

Reality Carpinteria - Pastor Britt Merrick
Mark 13:20-27
The Coming With Great Power and Glory (Part II)
(22MAY2005)

Bible Prophecy Sermons Series:

- This is Part II of last week's sermon and the seventh in a series of Bible Prophecy and End times studies based on Mark 13.
- These past sermons and others are available on CD and at www.jesusisreality.com
 1. A General Introduction to Bible Prophecy
 2. The Temple in Jerusalem (Mark 13: 1-4)
 3. World Conditions Prior to Lord's Second Coming (Mark 13: 5-13)
 4. The Abomination of Desolation (Mark 13:14-18)
 5. The Tribulation: The Wrath and Mercy of God (Mark 13:19)
 6. The Coming with Great Power and Glory (Part I Mark 13:19-26)

The Emphasis on the Second Coming in the Bible

- Except for salvation, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned more often in the Bible than any other topic.
 - If frequency of mention were any indicator, it would stand to reason that the Second Coming of Jesus is the second most important teaching in all of scripture.
- There are 1,845 passages about the Second Coming in the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament (the *Tenakh* in Hebrew) talks about the Messiah's Second Coming 8 times more often than about His First Coming.
 - If the First Coming is a historical fact, we can be 8 times surer He will come again.
- There are 318 passages about the Second Coming of Jesus in the New Testament.

**It is a necessity that Jesus Christ comes again.
If Jesus Christ doesn't come again, He can't be the Messiah.**

Mark 13:19 - 27

¹⁹"For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will." ²⁰"Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days." ²¹"And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; ²²for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³"But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance. ²⁴"But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, ²⁵AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶"Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. ²⁷"And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

These are the words of Jesus, as He instructed His disciples about His return.

Without a Second Coming of Jesus Christ, He can't possibly be the Messiah.

The Necessity of the Second Coming

Jesus said that when He returns He will come with great power and glory.

- There are two veins of prophecy throughout the Old Testament concerning the coming of the Messiah.
 - Vein #1 – speaks of the First Coming. The Messiah as a suffering servant.
 - He would suffer and serve as a servant. He would be humiliated and die an atoning death.
 - Vein #2 – The Messiah would come as a conqueror.
 - He would conquer the nations. He would liberate Israel. He would rule and reign over the nations.
 - Ancient scribes and rabbis who studied the Tenakh were puzzled. They asked themselves, "How can Messiah, be both a suffering servant and a conquering king?"
 - Some reasoned there must be two Messiahs. One that comes and suffers and one that comes and conquers.
 - Other rabbis figured that there must be one Messiah, but two different comings.
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in Qumran early in the past century. There was a community that was living there called the Essenes who had a tremendous effect on life in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. They had studied Daniel 9 and believed that Messiah would come two times.
 - The first time He would come and be cut off.
 - The second time He would conquer and establish an eternal kingdom.

- To prove Jesus came and was cut off.
 - History speaks to the fact that there was a historical figure called Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He lived and later died on a cross. His followers claimed that He rose from the dead.
 - We know that Jesus fulfilled, literally and to the "T," over 320 Old Testament prophecies concerning His First Coming.
 - We expect Jesus to come again to complete the mission of the Messiah.
- To prove that Jesus is Messiah.
 - Jews today reject Jesus as the Messiah. In fact, they do not even consider Him a *candidate* as a Messiah.
 - In their eyes, Jesus did not fulfill the qualifications of the Messiah.
 - It is clear in the Old Testament that when Messiah comes He will liberate Israel, He will rule and reign over the nations, and He will restore the kingdom to Israel.
 - They claim that Jesus never did that. If He had, the world would be dramatically changed.
 - What they overlook, and what we as Christians look forward to, is that Jesus is coming again "with great power and glory."
- To fulfill all the prophetic scriptures.
 - When Jesus came the first time, He literally fulfilled every prophecy regarding the Messiah's first coming. For example,
 - The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
 - He would be born of a virgin
 - He would grow up in Nazareth.
 - He would be pierced for our transgressions.
 - His robe would be divided and lots would be cast for it.
 - Etc.
 - By way of logic, **expect** the Second Coming to be fulfilled literally too.

FACT: The Second coming of Jesus will be with great power and glory!

"Then they (*the whole world*) will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory."
(Mark 13:26)

The Timing of the Second Coming

- The Second Coming occurs at the end of the Tribulation.
 - Mark 13:24-26 ²⁴"But in those days, **after** that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, ²⁵AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory."
 - The Book of Revelation chapters 16-19
- The Second Coming takes place during the Battle at Armageddon
 - Mentioned in Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19
 - All the nations will be gathered together at Jerusalem under the leadership of the Antichrist in the Valley of Armageddon. During this final world conflict, Jesus will return.
- The Second Coming takes place before the Millennial Kingdom
 - Described in the Book of Revelation chapter 20.
 - Some Christian denominations disagree on the timing.
 - If you do not hold to the truth of the Second Coming, you are not a Christian!
 - It is the second most often mentioned topic in the Bible.
 - Every orthodox doctrinal creed throughout Christendom mentions the Second Coming.
 - But, within the realization that He will come again, there exist some disagreements.
 - Timing – such as whether or not Jesus will come at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom or at the end of it.
 - Many churches in America teach Amillennialism or Post-millennialism.
 - Amillennialism – there is not an actual Millennial Kingdom or an actual 1,000 years, but we are living in that general time now.
 - Post-millennialism – we are actually in the Millennium now. Jesus is ruling and reigning now. And, Jesus will return at the end of this millennium period.
 - We believe in Pre-millennialism - Jesus will return before the Millennium Kingdom to establish it and to physically rule and reign upon the earth.

The Location of the Second Coming

- Jesus will physically return to Israel.
 - Zechariah 14:3 states that Jesus will set His feet on the Mount of Olives located in Israel.
 - When Jesus came the first time, He came to the land of Israel.
 - Paul says in Romans 1:16, "the gospel is first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles".
 - Jesus said, "I was sent first to the lost sheep of House of Israel."

- When Jesus sent out His disciples, He said, “Go, to the children of Israel.”
- Mark 13: ²⁰ “Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the **elect**, whom He chose, He shortened the days.
 - “He shortened the days”
 - The word shorten is in past tense, because Jesus is not going to shorten the 7-year Tribulation Period, but rather God in His mercy has already shorten and assigned the Tribulation Period to last **only 7 years**.
 - The wrath of God is being poured out. Satan is waging war against Israel and anyone who becomes a Christian. And, the Antichrist is ruling and reigning and beheading Christians (Read Revelation 20).
 - “For the sake of the **elect**”
 - The “elect” refers to Israel.
 - Although in First Peter chapter 1 and in Ephesians 1, Christians are referred to as the elect, Mark 13:20 does not refer to the church.
 - The apostle Mark cannot be referring to the church since “the church” during the discussion he is referencing had not even been born yet.
 - The church of Jesus Christ is born on the day of Pentecost.
 - At the Second Coming, Jesus rescues Israel! (Zechariah 12, 14 and Revelation 19)
 - The Antichrist and his forces are gathered against Jerusalem.
 - Not for economical gain. There is nothing of importance in Jerusalem - - no natural resources, no water, nothing!
 - The only thing of importance is that God promised He would one day place His name in Israel.
 - The Antichrist wants to destroy Jerusalem and annihilate Israel in his efforts to null and void the promises of God. He wants to defame God.
 - The purpose of the Second Coming is expressly for Israel. Jesus comes at the Battle of Armageddon to rescue Israel (Zechariah 12, 14 and Revelation 19)
 - For the sake of Israel the time was “cut short”.

The Nature of the Second Coming

Mark 13 ²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, ²⁵ AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ “Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.”

Matthew 24: ²⁷ “For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.”

- Everyone in the world will see it. It will be a worldwide event that occurs with great power and glory.
 - It will be known.
 - It will be overt and not covert.
 - It will be obvious to the whole world and everyone alive that Jesus is coming!
 - The sun will be darkened, the moon will give off no light, stars will be falling and all the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
 - Every eye will see and behold. It will be obvious to the whole world just who God is.
 - All issues will be settled.
 - It will put an end to speculation and false religions. (Mark ²¹ “And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; ²² for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.)
 - The Antichrist’s primary goal is to lead Israel astray.
 - Remember: He makes a false covenant of peace with Israel, which he breaks after 3.5 years when he walks into the temple and declares himself to be God.
 - Jesus warns the elect (Israel), “don’t be fooled.”
 - When Messiah comes **everyone** will know it!

NOTE: There are cults who believe that messiah has already returned. They teach that Jesus Christ came back to earth in 1917. Obviously many people missed it!

The Bible says that when Jesus returns there will be **no** confusion. **No one alive** will miss the Second Coming of Jesus Christ for **it will come with great power and glory!**

Psalm 97:6 states, “The heavens will declare His righteousness and **all the people will see His glory!**”

Mark 13: 24-25 states, that on that day, “the sun will be darkened and the stars will fall from the sky.”

**If you walk outside today, you will see the sun.
Jesus Christ, the Son has not returned - - - yet!**

- Every false religion will be revealed.
 - Islam is currently the fastest growing religion in the world.
 - It is heralded in the press as one of three great monotheistic religions of the world.
 - It is a popular conception that those who worship Allah are worshipping the same God as the Jews and the Christians.
 - This is the most hideous misconception prevailing in the world today!

Islam/Koran	Christianity/Bible
1. God has no Son. A. On the Temple Mount, beneath the Dome of the Rock, there is an Arabic inscription running around it that reads: "God has no son." B. This is a declaration of Islam and an attack against Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2. Jesus lived and went to the cross, but He never actually died upon the cross. 3. The Jews were the chosen people, BUT they messed up. A. God then chose the Christians as His people. B. Then the Christians messed up and now God has chose Islam as the true religion.	1. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 2. Jesus went to the cross for our sins and for our salvation. A. God said, "your sins will be atoned for through the death of My Son upon a cross." 3. The Jews are and will always be the Chosen People of God. A. There is a heresy in the Church called "Replacement Theology", which states that God is done with Israel; He has chosen Christians to replace Israel and to receive all the promises of Israel. - - IMPOSSIBLE! B. God promised Israel a <u>literal land</u> and that He would restore them to that land. God has <u>never</u> called for Christians to live there! C. God made specific promises that can only be fulfilled to Israel and in Israel.

**There is no truth to those who say that Israel rejected God, so God has rejected Israel, and all the promises have been transferred to the Church.
This is exactly what the Koran says!**

God will keep His promise to Israel.

NOTE: After the sixth century AD, it would have been possible to believe that God was done with the Jews and that He would never keep His promise to them. Israel had been in the land for a couple of thousand years. The Romans defeated them in AD 70. The Roman Empire became a Christian empire. Under the Byzantines, the Holy Land was under the rule of a Christian empire. Islam was established in the 5th century and began to grow. Islam invaded and conquered the land. Now, it was under Moslem rule and they began to erroneously speculate that Mohammed was right: **God chose the Jews, but now He has rejected them. God chose the Christians, but then He rejected them too. And now He has chosen Islam - - - and Islam is ruling in the world today.**

- **This is why there will never be true peace between Islam and Judaism until Jesus Christ comes a second time and establishes once and forever that He is the true God!**
- **So long as Israel is in the land, it is an affront to the belief of Islam.**
 - Islam believes that God took the Land from Israel and gave it to them.
 - Israel is back in the land and sovereign over it!
 - On midnight of May 14, 1948 when Israel became a nation once again, 5 Arabic nations attacked them to no avail. God miraculously saved His chosen people.
 - Islamists believe that if Israel exists as a nation, then Islam is a false religion.
- **The Muslims and the Jews can establish a pseudo peace but never a true peace.**
 - The Koran permits Muslims to lie. All they want is to buy themselves time to gain military strength and then to conquer.
 - This was the protocol of Mohammed and the protocol of Islam today.
- **The Antichrist will come and also establish a pseudo world peace.**

The only true peace will come when Jesus comes.
Everyone will see Him come with great power and glory!

Contrast Jesus' return to Israel with His First Coming.

- **Daniel 7:** ¹³"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.
 - This is where Jesus got His favorite title for Himself. The "Son of Man," a messianic title.
 - The Messiah would come and He would come upon the clouds.
 - This scripture perplexed the scribes and rabbis of ancient times. The verse stated the Messiah would come upon the clouds, but they also knew Zechariah 9:9.

- Zechariah 9: ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
 - Daniel said the Messiah would come upon the clouds and Zechariah says He would come on a donkey!

NOTE: Interesting that a few hundred years after Jesus established the Church, the Jews began to collect their body of writings. The Temple had been destroyed. The priesthood ceased to exist. Without a Temple there was no need for a Jewish priesthood. Judaism made a turn from being based upon the sacrifices and the priesthood to being based upon prayer, good deeds and the teaching of the rabbis. The rabbis began to gather all of their ancient teachings and they put it together in a document called the Talmud and the Mishnah.

- In the Mishnah, in the section called Sanhedrin 98 it says, "...if they (Israel) deserve it the Messiah will come with the clouds of heaven, if not, then He will come on a donkey."
 - History shows that Jesus came on a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9.
 - The Bible tells us that Jesus will come again "on a white horse; in the clouds; with great power and glory".
 - Revelation 9: ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
 - Zechariah 12:10 "...they will look upon **Me** whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for **Him**."
 - God uses the first person pronoun to refer to Himself as the one they have pierced!
 - In this verse, God talks about the Trinity. He expresses the deity of the Messiah who was pierced on the cross! God says, "They will look upon **Me**". Then He refers to Himself as having been nailed to the cross, "Whom they have pierced." Jesus, the second person in the Trinity died on the cross for our sins. "And they will mourn for **Him**."
 - The ancient Jews reject the idea that the Messiah would be deity.
 - Yet, the rabbis believed in ancient times that this verse spoke of the Messiah.

**At the end of the Tribulation period, Jesus comes again.
Every question will be answered: in the minds of Islam,
in the minds of the Jews, and for everyone else.**

The Purpose of the Second Coming

- To restore the Kingdom to Israel
 - In Acts 1:4,6 Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise.
 - Acts 1 ⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"
 - They immediately assumed that He meant the promise of the kingdom. They knew Messiah would establish His kingdom on earth, so they figured this must be the time. But, Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit, who would come upon them with power.
 - The disciples responded with, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"
 - Jesus did not refute this. He did not say that Israel had no place in God's plan. He did not say that He would not restore the kingdom to Israel because the Jews had rejected the Messiah. Jesus simply said, "It is not for you to **know** times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;"
 - Jesus asked them to wait until the Holy Spirit had come upon them. Scripture refers to "the times" and "the epochs" as Jesus' Second Coming, a time when He liberates Israel from all its oppressors.
- Israel's National Regathering and Restoration/Regeneration
 - In Mark 13, Jesus states that after the Second Coming, ²⁷ "... He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven."
 - Immediately after the Second Coming there is a gathering of the elect (the Jews) from the furthest ends of the earth.
 - This is referred to as the second re-gathering of Israel.
 - The first re-gathering is what we have witnessed over the last century, which has seen more and more Jews returning to their homeland even today. This first re-gathering is to the land, in unbelief, and before the Tribulation.
 - The re-gathering is referred to 98 times in the Bible.
 - 90 percent of the Jews living in Israel are secular, non-observant, and non-religious and the Bible said it would be so.

NOTE: At the end of the 1800s there was the birth of **Zionism**. It was the idea or the ideal that the Jews should return to their ancient homeland championed by Theodore Herzl. Many Jews bought into this idea and began moving back

to Israel against all odds. Other people had occupied Israel for almost 2,000 years, but many Jews began returning to the land. Zionism was primarily a secular movement, even though it was birth and spurred on by the biblical idea that God gave the Jews that land. Millions of Jews returned to the land until its rebirth in 1948, when even more Jews from all the corners of the earth returned to the land.

1st Regathering

1. To the land
2. In unbelief (Romans 11:25)
3. Before the Tribulation

2nd Regathering

1. To the Lord
2. In belief (Zechariah 12:10)
3. Before the Millennium

- According to Romans 11:25 “a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” Zechariah 12:10 states that, “they will not recognize Him whom they have pierced” until He comes again. In order for the nation of Israel to recognize their Messiah, they must be gathered in the land, in unbelief, **before** the Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation Jesus Christ comes to Israel (to the Jews) and at the beginning of the Tribulation the Temple is built.
- Having been refined, they see the Messiah. This takes place before the start of the Millennial Kingdom, which is the establishment and return of the kingdom to Israel.

NOTE: The term foreshorten is the opposite of the word foreshadow. The Passover event in the time of Moses was a “foreshadow” of the work of the cross, the blood of the Lamb. Abraham taking his Isaac to Mount Moriah to offer him to God is a “foreshadow” of God who would provide for Himself Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb. They are pictures in the Old Testament that look forward to events surrounding the coming of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The term foreshorten is prophetic and looks forward to something that would happen, but a smaller immediate fulfillment takes place at the time the prophecy is first mentioned. This happened throughout the Old Testament in regards to end time prophecy, especially in the Book of Isaiah. There was an immediate smaller prophecy that was fulfilled, but the great prophecy would not be completely fulfilled until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- Jeremiah 30:1-11
 - Speaks of the promise of Israel being returned to the land.
 - The kingdom being established.
 - The Tribulation period and the gathering of the Jews into the land.
- In the immediate context, God is talking about bringing the Jews back from Babylonian captivity. But it is very clear that this goes beyond this event and speaks of the Millennium Kingdom.

¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ² Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book. ³ For behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The LORD says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"

 - The promise of restoration

⁴ Now these are the words which the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah: ⁵ "For thus says the LORD, 'I have heard a sound of terror, of dread, and there is no peace. ⁶ Ask now, and see if a male can give birth. Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? ⁷ Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it.

 - This regards the Tribulation Period. Jesus said in Mark 13 that there has never been anything like it. It is the time of Jacob's Trouble or Jacob's Distress, but he will be saved from it. This is the Old Testament context for everything Jesus said about the Tribulation. Jesus said there would come for the Jews a time of tribulation, that it would be severe, that it would be a chastening. It would be God's wrath poured out upon them. But they would be saved from it. "The days would be cut short."

⁸ 'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves.

 - This was true that he would remove them from the Babylonian captivity, but there had to be a future fulfillment because we know that Israel did go into slavery after that. They were once again oppressed and dominated by the Romans in the time of Jesus, and the Greeks and the Medo-Persians.

⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

 - We are told in Daniel 12: ¹ "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.
 - At the Second Coming, there is the resurrection of the Old Testament saints in their glorified bodies to participate in the Millennial Kingdom. David will be raised up for Israel on that day!
 - In the Millennial Kingdom Jesus Christ will be ruling and reigning from the throne of David in Jerusalem, but David himself will be there in his glorified body.
 - He could be the worship leader in the Millennial Kingdom!

¹⁰ 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant,' declares the LORD, 'And do not be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar and your offspring from the land of their captivity and Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease.

- Israel is presently in the land, but it is not “at ease.” This has to be talking of the Second Coming. And no one will make him afraid. ¹¹ ‘For I am with you,’ declares the LORD, ‘to save you; for I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, only I will not destroy you completely but I will chasten you justly and will by no means leave you unpunished.’
- This is definitely the Tribulation Period, the time of Jacob’s Distress. Israel will be punished, but they will recognize the Messiah.
- Jeremiah 31 speaks of the national restoration of Israel. ¹ “At that time,” declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.”
 - From the beginning, this is all that God has ever wanted: to be their God. It takes the Tribulation to bring them to that place.
- ² Thus says the LORD, “The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness-- Israel, when it went to find its rest.” ³ The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. ⁴ “Again I will build you and you will be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! Again you will take up your tambourines, and go forth to the dances of the merrymakers. ⁵ “Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria;
 - You read about the “hills of Samaria” every day in the newspaper. Today we know it as the West Bank. Jesus Christ promises that at His Second Coming, Israel will once again worship the Lord, plant vineyards and celebrate with tambourines in the West Bank!
 - Today, the West Bank is challenged, troubled, and fought over as to who has possession and who has the right to it. The Bible is very clear and at His Second Coming Jesus will set it all straight. The planters will plant and will enjoy them. ⁶ “For there will be a day when watchmen on the hills of Ephraim call out, ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.”
 - In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus Christ comes back to Israel. He saves her at the Battle of Armageddon. He establishes the Millennial Kingdom, steps upon the Temple Mount, David and the Old Testament saints are raised up, and there the Lord will rule and reign. The land is established for that nation. A call goes out across the earth: “Arise, let’s go up to Zion, to the Lord our God!”
 - Zechariah 14 ¹⁶ Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.
 - Every year the Messiah will issue an invitation to the whole world, “Come up and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles” (Booths).
 - The Jews celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths to remember God delivering them from the wilderness and into the Promise Land. Every family goes outside and makes a little hut but leaves the roof open. The hut speaks of God’s provision and protection during the wondering in the wilderness. The open roof speaks of the sovereignty of God.
 - In the Millennial Kingdom every nation will be invited to come up and be reminded of the provision, the sovereignty and the covering of God and to worship the Messiah.
 - The nations are **invited** to come up. Verse 18 states that Egypt decides not to come up so the Lord causes the rain to cease on that land.
 - There is a lesson here for you and me: we are **invited** everyday of our lives to worship the Messiah. **We don’t have to.**

Every Sunday morning we are invited to corporately give the Lord thanks and praise.

Warning: if you choose not accept the invitation, even in your Christian walk you will be spiritually dry!

Are you engaged in a life of worship, which is a life of obedience?

Are you engaged in a life of praise, which is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name?

(Hebrews 13: ¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.)

Congregational worship is a great way to be a part of that worship. You are **invited** to come and worship the Lord. No one will or should ever force you to worship God.

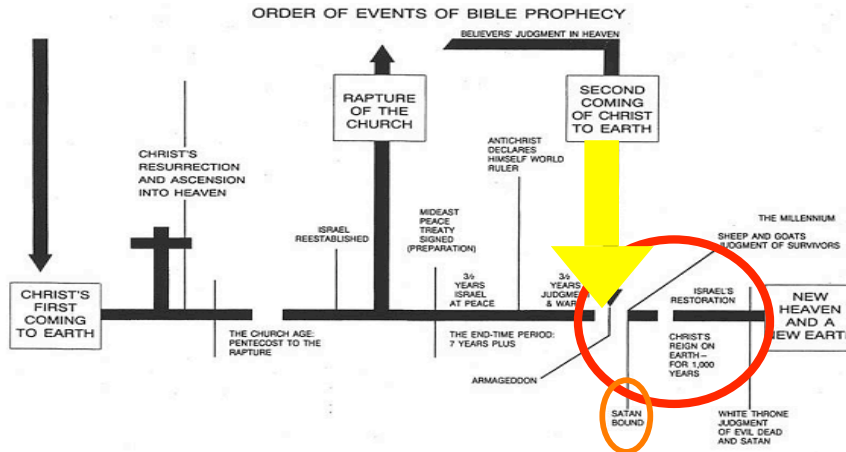
- According to Matthew 25, there are non-Jewish survivors of the Tribulation Period.
 - God will also judge the Gentiles at this time. It is called the separation of the sheep and the goats. ³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² “All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Suggested reading: Ezekiel 20

God will regenerate Israel into the New Covenant at that time and He will judge the Gentiles (non Jews).

At His Second Coming, all who have recognized Jesus as Lord and King will enter into the Millennial Kingdom. Gentiles, Jews, Old Testament saints in their glorified bodies, and the church (Rev 19:6-9, 11-14) in our glorified bodies will all be there.

Millennium Kingdom



From: *Every Prophecy of the Bible*, by John F. Walvoord

- After the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (yellow arrow), we have the Sheep and Goats Judgment, Israel's Restoration, Christ's reign on earth for 1,000 years **and** SATAN IS BOUND (orange arrow)!
 - There is a large segment of the Church that does not believe in a literal fulfillment of these prophecies. They say we are in a general Millennium Kingdom right now and that Satan is already bound. Really, hello?!
- Revelation 19:11
- ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
 - Jesus comes and destroys the False Prophet and the Antichrist.
- Revelation 20:1-3, 7-9
 - ¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

NOTE: Why would Messiah bind Satan for 1,000 years and then release him in the end?

Revelation 10: ⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Because of the Judgment of the Sheep and Goats as described in Matthew 25, there will be people at the Tribulation who will recognize Jesus coming with power and glory. They will accept Him as Messiah and they will go into the Millennial Kingdom. They are the only ones who will be in mortal bodies. Everyone else (Old Testament Jews and the church) will possess glorified bodies. These people with mortal bodies will reproduce over the course of the 1,000 years and they will repopulate the earth. Jesus will give these people a real chance to choose Him as their Lord and King. Jesus is physically enthroned in Jerusalem. Satan is bound. The people have only one choice for a ruler: Jesus. The moment Satan is released back into the world, God will prove for the last time that man is depraved, wicked and is not "basically good;" that man will choose evil at every opportunity. Look back on history:

- * The Garden of Eden wasn't enough for man.
- * Noah and his family get a fresh start, but that's not enough either.
- * Israel is brought into the Promise Land, conquers the other nations before them, and is established, but that is not enough.
- * Jesus establishes His church during the Age of Grace (according to Romans 3). He draws people to Himself by His lovingkindness. But, humanity rejects Him.
- * God wages a 7-year Tribulation Period whereby He will slowly pours out His wrath hoping that mankind will repent. Man does not repent!
- * Jesus reigns over a 1,000-year period and the moment He releases Satan, mankind once again turns his back on God.

Revelation 20:

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- People think that in hell Satan is going to be the lead party guy. The Bible says he is tormented there.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,

- The great white throne is what we referred to as the Final Judgment! Since the Great Flood, God has patiently waited mankind out before enacting His final judgment of humanity. At that time, He will be shown absolutely Just and True!
- No mouth will be able to argue: "But, God, I didn't have a chance! You didn't give us a choice!"
- Once and for all, He will shut up every single mouth.

After the Millennial Kingdom Comes Eternity!

Revelation 21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

- The word "sea" seems to refer to an old Jewish idiom, which means that there will be no more separation among the people. If you surf, cling to that!

² And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Pastor Britt's Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your Word. Thank You that You've covered all the bases. You've laid out Your plan from beginning to end. We are grateful that You are so faithful. I pray that You would help us to make application to our hearts of this big picture to our individual lives. As You can take care of such big things, You can take care of our lives and the nuances thereof; that we would now live in light of eternity. We would now live with boldness and confidence in You, knowing that You are coming again just as sure as the day. You will set all things right. Even though people now say, "Where is this God? Who is this Messiah? How can You say this about Jesus?" You will prove that You are both Faithful and True, the King. The One who was and is and is to come. Loosen our mouth with the gospel. Teach our hearts to explode with praise. For You are Worthy.

Study Questions:

1. Why is it necessary for Jesus Christ to return a second time to the world?
2. We have learned of Amillennialism and Post-millennialism, which are in contrast to our belief in Pre-millennialism. All Christians sustain their views and are ready to argue their differences about the timing of the establishment of the Millennium Kingdom. But, there is one thing that anyone who calls himself or herself a Christian cannot argue about: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Why?
3. Why is the location of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ so important? Why does Jesus return expressly to Israel at that time?
4. What is the difference between foreshadow and foreshorten? Give some example of each.
5. When the world and everything around you seems senseless, what do the words, "coming with great power and glory" mean to you? Does it stir up indescribable hope in your heart?
6. What would you say to someone who says that the god of the Koran is the same God of the Bible? That Muslims, Christians and Jews worship the same God?
7. What is Replacement Theology and why is it a heretical teaching?