

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*

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The Second Coming of Christ

- Introduction
 - In both the O.T. and N.T. the importance of the coming of Christ to establish His kingdom is set forth in many passages.
 - The Second Coming of Christ, along with the Millennial Kingdom which follows, is a very important theme of Scripture as it represents the final chapter of human history before the eternal state on the New Heavens and New Earth.
 - The faithfulness of God is better understood when we see how the covenants with Abraham, David and Israel are fulfilled when Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, returns and rules on the throne of David in Jerusalem.
- The O.T. Prophecies of the Second Coming
 - The Rapture of the Church is never mentioned in the O.T. (the Church itself was a mystery until revealed in the N.T.), the Second Coming of Christ is embedded in many O.T. passages.
 - In Psalm 2, the return of Christ is prophesied (v 6) along with His victory over the kings in rebellion (vv 2-3 cf. v 9).
 - As we will see in our study of the Millennial Kingdom, Psalm 72 describes Christ as having come to the Earth to reign over all the nations.
 - Psalm 96:13 foretells the coming of the Lord to judge the world in righteousness.
 - Psalm 110 predicts that Christ will rule in the midst of His enemies from Zion (vv 2, 6).
 - Isa 9:6-7 portrays Christ ruling over His kingdom on the throne of David (which resides on the Earth in Jerusalem).
 - Dan 7:13-14 describes the Son of Man coming from heaven to receive dominion, glory and an everlasting kingdom.
 - Zech 2:10-12 instructs Israel to rejoice because the Lord will be coming to dwell in their midst and rule from Jerusalem.
 - Zech 8:3-8 describes the return of Christ (v 3), His gathering of Israel (vv 7-8) and the restoration of Jerusalem (vv 4-5).
 - Zech 14:1-14 gives a dramatic description of Christ's coming to rule as King over all the Earth (v 9) wherein the Mount of Olives will be literally split in two (v 4) – an event which has not yet occurred.
 - ✦ Those who attempt to say that this was fulfilled at Pentecost or when the Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70 A.D. cannot explain the fact that the Mount of Olives remains intact to this day.
 - ✦ When Christ returns and His feet touch the Mount of Olives, the topography of the area around Jerusalem will be changed (v 10) to facilitate events at the end of the Tribulation (v 5) and in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.

- The N.T. Prophecies of the Second Coming
 - In the O.T. prophecies concerning the first and Second Coming of Christ were often mingled and prophets had difficulty distinguishing the two events (1 Pet 1:10-11).
 - Today we are in between the two advents and can see which prophecies were fulfilled in Christ's first advent and which ones are yet to be fulfilled.
 - However, because the mystery of the Church and her being taken up at the Rapture has been revealed, the N.T. language describing Christ coming *for* His saints and Christ coming *with* His saints is very similar and can lead to confusion.
 - Therefore, it becomes necessary to examine the context of each N.T. passage to determine if the "coming" is a reference to the Rapture of the Second Advent of Christ.
 - Many N.T. passages refer to the Second Coming of Christ (Matt 19:28; 24:3 – 25:46; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:22-37; 18:8; 21:25-28; Acts 1:10-11; 15:16-18; Rom 11:25-27; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Jude 14-15; Rev 1:7-8; 16:15; 19:11-21; 22:20).
 - A study of these passages makes it clear that this is a future, personal return of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:11; Rev 19:11-16) to rule over the earth from David's throne in Jerusalem.
 - Combining these N.T. passages with O.T. revelation, we understand that it will be a bodily return (Zech 14:4; Acts 1:11).
 - While the Rapture of the Church will be seen by all believers, the Second Advent of Christ will be seen by everyone (Rev 1:7).
 - At the Rapture event, Christ comes *for* His saints, but at the Second Advent He comes *with* an army of angels (Matt 25:31) and His saints prepared for war (Rev 19:14-15).
 - Christ comes at the Rapture to rescue His Church from the world, but when Christ comes at the Second Advent He will judge the Gentiles (Matt 25:31-46) and Israel (Ezek 20:35-38).
 - These judgments are only one part of the process of judgment which Christ will execute upon His Second Coming.
 - ✦ The Church will have been judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10) after it has been taken up at the Rapture and prior to His Second Coming.
 - ✦ The saints who die during the Tribulation will be judged and raised prior to the Millennium (Rev 20:4) and all unbelievers and the saints who die during the Millennium will be raised to face judgment at the Great White Throne (Rev 20:11-12).
 - ✦ The universe, which remains under the curse of the fall of Adam, will be judged at the end of the Millennial Kingdom when it is completely destroyed by fire (2 Pet 3:10-12).
 - While Christ comes to judge the world, He also ushers in a time of spiritual revival as described in Rom 11:26-27 and is promised to Israel in the New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34).
 - Christ also comes to gather Israel, never to be scattered again (Amos 9:14-15), and restore the kingdom and throne of David who will be raised as their prince (Ezek 37:24-28).
 - Christ's return at the Second Advent also serves to rescue the Tribulational saints who would not be able to survive unless He cuts those days short (Matt 24:22).
 - All of these things serve to prepare the world for His kingdom.