

Essentials

The Second Coming of Jesus

Today, I am continuing our series called, “Essentials”.

ONE THING

The return of Jesus is the divine PROMISE of GOD and the blessed HOPE of the CHURCH.

1. The REALITY of the Second Coming

Acts 1:9–11 (ESV) — And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Jesus’ ascension into heaven was an event where Jesus was standing among His disciples. As He was standing with them His body was LIFTED UP from them...

Jesus didn’t vanish...

Jesus didn’t disappear...

Jesus didn’t simply go away...

This verse tells us that He was LIFTED UP into the clouds!

- ***BODILY!***

Mark 16:19 (ESV) — So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

This uses the same word for Jesus being “lifted up”

The reason I am pointing this out is because of verse 11...

Acts 1:11b (ESV) — This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Just as Jesus was bodily lifted up into heaven, He will return bodily from heaven back to earth!

His bodily return will not be done in secret for only a few or for only the believers...

Revelation 1:7 (ESV) — Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Evangelicals agree on this...

Jesus’ return will be physical, universally seen by all people, and triumphant!

The return of Jesus is the divine promise of God and the blessed hope of the Church.

1. The REALITY of the Second Coming

2. The **REQUIREMENTS** for the **Second Coming**

What are the requirements, if any, that must occur before Jesus' return?

Some would say that there are no requirements because Jesus can return at any moment...

Matthew 24:42–44 (ESV) — Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 25:13 (ESV) — Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Mark 13:32–33 (ESV) — But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

Luke 12:40 (ESV) — You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

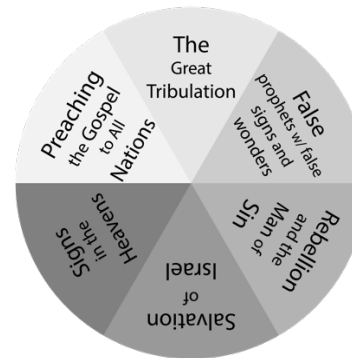
The Scripture also teaches there are certain events that must happen before Christ's return

→ **Pic 1**



Matthew 24:14 (ESV) — And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

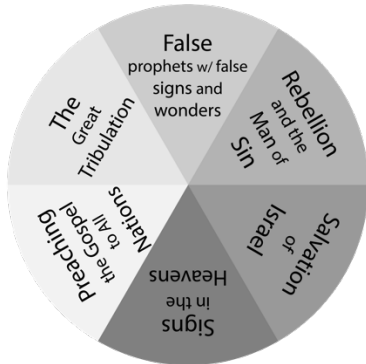
→ **Pic 2**



Matthew 24:21–22 (ESV) — For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

This is the only place the phrase, “great tribulation” is found. However, the description of this tribulation makes it appear to be worse than anything anyone has ever seen.

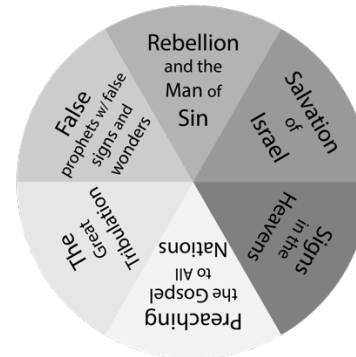
→ **Pic 3**



Mark 13:22 (ESV) — For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

Notice that it is not simply false christs and prophets, but those who will perform SIGNS & WONDERS

→ **Pic 4**



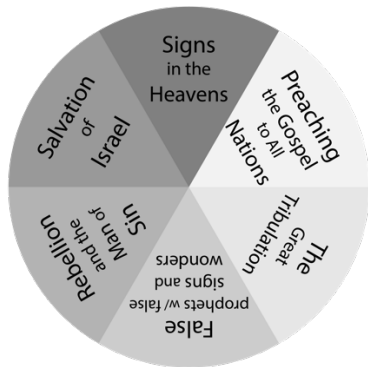
2 Thessalonians 2:1–10 (ESV) — Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

This Man of Sin referred to here is also referred to as the Antichrist in Revelation...

→ **Pic 5**

Romans 11:25–26 (ESV) — Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved

The Scriptures also teach a great revival among the Jewish people prior to Jesus' return...

→ **Pic 6**

Matthew 24:29–30 (ESV) — 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 heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

So, what do we do with this?

Which is it?

Can Jesus return at any time or do certain events need to take place before He returns?

To begin to find some resolution to this we will move to our third point...

The return of Jesus is the divine promise of God and the blessed hope of the Church.

1. The REALITY of the Second Coming

2. The REQUIREMENTS for the Second Coming

3. The RELEVANCE of the Second Coming

Here is the question we must each face today...

Does the second coming of Christ have any relevance for my life this week?

Some might be tempted to say that it doesn't really matter because Christians have been talking about this for almost two thousand years and nothing has happened...

The Apostle Peter addressed this in the first century church...

False teachers were moving away from the return of Jesus as holding any value...

2 Peter 3:1b–4 (ESV) — I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

Peter then makes this statement...

2 Peter 3:8–10 (ESV) — But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Rather than denying the reality of the Second Coming of Jesus or living as though it is of no real importance to us individually there is another way...

- **Our God has designed a beautiful prophetic TIMETABLE to function in such a way that His**

people are always OBSERVING the signs and AWAITING Christ’s return.

→ **Pic 1**



Like waves of the sea we have seen five of these six preceding signs crashing upon the shores of Church history leading each generation to become alerted to Christ’s imminent return...

→ **Throughout Church History...**

Preaching the Gospel to all nations...

Colossians 1:5b–6a (ESV) — ... Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing...

Throughout Church history this drive to take the gospel to all nations has been a priority

The Great Tribulation...

When Jerusalem was taken siege by the Romans and then destroyed in 70AD, many Christians believed this to be the great tribulation before Christ's return...

Again, the persecution of Christians has been going on for centuries...

In fact, over half of the Christians that have been martyred in the past 2000 years have been killed in the past 125 years!

Through the former Soviet Union, communist China, and in Muslim countries Christians have undergone horrible persecution...

You would be hard pressed to make any of them believe they were not living in the Great Tribulation...

False Prophets...

Since the early church there have been false teachers and false prophets deceiving the Church.

1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) — Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared

Rebellion and the Man of Sin...

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) — But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless,

unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

The early church saw the Roman emperors Nero and Domitian as the possible Antichrist...

During the Reformation, the Catholic church was persecuting so many reformers that many of the protestants believed the Pope to be the Antichrist...

In the 20th Century most Christians throughout the world were convinced Hitler was the Antichrist...

Christians in Russia were convinced Joseph Stalin was the Antichrist...

The Great Reset

We currently are living in what is being called, The Great Reset...

Outside the Western culture there is currently one of the greatest evangelizations going in history...

- **China, Iran, India, etc...**

Where persecution abounds against Christianity there seems to be a great awakening happening...

In the Western culture there is an unprecedented number of false prophets promoting a false gospel, another Jesus, and another spirit...

Rebellion is at an all time high...

In Israel there is a great revival happening!

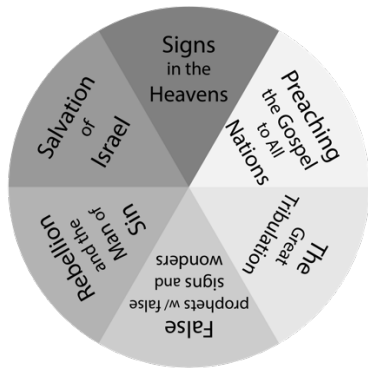
More Jewish people are coming to Christ than ever before!

The reality is this...

We are living in a time in which all but one of the signs are at an all time high...

Luke 21:28 (ESV) — Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

→ Pic 6



This FINAL sign, when it occurs, Jesus WILL RETURN!

So, what must be our resolve...

The degree to which we actually long for Christ's return is a measure of the spiritual condition of our own lives at the moment. (Wayne Grudem)

The return of Jesus is the divine promise of God and the blessed hope of the Church.

1. The REALITY of the Second Coming

2. The REQUIREMENTS for the Second Coming

3. The RELEVANCE of the Second Coming

4. The RESPONSIBILITY in the Second Coming

➤ ***Stay AWAKE!***

Matthew 24:42 (ESV) — Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

➤ ***Stay ALERT!***

Matthew 25:13 (ESV) — Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Luke 12:40 (ESV) — You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

➤ ***Stay ACTIVE!***

Titus 2:11–13 (ESV) — For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

November 13, 2022

Crossgates AM Worship

David Jett

***waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of
our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,***

Essentials
The Second Coming of Jesus

The return of Jesus is the divine _____ of _____ and the blessed _____ of the _____.

1. The _____ of the Second Coming

2. The _____ for the Second Coming

3. The _____ of the Second Coming

- Our God has designed a prophetic _____ in such a way that His people are always _____ the signs and _____ Christ's return.

4. The _____ in the Second Coming

- Stay _____!
- Stay _____!
- Stay _____!

Signs Preceding
the Second Coming of Jesus

