because of Him.

The reality of who Jesus is will become clear at His returning. Because of that, there will be mourning and grief will grip people who did not acknowledge who He was and receive Him as their Savior. The vision that John had in Revelation is definitely one that paints a very grim picture after Jesus comes back and before He sets up an earthly reign of peace for 1,000 years. There will be a one-world government, one-world religion, one-world economy. There will be great tribulation. Many judgments will come to the earth. There will be plagues that will destroy many human lives. A mark will be given to every one on earth on their forehead or their hand. Without that mark they will not be able to sell or buy, to carry on business etc. Those who refuse to take that mark will be beheaded.

I do not wish to be around during that time of tribulation. It will be an awful time when one has to align themselves with the antichrist. We are moving in that direction friends. The economic situation in our country is so globally connected that a day is coming when people will say, “We need to make everyone trade in the same currency so that one nation doesn’t have greater advantage in the world than another.” Get ready. The foundations are

being developed where a one-world system will finally become a reality.

It will not be difficult when all things are ready for some charismatic individual to step up to the plate and say, "I have the answer to all the problems. Let me be your leader and I'll give you the solutions. I will be your messiah, your savior." Beloved, there is only one Messiah – Jesus Christ. He was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He grew up as a man, gave His life on Calvary that whosoever will might have everlasting life in Him. He is the only way to God the Father. There are not multiple ways to get to God; there is only one way and that is through Jesus Christ.

III. I am ALPHA & OMEGA.

Conclusion:

We are challenged to live a life that is pure and blameless and be at peace with God. We are challenged to look forward to this day when Christ returns and makes a new heaven and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:10-14 - But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment.

Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living! You should look forward to that day and hurry it along, the day when God will set the heavens on fire and the elements will melt away in the flames.

But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world where everyone is right with God. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to live a pure and blameless life. And be at peace with God.

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. No letters come before it because it is the first one. Jesus not only refers to Himself as the first, the Alpha, but also as the Omega – which is the last letter, the final letter of the Greek alphabet. Nothing and no one comes before Him or after Him. He is the one who started it all and the one who will end it all. He also claims to be that which is presently, which was in the past and which is to come in the future: the omnipotent, absolute and sovereign God.

We do have hope and we do have the promise of His returning which He will fulfill. His plan is incredible and we only have a glimpse of what is ahead. I'm sure that as His plan unfolds, we will be even more amazed than what our understanding is now.