

Revelation 1:7-8 | Christ is Coming! (Part 2)

Intro

- Verse 7 is the theme verse of Revelation
- Verse 8 is the Father's attestation to this glorious truth
- Very different in nature from first coming
- Essential: Christ came, died, was resurrected, and is coming again

3 questions about the Second Coming of Jesus:

- 1. Is it literal?
- 2. When will it happen?
- 3. What happens after?

1. Is the Second Coming of Jesus a literal event?

- It can be hard for us to believe (western rationalism)
- There are 535 verses in the Bible predicting the Second Coming¹ (view of Scripture)
- This must be taken seriously
- And it must be taken **literally**

Why?

Consider **how** predictions of the First Coming of Jesus were fulfilled (there are hundreds—we'll look at a few)

Isaiah 7:14 (NASB)

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

- Literal, historical fulfillment: Jesus was born to a young virgin

Micah 5:2 (NASB)

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.

- Literal, historical fulfillment: Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Zechariah 9:9 (NASB)

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.

- Literal, historical fulfillment: Jesus entered Jerusalem as the presented Messiah on a donkey

Psalms 22:16-18 (NASB)

For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

- Literal, historical fulfillment: Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross; none of His bones were broken; the soldiers cast lots for His clothing

Psalms 16:10 (NASB)

For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

- Literal, historical fulfillment: The Messiah was resurrected and His body did not decay

These predictions (and hundreds more) were **historically** and **literally fulfilled** during the life, death and resurrection of Jesus

- It **stands to reason** then, that the Second Coming of Jesus will be a literal event in history
- = How Scripture works

¹ J. Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy, The Complete Guide to Scriptural Predictions and Their Fulfillment* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973), 656.

Look how Jesus set it up (nature of His return):

- **John 14:1-3 (NASB)**
 - 1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
 - 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
 - 3 **If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again** and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
 - Did He go? How?

Look how the angels explained it:

- **Acts 1:9-10 (NASB)**
 - 9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.
 - 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way** as you have watched Him go into heaven."
- How did Jesus come and go the first time? = **Literally and physically**
- How will Jesus come the second time? = **Literally and physically**

2. When will the Second Coming happen?

Jesus was asked this very question by the disciples and He answered:

- **Matthew 24:21, 29-30 (NASB)** (KEYNOTE TEAM: Please display **bolded** words just as they are below)

Then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will...

But **immediately after the tribulation** of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

This seems to be **chronological language**

- **Then there will be a great tribulation** (preceded by general signs)
- **Immediately after the tribulation** (Cataclysmic events)
- **And then...** (The Second Coming)

This is the outline that we see in the book of Revelation

- **Chapters 6-18** tell us about the tribulation
 - The wrath of God unleashed on the unrepentant
- Then in **chapter 19** we see the Second Coming take place **See: Revelation 19:11-21**

It appears that the Second Coming happens **after the Great Tribulation**

- This seems to fit with the way Jesus spoke about these things (see **Mt 24:21, 29-30** again)

What that means is that the Second Coming of Jesus is at least a few (7?) years away

- And, that, if we take **Revelation 6-19** as referring to actual events in the future, it will be **fairly discernable** as to when Christ will return

This creates a problem:

- What about when the NT says things like: "**No man knows... like a thief in the night...**"?
 - There are 49 such verses in the NT
 - E.g. **Luke 12:35-40** (keep finger in **Rev 19**)
 - Jesus seemed to **BOTH**:
 - a. Give us a clear chronology that includes preceding signs (E.g. **Matthew 24**)
 - b. And say that He is coming at an unexpected time (E.g. **Luke 12**)

- It is **BOTH**
 - a. Proceeded by discernable signs
 - b. And it is imminent
 - Imminent = About to happen; may occur at anytime
 - The **Doctrine of Imminency**

Problem: Why in the NT do we see a Second Coming that is preceded by clear events and signs, **and** are told that Jesus may come at any moment?

See: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

1 Corinthians 15:51-51 (NASB)

51 Behold, I tell you a **mystery**; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed**.

These passages seem to speak of an event of a different nature than the proper Second Coming

- Something that Paul expected to occur in His lifetime (“we”)
- I.e. Imminent
- **The Rapture** (from “caught up” in *1 Thess. 4:17*) [*harpazo* in Greek; *raptus* in Latin]

A couple of key elements: (KEYNOTE: Please display **bolded** and underlined words just as they are below)

- The event described in **Revelation 19** is **a movement of Christ, from heaven to earth, with** those who are His, to establish His kingdom on earth
- The event mentioned in **1 Thessalonians 4** and **1 Corinthians 15** is **a movement from earth to heaven, of** Christ's people, to be with Him in heaven (Cf. *John 14:1-3*)

- = **2 unique events**

Contrasts between the Rapture and the Second Coming

Rapture	Second Coming
Translation of all believers	No translation at all
Translated believers go to Heaven	Translated believers return to Earth
Christ comes <u>for</u> His own	Christ comes <u>with</u> His own
Imminent	Preceded by definite signs

When?

- The **post-tribulation view** of the Rapture = They happen at the same time
 - Makes it hard to make sense of passages about an Imminent return
- The **pre-tribulation** and also the **pre-wrath view** of the Rapture = They happen at different times

(ILLUSTRATE)

- I think it is pre-trib. **Here is why** (in part):
 - Notice just a couple from things from **Revelation 19:5-8 (see)**
 - The church is represented as already present in heaven before the Return
 - Notice a couple of things from **1 Thessalonians**
 - **1:10 and 5:9 (see)**
 - Seems to point toward a Rapture **before the tribulation** or wrath (wrath of God on an unrepentant world)

We can debate that back and forth—but **the salient point is that there is a difference** between the Rapture and the Second Coming

- The **purpose of the Rapture** is to take the church out of the world and bring them to the Father's house
- The **purpose of the Second Coming** is to establish Christ's physical, visible kingdom on earth

Sometimes we condense them in our language—"Coming Again"

- But technically they differ
- There are **not** 2 Second Comings

So, to answer the question: When will the Second Coming of Christ take place?

- After the Great Tribulation (preceded by signs)
- First we can expect the Rapture of the Church (imminent)

3. What happens after the Second Coming?

See: **Revelation 20:1-6**

- The Millennial Kingdom
- This is what I am talking about when I say, "Jesus is coming back to establish His kingdom on earth."

3 Views on the Millennium

- **1. Pre-millennial**
 - The millennium is a literal 1,000 year reign after the Second Coming in which Jesus rules on earth physically and visibly
- **2. Post-Millennial**
 - The millennium precedes the Second Coming, and is a time in which the Gospel triumphs greatly and Jesus rules on earth not through his presence but through His church
- **3. A-millennial**
 - The millennium is a non-literal symbol of the present Church Age culminating in the return of Christ

(ILLUSTRATE)

See: **Revelation 20:11-15**

See: **Revelation 22:1-5**

(ILLUSTRATE)

So what?

- Hope (He is coming!)
- Sanctification (Live rightly in expectation!)
- Mission (Get going, time is limited!)

1 Peter 3:1-15^A (NLT)

- Christ's return involves judgment (no kingdom fullness without evil being dealt with)
 - He wants people to be saved (be on mission—preach the Gospel!)
 - = "hurrying it along"
 - Don't be fooling around with sin!
 - Live holy and godly lives (v. 11)
 - Peaceful, pure and blameless (v. 14)

What is coming is "a world filled with God's righteousness"

- What we are called to do, is show this present world, which is ruled by unrighteousness, what the glorious future looks like
- That they might come to their senses and repent