

## **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE LORD'S SECOND COMING?**

What does the Bible say about Jesus coming again? As to definite details, really very little. The FACT of His return is the theme of the teaching and preaching from Acts through the Revelation. Yet, there are few details given in this regard. The Lord, through inspired writers tells us a little of the HOW of His return: in a moment, a twinkling of an eye, a trumpet will sound and there will be a shout at which instant every eye will see Him, even those who crucified Him. How can that be? Those people have been dead for nearly two thousand years! Jesus told us not to marvel or be amazed nor confounded about this, for after all, on the last day (John 6:44) which is THE day of the Lord (I Thessalonians 5:2), and in one hour of that day (John 5:28) ALL who are in the grave will hear His voice AND SHALL COME FORTH!

Perhaps one of the most futile exercises in regard to the Lord's coming is when people try to guess the WHEN of His return. Of all the questions ever asked of the Lord, this was the only one to which He (at the time), did not know the answer. That is, "When are you coming back, Lord?" His answer comes from Matthew 24:36. He said, 1-no man knows; 2-the angels do not know; 3-the Son does not even know . . . only the Father knows when He will send the Son to herald the end of the world.

For centuries men have tried to figure out when Jesus would come back by looking to signs and prophecies, but all in vain. One cult in particular (who fancies themselves to be witnesses for God), have predicted the end of the world and the return of Christ more than seventy times in the last hundred years or so. Finally tired of embarrassing themselves, they have come up with a new twist: Jesus came secretly, invisibly in 1914. If they are correct (??) then the inspired Apostle John lied or was not so inspired when he said that every eye shall see Him. We ought to choose to believe John, not false teachers and guessers.

That brings us to Matthew 24 and all the theories about what that chapter is teaching. Most, if not all of the so-called 'fundamentalist' groups get Matthew 24 so confused with Christ's return that they must redefine most of the Bible prophecies of the Old Testament and force them to fit into a fabricated prediction of the events of His coming. They try to explain something that Jesus Himself did not even try to explain. The ONLY thing that Jesus said in regard to His coming was that it would be like in the days of Noah, v.37-39. What did He mean? Simply--everything would be going on in an everyday, normal fashion. No signs, no warnings, no

outstanding world events, no hint of His coming. It would be as a thief in the night, v.43. Something no one expects, but that all should be aware of and prepared for! That is why twice He said, "Watch therefore . . . be ready!"

Perhaps the most abused section that is misconstrued to be a part of the final coming at the end of the world, is v.29-31. These seem to speak of Christ and His appearing in the sky and awful things happening to the moon and sun and hosts of angelic beings gathering the saints to take them to Heaven. But notice, Jesus does not say He appears, but the SIGN does. What is the sign and what does it signify? The sign is seen on earth, in Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple, marking the end of Judaism forever! It signifies a judgment has come from the Son of Man who is in Heaven. Also note that this is highly symbolic language. In fact, Jesus is quoting from at least three sources in the Old Testament, each referring to judgment upon a particular nation...a judgment bringing destruction. This, with the Son of Man riding upon clouds ALWAYS points to the Lord's coming IN JUDGMENT! Not a literal, personal appearance, but the appearance of His judgment upon a sinful, disobedient nation.

Surely, this is what Jesus had in mind here also. What judgment? Judgment upon Judaism for rejecting the Messiah. What destruction? That of Jerusalem and the Temple. This is why He said what He did in v.34, indicating the "when" of His coming judgment, "this generation" . . . sometime in the first century--70 A.D. to be exact.

The most important point that the Lord wanted to make to his disciples is the one found in verses 42 & 44. This is the same point of His great commission: BE READY! There will be no signs or warnings, He will just appear one day.

What else does the Bible teach regarding His coming, and what He is doing even now, before He comes again? Does the Bible teach that Jesus would sit on the throne of his father David? Yes. Does the Bible tell us when Jesus would begin His reign on that throne? Yes. Does the Bible tell us when His reign will end? Yes. Does the Bible teach us that any of this is to take place upon the earth? Not at all! Let us examine the evidence for the answers to these three questions.

First, the Bible clearly shows the Lord upon the throne of His father David. The prophet Isaiah wrote: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,*

*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6). Clearly Jesus would sit upon the throne and establish the kingdom. Jeremiah made a similar prophecy in his book, chapter 23.5,6. The apostle Peter, in his Gospel sermon recorded in Acts chapter two, said that David prophesied of this event in the sixteenth psalm. Then Peter said "Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set [one] upon his throne" (Acts 2:29-30).*

Second question: When was all this to happen? We are not left to wonder about the time of this occurrence. If the Bible did not teach us, we might well conclude that Jesus was to sit upon this throne at His second coming. But what saith the Scriptures? Peter continues right on in Acts two and says *"he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:31,32).* Peter makes the application of David's prophecy about Christ, and points to the time of the resurrection and ascension into Heaven as the time that Christ would sit upon David's throne. Since He was raised and did go back into Heaven, we can only conclude that Jesus now sits upon the throne of His father David.

Last question: When will Jesus cease to sit on this throne? Paul gives us the answer: *"Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet" (1 Corinthians 15:24-25).* If He must reign "till" the end, He must be reigning even now. And He is! Jesus is king and He reigns over all. The only exception to His authority is of course, His Father, our God Almighty in Heaven. When the end comes, He will give over His reign to His (and our) Father in eternity.

**Let me encourage you to do service to the King, Jesus.**

# RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

November 22, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

**Weekly Item Needed: Lysol Spray**

**Wednesday's Wisdom:**

*"Live righteously: God will repay!" Robin Haley*

**We are saddened** by the news of brother Hubert's brother-in-law's passing. Pray for comfort for this family.

**Sister Dana** had eye surgery last Thursday. Pray for her quick recovery.

**Question/Answer** night is next Sunday. Still need questions in the box.

**Singing night** is tonight. Bring your favorite song title and your voice as we worship God in this avenue.

**Please pick up** a copy of the men's meeting notes and financial report. Also, read the letter from brother Dennis Sargent, posted in the foyer.