

## Christology Lesson 16

### **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**

*John 14:1-3 II Thessalonians 1:5-12; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16; 22:7, 12, 20*

#### 1. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

A. **GIVEN** by Jesus Christ Himself - *John 14:3, Rev. 1:7, Rev. 22:7, 12, 20*

1. Clearly proclaimed in the Bible. This is not a doctrine that is a bit blurry or that Christians should disagree.
2. Be ready, be expectant and be excited we are to take comfort.  
*Matt 24:44; 1 Thess. 4: 15; Rev 22:20,*
3. No one knows the day or the hour. *Matt. 24:36*
4. There will be “great tribulation” *Matt 24:21,29, Dan 12:1 Rev 5-19,*

B. **GUARANTEED** by the two men in white apparel - *Acts 1:9-11*

C. **GROUNDED** in the predictions of the apostles who wrote the New Testament:

1. Paul - I Thess. 4:16-17

A. Referred to as the “Rapture” passage

B. The word “Rapturo” is a transliteration of the Latin for the word in Greek for “caught up”.

C. “*We who are alive*” shows that Paul shared in this expectancy.

D. “*With a shout, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God.*”

I. Trumpets sounded gathers together an assembly of God’s people in the O.T. *Numbers 10:2, Lev. 23:24*

2. Peter - I Peter 1:6-8; II Peter 3:1-13

3. James - James 5:7-8

4. John - I John 3:1-3

5. Matthew - Matthew 24:29-30

6. Mark - Mark 13:26

7. Luke - 21:27-28

2A. THE PROBLEM OF HIS COMING AS IT RELATES TO TIME AND PLACE....To be continued next class☺

#### **DIFFERENT VIEWS ON FUTURISTIC END TIMES**

**Pre-Tribulationists:** Believe that all Christians (dead and alive) will be taken bodily up to heaven (called the Rapture) before a literal 7 year tribulation begins. According to this belief, every true Christian that has ever existed throughout the course of the entire Christian era will be instantaneously transformed into a perfect resurrected body, and will thus escape the trials of the Tribulation. Those who become Christians after the rapture will live through (or perish during) the Tribulation. After the Tribulation, Christ will return to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

**Pre-Wrath Tribulationists:** Believe the Rapture will occur during the tribulation, halfway through or after, but before the seven bowls of the wrath of God.

**Mid-Tribulationists:** Believe that the Rapture will occur halfway through the Tribulation, but before the worst part of it occurs. The seven year period is divided into halves- the “beginning of sorrows” and the “great tribulation”

**Post-Tribulationists:** Believe that Christians will not be taken up into Heaven, but will be received or gathered by Christ into the Kingdom of God on earth at the end of the Tribulation. “immediately after the tribulation...then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man [Jesus]... and he shall gather his elect: (Matthew 24: 29-31; Mark 13: 24-27; Luke 21: 25-27). Post-tribulationists argue that the seventh trumpet mentioned in Revelation is also the last trumpet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:52, and that there is a strong correlation between the events mentioned in Isaiah 27:13, Matthew 24:29-31 and 1 Thessalonians 4: 16- thus creating a strong parallel, proving that the rapture occurs after the tribulation. Therefore, Posttribulationists see the rapture happening during the seventh trumpet, which would only mean that the rapture can never happen before the tribulation.

### **APPROACHES TO PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION**

**Preterism:** (from the Latin *praeteritus*, meaning "gone by") is an approach which sees prophecy as chiefly being fulfilled in the past, especially (in the case of the Book of Revelation) during the first century. Prophecies in general, therefore, have already been fulfilled. Revelation, for example, may be seen as referring to the major players and events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70 AD, or the struggle of Christianity to survive the persecutions of the Roman Empire, as many other interpretations are considered. There are two major views within preterism, Partial Preterism and Full Preterism.

**Historicism:** says that Biblical prophecies provide us with a broad view of history, as well as an explanation of the religious significance of historical events. Historicists attempt to identify prophetic passages with major events in history.

**Futurism:** in futurism parallels may be drawn with historical events, but most eschatological prophecies are chiefly referring to events which have not been fulfilled, but will take place at the end of the age and the end of the world. Most prophecies will be fulfilled during a global time of chaos known as the Great Tribulation and afterwards.

**Idealism:** In Idealism, also known as "spiritual" or "symbolic, the events described in prophecy are neither past, present, nor future, but are representative of larger ideals and principles. Eschatological prophecy deals with the ongoing struggle between the forces of light and darkness, and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. Its message is purely a spiritual one, an allegory of the spiritual path, which is equally relevant in all ages and for all people.

**Post-millennialism:** Is the theory that the coming of Christ is to follow the setting up of a man-made millennium. It is the belief that the present gospel agencies will bring a righteous reign.

**Amillennialism:** The word means no millennium. The theory that whatever this system of interpretation, in one form or another, seeks to spiritualize the thousand year period and to take away its unique character in connection with the nation Israel.

**PreMillennialism-** Asserts that Christ will come before the Millenium and will bring in a thousand year righteous reign by His own power and strength.