

# Christology

Bible Institute at Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2021

## Christ: His Future Ministries

### The Rapture (The Conclusion of the Dispensation of Grace)

- *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."* - Titus 2:13
  - The believer ought to be confidently and jubilantly expecting the return of Christ for the Church at the end of the Dispensation
- *"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."* - 1 Th. 1:10
  - The Rapture will be a gracious deliverance from "the wrath" which will be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth during the Tribulation (the conclusion of the Dispensation of Law)
- *"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* - 1 Th. 4:17
  - Believers in Christ, both living and dead, will be snatched up from this earth to meet Christ in the clouds
  - Believers in Christ will be forever with the Lord

### The Bema Seat (Judgment Seat)

- *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."* - 1 Cor. 3:10-14
  - The believers works will be judged, not sin
  - Those works which are judged as having eternal value will be rewarded and those which are worthless will be graciously incinerated
- The Judgment Seat is necessary so that Christ might make us presentable before our presentation to the Father
  - *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it would be holy and without blemish."* - Eph. 5:27
  - *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"* - Jude 24
  - Provides motivation to the believer in Christ to live a life pleasing to God but by making use of the salvation that He has provided us (lay hold on eternal life)
- *"Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worth in me mightily."* - Col. 1:29
- *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."* - 1 Cor. 15:8
  - In recognition that He is the only reason the Church can do anything of any eternal value, all believers will cast their victor's crowns (*Stephanos*) at the throne of God (Rev. 4:4, 10-11)

### The Tribulation (Daniel's 70th week - The Conclusion of the Dispensation of Law)

- It is a 7 year period of testing for the nation of Israel which will result in utter failure
- Israel's final judgment leading to righteousness (Daniel 9:24)
- Beginning: Man of lawlessness (Anti-Christ) makes 7 year pact with Israel (Daniel 9:26-27; 2 Th. 2:3), The Lamb begins opening the seven seals in heaven (Rev. 6:1)
  - 1st 3 1/2 years - Seven Seals

- 2nd 3 1/2 years - Seven trumpets and seven bowls
- God pouring out His wrath upon the inhabitants of the earth at this time
- The conclusion of the trumpet judgments results in the “*kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ*” being restored to the King (Rev. 11:15)
  - Christ returns to earth in triumphant conquering fashion (stark contrast to His first stay on earth)
  - Christ the conquering King will vanquish the enemies of Israel (Isa. 63:1-4)

### **The Millennial Kingdom (The Dispensation of the Fulness of Times)**

- A time of incredible prosperity, peace, and abundance of provision (Joel 3:18; Zephaniah 3:14-18)
- Christ will rule over all the earth (Zech. 14:9)
- Judgment precedes the establishment of the Kingdom (works demonstrate whether they were believers or not)
  - Israel - Matt. 25 - which Jews were prepared for His coming
  - Gentiles - Matt. 25:34-46 - how did they treat the Jews during the Tribulation
- OT saints will be resurrected and they will receive their promised eternal life (Ezk. 37:1-14)
  - David to be resurrected and he will rule as Christ’s proxy on earth (Ezk. 37:24, 25)
- Millennial Kingdom (fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant) will endure for 1,000 years
  - Satan bound
  - Today, roaming to and fro over the earth seeking whom he may devour
- Christ’s reign
  - No world system (destroyed during the Tribulation)
  - He rules completely (Isa. 9:6)
  - His rule will be done with an iron fist (Psa. 2:6-9)
    - No war (Isa. 2:4); no violence (Isa. 11:6-9); disputes settled (Isa. 2:4); peace reigns (Isa. 9:6, 7)
    - The Millennial Law will be sent out from Zion (Isa. 2:3) - people know what is expected of them in the Kingdom
    - New Covenant with Israel (Jer. 31:31-34) - “*New Heart*” makes it possible for the saved to live in obedience to Christ’s Millennial law
    - Gentiles will come to J’lem seeking help and assistance from Christ (Zech. 8:20-23)
      - Attendance at certain feasts in J’lem will be required of the nations (Zech. 14:16)
      - Failure to attend will result in judgment (Zech. 14:17-19)
    - The Church (his Bride) has been granted the right and privilege to rule and reign with Him on His throne (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21)
  - The Millennial Kingdom will conclude when Satan is unbound and released at the end of the 1,000 years (Rev. 20:7-9)
    - All those originally entering the Kingdom were saved but the children of that group still possess a sin nature and most be saved
    - Satan convinces a large group of these unbelievers, who had enjoyed the physical blessings of the Kingdom for many years, to side with him in a rebellion against Christ (Rev. 20:9-10)
    - The Millennial Kingdom will come to conclusion with the destruction of the physical universe (Rev. 20:11; 2 Pe. 3:10) - “*...in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*”
  - Following the thwarting of Satan’s rebellion, Christ will judge the unsaved dead from all time (Rev. 20:11-14)
    - According to their works - it would appear that there are levels of torment in lake of fire based on one’s life
    - All unbelievers will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15) with Satan and Hell itself

### **The Day of God (2 Pe. 3:12)**

- “In the day of God, the Trinity will equally reign and act again as they did in eternity which is past.” - Hoelscher, *The Son*
- It would seem that the end of the Millennial Kingdom usher in a change in the nature of the relationship of the Three persons of the Trinity
- In future ages God will continue to demonstrate (to point out) His kindness to believers (Eph. 2:7)
  - *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*
- In the ages to come, God will continue to demonstrate His glory in the Church (Eph. 3:21)
  - God has only just begun to shew forth his wonderful character in the Church