

Jesus Returns to Planet Earth (His Second Coming)

Introduction

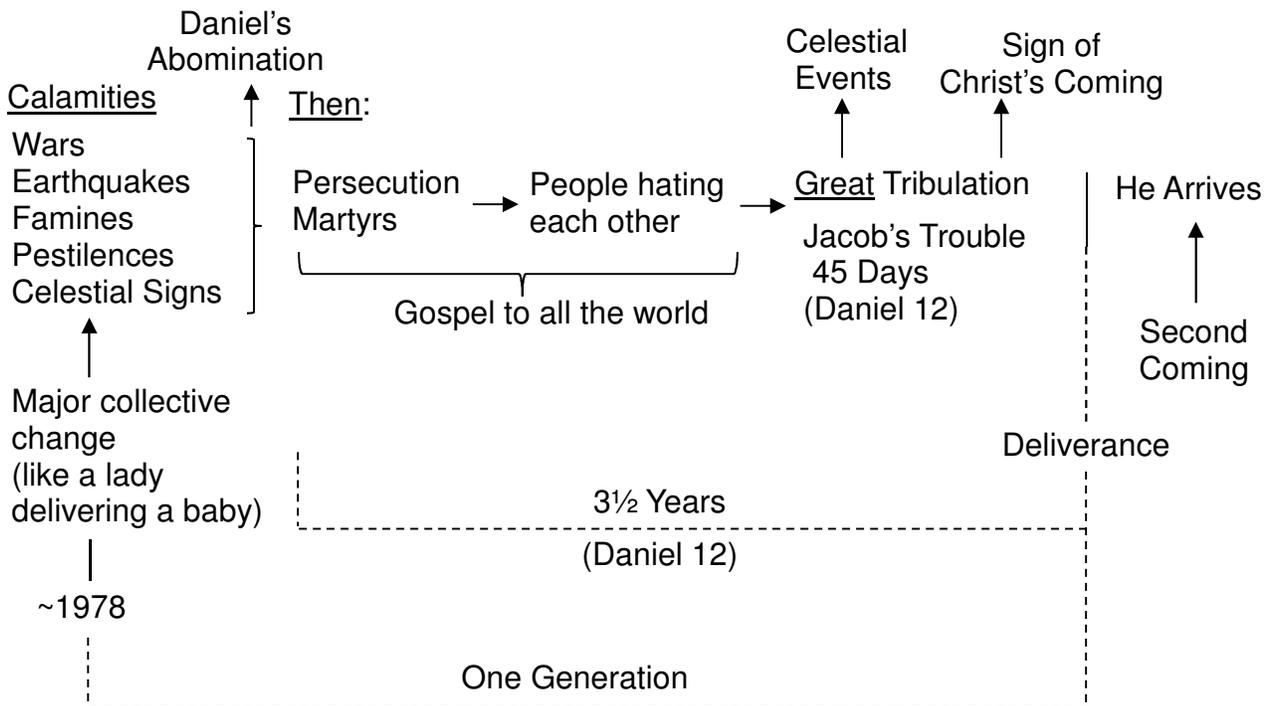
When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised a Savior – a way to escape eternal loss and death (Genesis 3:15).

- Jesus came (first Advent) – died – rose – ascended. Consequently:
- A point in time would come when sin and sinners would be no more. A pulse of harmony would ring throughout the universe that had not been experienced for untold millenniums. That will end the great conflict of the ages – the war between good and evil – Christ and Satan.

At His ascension to heaven, two angels told the disciples that He would come again in the manner He ascended (Acts 1:11 – read). How did He ascend? In a cloud.

Last time we studied the events surrounding the end of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) and a dual, companion prophecy – the end of which relates to Christ’s Second Coming (happening soon).

Jesus gave this “template” or outline of how the **end comes** (Matthew 24:7-31; cf. Mark 13, Luke 21) when He returns the second time (a review):



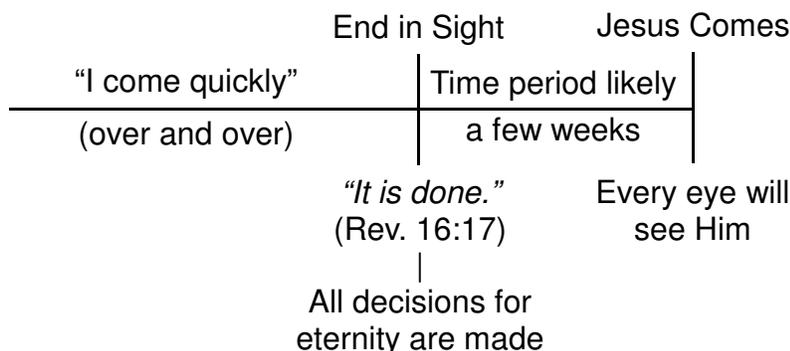
Most other end-time Bible prophecies fit within this “template” or diagram!

Important questions!

- Is He coming to set up His kingdom here on earth?
- Is He coming again to take us to heaven?
- Is He coming again to destroy all the wicked by fire?

There’s a very important series of **texts in Revelation**, much of which Jesus personally gave to John, that begins our answers:

- “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7). That means a special resurrection (Daniel 12:2).
- “Behold, **I come as a thief**” (to those who aren’t watching) (3:3).
- “Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (3:11). (Crown of victory)
- “God shall **wipe away all tears** from their eyes” (7:17c).
- Later, heaven is described. In summation, Jesus finally says:
 - “Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Revelation 22:7).
 - “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still” (22:11) (**decisions are final**).
 - “Behold, **I come quickly**” (22:12a).
 - “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely **I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (22:20).



What does He come quickly in relationship to? It was 2000 years ago when John wrote that!

- When the end-time prophecies in the book of Revelation begin to be fulfilled –
- Jesus had already told the disciples, “*And when these things **begin to come to pass**, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*” (Luke 21:28).
- At His coming all final decisions will have been made for eternity. There won’t be a second chance.

He is coming again – but how and in what way? What should we expect?

Let’s begin:

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you**. And **if I go** [Did He go – ascend?] and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:1-3).

Questions:

1. Where is the Father’s house?
 - Heaven – “*Our Father which art in heaven*” (Matthew 6:9 – part of the Lord’s prayer).
2. Where did Jesus go when He ascended?
 - Heaven – “*Passed into the heavens*” (Hebrews 4:14).
3. He’s going to prepare a place for us in heaven where there are many mansions. Then He comes to receive you/us. **What does that mean?**
 - Evidence suggests to take us to that heavenly place.
 - But isn’t He going to set up His kingdom here for one thousand years? Or even seven years? That idea of an earthly kingdom came ~1545 from a Jesuit priest, Francisco Ribera.
 - Jesus had already said, “**My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence**” (John 18:36).

Have you ever thought that there might be a time when sin and heartache will be banished from the universe? Have you ever wondered when that might be?

- We just noted that all decisions will be complete when He comes.
- Then, there will be only two groups in the world: (1) Christ’s loyalists and (2) Satan’s loyalists.

Have you ever wondered when everything will be complete – at peace – with eternal joy?

- “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).
- **After** a new heaven (sky) and earth are remade.

That Second Coming Prophecy – Moving Deeper

Important text to review:

“Immediately **after** the **tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And **then** shall appear the **sign of the Son of man** in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the **clouds of heaven** with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30).

- Jesus comes after the tribulation – “post-trib” (so much debate over this).
- The Bible is so clear.

Then Jesus said:

“For as the lightning cometh out of the **east**, and shineth even unto the **west**; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:27).

- **That’s dramatic!** Jesus will arrive on massive “clouds.”
- The direction of “east” means **deliverance** in prophecy!
- Jesus will come to deliver us from planet earth.



This is incredible and ties with the verse we just read:

“Behold, he cometh **with clouds**; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).

That Gives Us a Sign (One of the questions the disciples had asked Jesus.)

“And **then** shall appear the **sign** of the Son of man in heaven: and **then** shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the **clouds of heaven** with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

- “**Then**” means in the sequence Jesus gave in that prophecy (noted on page 1).

- “Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (scholars believe angels) (Matthew 26:64).



- The sign that he is arriving is seeing a **cloud** in the distance.
 - Clearly – as it gets closer –
 - It becomes the glorious coming of Jesus!
- Notice that many on earth aren't happy (wicked are mourning – Matthew 24:30).
*“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us **from the face of him that sitteth on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb”* (His glory) (Revelation 6:16).

What is all this saying? His coming will be visible, dramatic and will affect everyone on planet earth – the good and the bad.

If those who “pierced him” are there – where did they come from?

- “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).
- Though “glossed over” by much of the Christian world, there is a resurrection of some of the wicked **before** he arrives! **They were all associated with His crucifixion.**
- Many call this a “special resurrection.”

*“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be **preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and **then** shall the end come”* (Matthew 24:14). That is **when** He comes.

1. What is the gospel?

- Good news – we can be saved from death, sin and this world.
- Good news – it's the end of sin.
 - “He that **believeth** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that **believeth** not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).
 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believeth** on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47).
- The word “**believeth**” is a **verb** – there are conditions. We have to please Him.

2. ***When the gospel finishes going to the world, the tribulation is ended and all decisions are made for eternity – then He comes!*** He judges based on who “believes” or acts by copying him.

There is something else we really need to look at more carefully before we go on:

When He comes, who is with Him?

- “*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and **all** the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory*” (Matthew 25:31).
- When is our eternal reward given?
“*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father **with his angels**; and **then he shall reward every man** according to his works*” (how much we copied Jesus) (Matthew 16:27).
- That’s when the reward is given.

But you may protest: “That’s not what I’ve believed!”

- “He’s coming to planet earth to set up His kingdom for one thousand years.”
- “Jerusalem will be His headquarters.” Again, we visit this issue.
- Isn’t that what the Protestant and Catholic worlds believe?

THAT is exactly what the disciples and the Jewish people expected in Christ’s day also!

They wanted to be free from the Roman oppression and rule.

They expected the Messiah to set up His kingdom on earth when He came.

Even the mother of James and John wanted her sons to be near Him on His throne! Matthew 20:20-21:

“Then came to him the mother of Zebedee’s children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.”

Remember – Jesus said: “*My kingdom [His physical kingdom] is not of this world*” (John 18:36). It is apparent that the saints’ rewards come at that Second Coming!

Paul additionally gave us some pointed reminders!

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Let's see – Paul says we will be **“caught up”** into the **air** to meet Jesus. John says we'll be taken to His Father's house where the mansions have been prepared for us, to be where He is (John 14:1-3 – NIV).

- Nothing earthly is seen about this rapture.
- *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**”* (Revelation 1:7).

*“And he shall send his angels with a great **sound of a trumpet**, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”* (Matthew 24:27, 30-31).

- Four winds is a Bible expression for the four points of the compass.
- It will be a noisy time with brilliant light (shouts, trumpets, voice of archangel, greetings). Then we are with Jesus – in silence (Revelation 8:1) – in awe (seventh Seal).
- God's people will be saved from places all over the earth.

For Christians, this is often called that “Second Coming”:

- Who will be saved? *“Them that look for him.”*

*“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that **look for him** shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”* (Hebrews 9:28).

Then – what does that one thousand years that we'll be with Him mean (Revelation 20)?

The Book of Revelation gives this sequence:

Antichrist (Revelation 13, 17–18)

God's wrath (Revelation 15–16)

Christ's Second Coming (Revelation 19)

Millennium (Revelation 20)

New Heaven & New Earth (Revelation 21)

The millennium, or one thousand years, is after Christ comes. We are taken to His Father's house for that one thousand years. We don't stay on planet earth. Then there comes a new heavens and a new earth. (That's the next chapter in Revelation – Chapter 21!)

“Secret” Rapture? What about that?

Won't there be a secret rapture of the church **before** Christ visibly comes again?

- It's not in the Bible!!!
- Jesus said that the wheat and tares would grow up together until the "harvest"!
 - *"Let both grow together until the harvest (Mark 13:30).*
 - *"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.... And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped" (Revelation 14:14, 16).*
- The harvest is when He visibly comes the second time to rescue those who honor Him – important!

Maybe you are now thinking: Isn't "one taken and the other left?"

Here is the text:

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away [no second chance – they were all destroyed]; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matthew 24:37-41).

What happens to those left behind? Luke tells us (17:26-37). They die.

"Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together" (Luke 17:36-37) (idiom or Hebrew expression that they die).

What is all that teaching us? There is no second chance!!! Nothing more!

1. When the door of the ark was shut – they were left behind – with no other chance.
2. When Jesus comes again out of the east, the saints rise to meet Him.
3. The *"other [was] left"* means that they weren't chosen. They will come to their end (Revelation 6:16-17).

But doesn't Jesus come as a thief – quietly and secretly? Isn't it a secret?

- *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear **with a roar**; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare” (II Peter 3:10 – NIV). It is as a thief to the unsaved, that is, a surprise.*
- To explain this, Paul even said:
*“But ye, brethren, are **not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief. **Ye are all the children of light**, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness” (I Thessalonians 5:4-5).*
*“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt **not** watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee” (Revelation 3:3). (For those who aren't prepared and looking for His return.)*

The older manuscripts of Thessalonians state: “That day [coming of Christ] shouldn't take you [God's people] by surprise.”

Look at Matthew 24 again (above), no secret rapture is taught! It's a judgment statement – not a second chance statement.

This is why it is important to fall in love with Jesus! This is why it is so important not to delay in giving our hearts to Him! Procrastinators will not be there!

Once again, what happens to the righteous at the end?

- *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).*
- *“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last** trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (I Corinthians 15:51-53).*
- *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who **shall change our vile body**, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Philippians 3:20-21).*

What happens to the wicked at the end?

- *“He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall **he slay the wicked**”* (Isaiah 11:4).
- *“And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried”* (Jeremiah 25:33).
- cf. II Thessalonians 2:9-12, Romans 1:28-32.

“To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 3:15).

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near”
(Isaiah 55:6).

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