

Sunday, August 6, 2023
SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
PART 3: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN JESUS RETURNS?

For the last couple of weeks, we have been talking about the Second Coming of Christ. First, we looked at the scriptural evidence that speaks of Jesus' second coming. Then, we answered the question: "Why is Jesus coming again?" After that, we studied the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming. Today, we look at the actual Second Coming itself.

You may remember that when speaking of the Rapture, there are no prophetic events that must take place before it occurs. In other words, the rapture could happen at any time. But the Second Coming is another story. There are events that must take place before Jesus comes again. The book of Revelation gives the most explicit chronology of events proceeding the Second Coming. Before we go there, let's take a look at a couple of other scriptures beginning with the words of Jesus Himself.

Matthew 24:14-30 (NKJV)

Events preceding the Second Coming:

1. Rapture of the church.
2. Gospel preached in all the world.
3. The appearance of the "abomination of desolation."
4. Great tribulation like never experienced.
5. False Christ's and false prophets doing signs and wonders. Antichrist and false prophet.
6. Great signs in the heavens.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (NKJV)

Further explanation:

1. A great falling away from the faith occurs.
2. The "restrainer" is removed. Rapture?
3. The "man of sin" is revealed who opposes God by calling himself God, performing signs and lying wonders, accepting worship, and appearing in the temple of God. Abomination of desolation.

To get a broader picture of Tribulation events preceding the Second Coming, one must study the book of Revelation. What happens when the Second Coming occurs?

Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)

Jesus appears with you and me. The remaining Jews turn to Jesus. He destroys the armies led by the Antichrist gathered in the Valley of Armageddon. The Antichrist and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. Satan is locked away in the bottomless pit for 1000 years. Those who were martyred for Christ during the Tribulation are resurrected. Jesus rules from Jerusalem with the righteous serving as judges over the earth.

After 1000 years, Satan is released. He manages to incite a rebellion among many. They attack Jerusalem with an army. Fire falls from the sky and destroys the rebellious. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. The Great White Throne judgment begins. Everyone – living or dead without Jesus as Lord are cast into the lake of fire. A new heaven and new earth are created with a new Jerusalem. The environment is lavish and peaceful with the presence of God in the city. Death, sorrow, crying, and pain all vanish away. We shall live thus with the Lord forever.

Today's Scriptures:

- Matthew 24:14-30 (NKJV)
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (NKJV)
- Revelation 19:11-16 (NKJV)