

Valley Bible Church – Adult Class

Living in Light of His Return: The Second Coming of Christ, Part II Adult SS ~ July 19 & 26, 2015

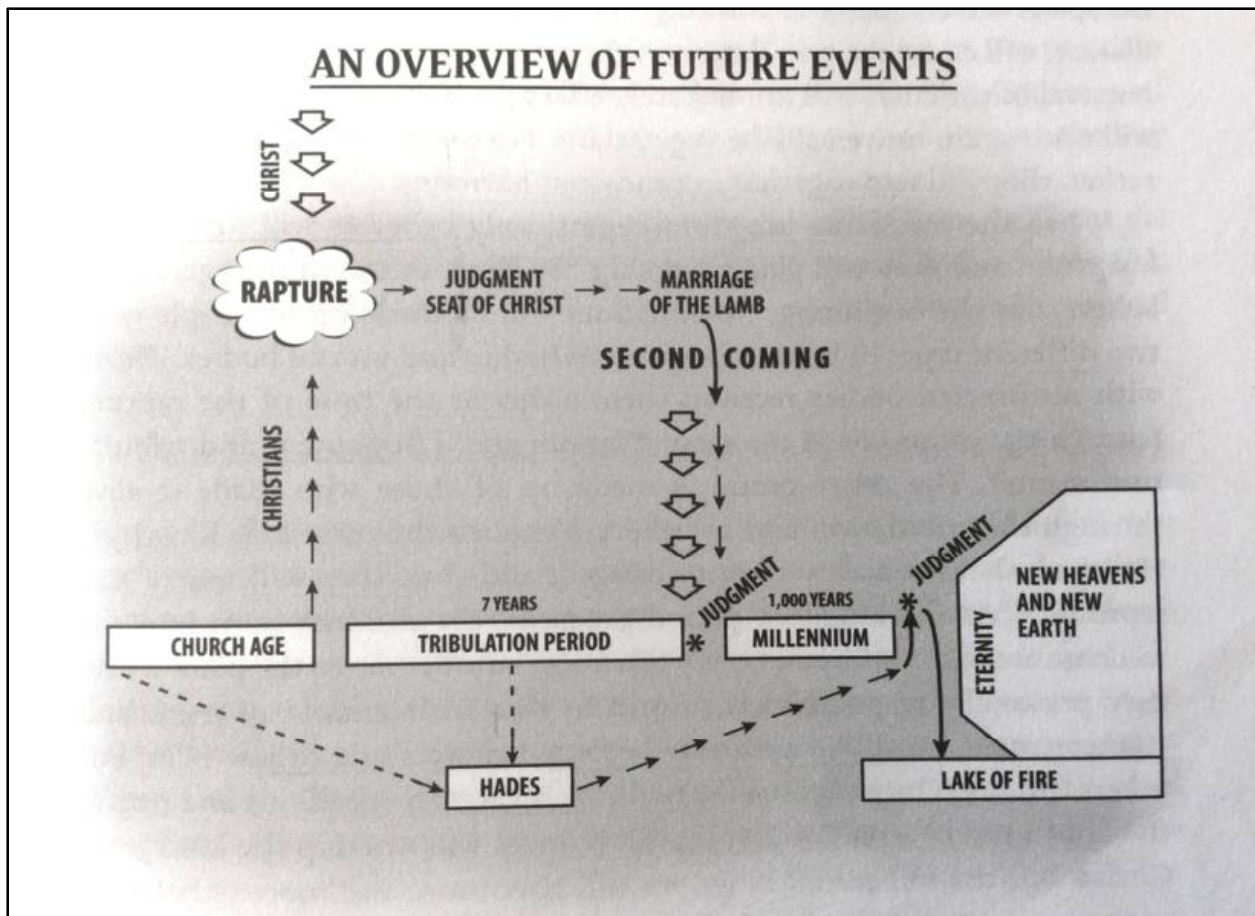
Introduction:

Last week we began our study of the Second Coming of Christ. This is the future event where Christ returns in power and glory to the earth with a host of heaven to end all unrighteousness, judge the nations, save His people Israel, resurrect Old Testament and Tribulation saints, bind Satan, and establish His kingdom on earth. The Second Coming is characterized by *judgment* and *restoration*, the two great themes of “the Day of the Lord” foretold by OT and NT prophecy.

Objective:

This morning we are going to begin by looking at two of the three great texts of Scripture on the Second Coming of Christ (**Matt 24**; and **Rev 19**). These are by no means the only texts describing the Second Coming, but they give greatest amount of detail in one place. After we examine **Matthew 24** and **Revelation 19**, we will conclude the topic of the Second Coming with a look at what else happens as the Kingdom comes with power.

Review:



Last week, we reviewed the challenging yet startlingly accurate prophecy of Daniel’s Seventieth Week (**Dan 9:24–27**). We concluded that after the 69 “sevens” (483 years) are over, at which

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point the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, there would be a church-age gap until the seventieth week. This “Seventieth Week of Daniel” must be a future, seven-year period, divided into two halves where the antichrist (“the prince who is to come”) will make a strong covenant with Israel and then end all sacrifice and offering as he brings desolation. All of this is decreed for Daniel’s people and the city of Jerusalem before sin is put to an end and everlasting righteousness comes in. The Messianic Kingdom promised in **Daniel 9:24** will be fulfilled once the events of Daniel’s Seventieth Week take place.

We also studied **Zechariah 14:1–5**, one of the key passages that describe the Second Coming of Christ. This takes us into our material for today.

Outline:

I. Christ Comes in Power

Three texts stand out most vividly:

a. Zechariah 14:3, 4

- i. In chapters 9–11 of Zechariah’s prophecy, the Messiah is *rejected*. In chapters 12–14 of Zechariah’s prophecy, the Messiah is *accepted*.
- ii. **Zechariah 12:7–10** speaks of a future salvation and restoration of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- iii. **Zechariah 13:7–9** speaks of the Tribulation Period in which a remnant/third of Israel is being refined as tested gold and silver. Verse 9 captures the main purpose of the Tribulation Period—that Israel, at least a remnant, will call upon the LORD as their God and God will say, “They are my people.”
- iv. “A day is coming for the LORD” (**14:1**) is “the Day of the Lord,” which encompasses the Tribulation Period, Second Coming, and Millennial Kingdom establishment all as one great “day” of the Lord (see also **Zech 9:16; 12:3, 6, 8, 9, 11; 13:1, 2, 4; 14:1, 4, 6–9, 13, 20**).
- v. According to verse 2, Antichrist will have completely taken the city of Jerusalem, plundered the houses, and raped the women. The city will be cut in half scattering exiles and bewildering the Jewish inhabitants that remain. *Why do you think God is going to allow Israel to endure so much tribulation before He returns for them?*
- vi. The Great Tribulation will leave Israel so hopeless, broken, and needy that when Christ steps on to the scene, He will change everything for the Jews. They will finally cease to rely on their own ethnic superiority, Jewish tradition, religious effort, and self-righteousness and fall upon the promise and provision of salvation in Jesus Christ.

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- vii. When the Lord comes back to the earth for Israel, He comes ready to make war against the enemy. **Exodus 15:3** “The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.” **Psalms 24:8** “Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!”
- viii. The “enemy” at His arrival is a world of unbelieving, hard-hearted, pagan nations who have fallen under the authority of the god of this age and his Antichrist. The nations that stand with the Antichrist, thinking that they have beaten Israel, will forfeit their last laugh to God (**Ps 2:4**). **Psalm 2:5, 6** says, “Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ‘As for me, I have set me King on Zion, my holy hill.’”
- ix. The battle scene will be picked up in greater detail in **Revelation 19**. See **Joel 3:1–3** to get an idea for where this battle will be held—the Jehoshaphat (“The LORD judges”) Valley. Some scholars hold this valley to be the Kidron Valley, which runs narrowly between the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. If this were the case then this valley would function as one marker on the greater geographical region of the great battle of Armageddon.
- x. Before He makes war on the Antichrist, Jesus descends on the Mount of Olives bringing His feet down to the mountain to touch it. Remember at His ascension into heaven in **Acts 1:9**? “This Jesus...will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (**1:11**). This means that He will appear not in the clouds but will come back to the earth bodily, physically. This is one strong indication that the Second Coming is separate than the Rapture of the Church when Jesus meets us in the clouds with Him (**1 Thess 4:17**).
- xi. When His feet touch the earth, the Mount of Olives, which runs North-South, will be split East-West by a very wide valley. Usually the geography of the land would prohibit any quick escape from enemies in Jerusalem because of the hill country, but this wide valley will provide a way of escape for His people.
- xii. Several other key things happen upon His arrival, as the text indicates: the holy ones return with Him, living waters shall erupt out of Jerusalem, and the LORD will be king over all the earth.

b. Matthew 24:27–31

- i. These verses reveal that the glorious coming of Christ is going to tear through the fabric of creation. Dramatic events like never seen before will happen at His coming. Incredible cosmic signs will disclose the Day of the Lord. Then in **verse 30**, the “Son of Man” will be revealed.
- ii. Recall that the title “Son of Man” (**24:27, 30**) is first used in **Daniel 7:14** to reveal the One to whom an everlasting kingdom was to be given. Here

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we see “Son of Man” being used of Christ in the event of His return—quite appropriate considering the purpose of His coming.

- iii. “As the lightning comes” describes how noticeable the nature is of His coming.
- iv. **Verse 28** means that just like the carcass of a fallen animal can be easily seen from the sky by vultures, so too is His return to be seen easily from the earth. It also pictures the birds of prey that will be called out to feast on the flesh of the nations at the Battle of Armageddon (**Rev 19:17**).
- v. Chronologically, Christ’s return to the earth will come “immediately after the tribulation of those days” (**v. 29**). We have seen that the Scriptures, when read most plainly, uphold a *pretribulational* rapture of the church (not *midtrib*, *posttrib*, or *partial trib*); meaning the church is raptured *before* the events of the tribulation. Here, in our study of the timing of the return of Christ, we take the Scriptures to literally mean that Christ’s return is *premillennial* (not *postmill* or *amill*). We plan to discuss these three different views (Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, and Amillennialism) at the outset of our study on the Millennial Kingdom.
- vi. In those days, there will be incredible events occurring in nature. They almost describe the uncreating of creation (darkening and dismantling of the sun, moon, stars, heavens, and earth) in order to recreate all things. This will draw all men’s attention to the fact the something absolutely unusual is about to happen that impacts all things in heaven and on earth.

Cosmic Signs of the Close of the Age					
Text	Sun	Moon	Stars	Heaven	Earth
Matthew 24:29	“will be darkened”	“will not give its light”	“will fall from heaven”	“will be shaken”	
Isaiah 13:10, 13	“will be dark at its rising”	“will not shed its light”	“will not give their light”	“will make the heavens tremble”	“will be shaken out of its place”
Isaiah 24:1, 19–23	“ashamed”	“will be confounded”			“he will twist its surface” “is utterly broken...split apart...violently shaken”
Joel 2:10, 11	“darkened”	“darkened”	“withdraw their shining”	“the heavens tremble”	“quakes before them”
Joel 2:30, 31	“shall be turned to darkness”	“turned to blood”		“I will show wonders in the heavens”	“I will show wonders on the earth”
Zephaniah 1:14, 15	“a day of darkness”			“a day of clouds and thick darkness”	

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- vii. “And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn” (**v. 30**) because they will realize their judgment is at hand—there is no escape. Their chance to repent has been spent rejecting Christ. The armies of earth under the Antichrist will think they have won in battle against Israel and against her God, but they will be suddenly disappointed and utterly devastated.
- viii. Side Note: When Roman authorities unjustly tried Jesus before His execution on the cross, the question was posed: “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed” (**Mk 14:61**)? To which Jesus responded with a frightening and bone-chilling answer, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” At His first coming, wicked men judged Jesus unjustly; at His second coming, Jesus will judge all wicked men justly. Jesus answer to Caiaphas and the whole Jewish Council proved to them that even in their rejection of Him and in His suffering that He is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed.
- ix. “gather his elect” this is the whole point of redemptive history—to bring into the Kingdom those who have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb, to the praise of His glorious grace! To all the elect of all time and space He says, “COME! Inherit the Kingdom! The marriage supper of the Lamb has been prepared for you!”

c. Revelation 19:11–21

- i. The text that immediately precedes the Second Coming in **Revelation 19:11–21** is the Marriage of Lamb (**19:6–10**). Verse 6 coupled with verse 1 points our attention up into heaven, where the church has been during the Tribulation events. The raptured and resurrected church-age saints join in with the angels (**v. 5**) and sing of the sovereignty, glory, and praiseworthiness of the Lord (**vv. 6–8**). The Marriage of the Lamb has come, the Bride is ready (raptured, resurrected, and rewarded at the Judgment Seat), and the Millennial Kingdom is the “marriage supper” or great feast of celebration (**v. 9**). Blessed are all those who are saved during the Tribulation and all those who are resurrected to enter the kingdom (**v. 9**).
- ii. “A white horse” in Roman times would be used by an army general who rode victorious through the city to proclaim His victories out on the battlefield. Here Christ rides triumphantly—the true “Triumphal Entry.” The young donkey has been traded in for a white horse; each was fit for their specific purpose—the humiliation and exaltation of Christ. Notice, He rides on a white horse to make war showing the certainty of His triumph.
- iii. He is “Faithful and True” in that He promised He will come to deliver, save, and restore; and here He is, Faithful and True to His Word! He has come to bring Israel and the Church into the Kingdom to experience the

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New Covenant blessings like He promised thousands of years ago. He has not left nor forsaken His people. He is worthy of our complete trust.

- iv. “Eyes like a flame of fire” describes His perfect insight and complete knowledge of all things.
- v. “Many diadems” “on his head” for He is worthy of all honor. Earlier in **Revelation 4:10**, John sees a scene in heaven where the “twenty-four elders fall down before him” (referring to the church) and “cast their crowns before the throne.” Many diadems are fitting for His head because He wore the cursed crown of thorns.
- vi. “He has a name written that no one knows but Himself” but there is no indication here as to what name that is. Though John could see it, he could not understand it. There are mysteries about the Lord that glorified saints cannot even comprehend. **Philippians 2:9–11** says, “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him *the name that is above every name*, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- vii. “Robe dipped in blood” this indicates the fact that Christ has been in battle against Satan, sin, and death and He has come through riding victorious! He has swallowed up the grave! Swallowed death! The grave could not hold Him! He is the slain and yet risen and glorious Lord! The stain of blood is from all those who have opposed Him up to this point in history, not from the Battle of Armageddon...yet. See **Isaiah 63:1–6** to see OT prophecy regarding the bloodstained garments of the Warrior King who comes bringing restoration and judgment.
- viii. One name or title He goes by is “the Word of God” for He is the final and full revelation of God (**Jn 1:1**). At glorious appearing of Christ, God will be revealed through His Son to all.
- ix. “The armies of heaven” in **v. 14** include: church age saints (“fine linen” in **v. 8**), resurrected Old Testament saints (**Jude 14; Dan 12:1, 2, 13**), resurrected Tribulation saints (**Rev 7:13**), and a whole host of angels (**Matt 25:31**). The host of heaven at this point in history will include ALL the redeemed of all time and all His heavenly angels. What a team! It is perfectly characteristic for us to be “following him on white horses;” just like we followed Him on earth under our cross, so too in eternity we follow Him on white horses and upon our thrones with Him.
- x. “From his mouth comes a sharp sword” shows that the power of His spoken Word is sufficient to execute justice and righteousness against the nations. This underscores the power of God’s Word.

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- xi. The “rod of iron” with which He will rule is the “rod of iron” from **Psalm 2:9**. He will dash the rebellious nations to pieces “like a potter’s vessel.”
 - xii. “He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty” gives a gruesome picture of His stomping out all wickedness until only the juice is left, or the *blood* is left. This pictures how the Battle of Armageddon will go. **Joel 3:12, 13** say, “Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. **13** Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.”
 - xiii. Over His robe hangs a sash with the writing, “King of kings and Lord of lords” for His ultimate and absolute power and sovereignty over all mankind.
 - xiv. **Verses 17–19** describe the final world war—the Battle of Armageddon (see **Rev 16:14–16**). The birds of prey will have an endless supply of carnage, the corpses of the wicked. Though this “battle” may span weeks if not months, it will be won so swiftly and decidedly that it may appear to be more of an execution. The sentence of the wicked is carried out in righteousness and justice.
 - xv. The finish of this battle, which takes place all across the Holy Land of Israel, will culminate in the capture of the Antichrist and the false prophet. They will not longer be able to deceive, deceive with miraculous signs, and fight against God’s redeemed; they will be thrown alive into the lake of fire (**v. 20**). And the rest were slain as well (**v. 21**).
- d.** There is no doubt that this event—the coming of the King—will be the most glorious sight to behold. It will be a Day of power and glory and wrath and righteousness. All heaven and earth will bow the knee and confess with the tongue that Jesus is Lord of lords, to the glory of the Father.

II. The Kingdom Comes to Power

- a.** The earth must experience a great deal of preparation before the Millennial Kingdom is established. Keep in mind that the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom, of 1,000 years on earth, is the first phase of the “Kingdom of God” that Christ so often spoke of in His ministry on earth in the Gospels.
- b.** The world has presently been in Tribulational disarray—“nation has risen against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (**Matt 24:7**)—but one Kingdom will be established forever.
- c.** With the defeat of the Antichrist and his fallen followers, the Kingdom of God may be established under Christ’s rule. Before the establishment of the Kingdom of God (**20:4–6**), at least these **six events must take place**:

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i. Jews Accept Jesus as Messiah

1. The Second Coming is a flipped result of the first coming of Christ. When Christ first came, the nation of Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah. “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone” (**Matt 21:42**). “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits” (**21:43**). The chief priests and Pharisees perceived that He was talking about them and He was. This “people producing its fruits” are a future generation of Israel whose hearts will be turned by the grace of God to accept Jesus as their Messiah at His Second Coming. Consider these Scriptures that speak of a future acceptance of Jesus as Israel’s Messiah:

a. **Zechariah 12:10** “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

b. **Zechariah 13:9** “And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

c. **Isaiah 25:9** “It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.’”

d. **Romans 11:26** “And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob.’”

ii. A Judgment of Unfaithful Jews

1. Although repentant, believing Jews will be saved in and through the Tribulation, there will still be a large number of Jews who will not call upon the Lord for salvation and will not turn from their sin. **Matthew 7:21** says, “Not everyone who says to [Christ], ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” He will say of them at His Second Coming, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness” (**7:23**).

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2. In fact, **Matthew 25:1–30** best describes this judgment on the unsaved in Israel at this time.
 - a. The parable of the Ten Virgins in **Matthew 25:1–13** contrasts those Jews who are foolish with those who are wise when the bridegroom returns. The foolish will be those who are unprepared and miss their bridegrooms coming for them. The wise are those who are prepared to receive their Messiah upon His return. “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (v. 13).
 - b. The Parable of the Talents (**25:14–30**) is primarily in reference to a future generation of Israel when the Messiah returns, however it carries with it rich and timeless principles for all believers today. Those who were faithful with all that God gave to them received a commendation at Christ’s return, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (**25:21, 23**). However, the parable ends with the wicked and slothful servant who was unfaithful with all that had been given to him. He did not invest in things, events, and people that interested Christ. It will not go well for this one: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v. 30).
3. **Ezekiel 20:33–38** shows a judgment on the nation of Israel before they are brought under the bond of the covenant and into the Millennial Kingdom. “I will be king over you”...“I will enter into judgment with you face to face”...“I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel” (**20:33, 35, 38**).

iii. A Judgment of Gentiles

1. **Matthew 25:31–46** is the key passage which addresses a judgment on Gentiles who are alive at the end of the Tribulation. One of the first orders of business when the Son of Man comes in his glory is that He will sit on His glorious throne separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will enter the kingdom safely and the goats will depart into eternal fire. In other words, Christ will gather and judge the nations as to whether or not they can “inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world” (**25:34**). This is what happens when Christ returns to make war in **Revelation 19:11–21**; they are two different descriptions of a single event.

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2. **Joel 3:1, 2** is the OT background to this particular event—“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, **2** I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land.”
3. *Summary of these two passages:* All the nations will be gathered in the Valley of Jehoshaphat and God will determine their spiritual condition. Those who are righteous before Him (“sheep”) shall enter the Kingdom, remaining on the earth with all those who have resurrected bodies. And those who are unrighteous (“goats”) will be sent away by means of the Battle of Armageddon into everlasting punishment.
4. *Basis of their Judgment:* The main way the nations are judged, as to whether or not they are righteous or unrighteous, is **based on how they treated Israel** during the Tribulation (see **Rev 12:13–17**). Because of the severe persecution that Israel will endure during the second half of the Tribulation, it will not be easy for any Gentile to side with one of them; it will cost them their life. “Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it” (**Mk 8:35b**).
5. Charles Ryrie says, “For a Gentile to treat any Jewish person with kindness during the tribulation will place his life in jeopardy. No one will do this merely out of a beneficent attitude, but only out of a redeemed heart...Those whose good deeds prove the presence of saving faith will enter the kingdom.”
6. Note: Those who “enter the kingdom” (Jew and/or Gentile) with their mortal bodies will still have their earthly bodies, which are able to repopulate the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

iv. Resurrection of OT and Tribulation Saints

1. What about all those who believed in the Old Testament? Abraham believed! Job believed! Ruth believed! David believed! To name only a few. Don’t they get to experience the power and the coming of the King and His Kingdom? Yes.
2. Think also of all those who will die in the Tribulation; they were martyred for Christ’s sake and the Gospel! Will they not rise to share in the blessed entrance in the Kingdom of God? They will.

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3. We know about this resurrection firstly from Daniel's prophecy in **Daniel 12:2–3**, where Tribulation martyrs are in mind. It is apparent that **Daniel 12:1** is referring to the Tribulation Period on the earth. **Verse 2** says, "many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake," implying that they have died in this "time of trouble" (**v. 1**). So this resurrection and rewarding (**Matt 16:27**) of Tribulation saints will happen after the Tribulation Period. Note that they are merely "asleep" not "dead," in a final or spiritual sense.
4. What about OT saints? Well, later in **Daniel 12:13**, the LORD says to Daniel, "But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." So Daniel was given the same hope of a resurrection and an allotment in the Kingdom that was to come to the Tribulation martyrs immediately after the Tribulation. This logically includes all others who are like Daniel, all other OT saints.
5. **Revelation 20:4–6** speaks also of this resurrection and rewarding of these Tribulation saints at the Second Coming of Christ.

v. Binding of Satan

1. *What are a few things we know about Satan from the Scriptures?*
2. **Revelation 20:1–3** lays out the binding of Satan so that he can no longer be considered the "god of this world" (**2 Cor 4:4**) blinding the minds of unbelievers. He will have his power taken from him. He will no longer be considered the "prince of the power of the air" (**Eph 2:2**).
3. Satan's head was bruised at the cross (**Gen 3:15; Heb 2:14**) when the punishment for sin was removed (**Col 2:14, 15**), but he will at this time be bound and blotted out from all human history and world affairs.
4. The "pit" is an actual location in the spiritual realm, keeping evil spirits away from the earth.
5. From the standpoint of God's sovereignty, God is finished with allowing Satan to rule over the cursed world; He isn't going to use him any longer.

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vi. Establishment of the Kingdom

1. The ultimate and final event of the glorious Second Coming of Christ is the establishment of His earthly, Millennial Kingdom. It is this topic that we endeavor to study next.

Conclusion:

Christ will return one Day on the clouds with power and glory. Creation will seize with eager longing to have Christ reigning and the curse reversed. The unrighteous will be gathered, judged, and executed without any more of a chance to repent. The righteous will be gathered, protected, and provided entrance into the Kingdom of God on the earth where Christ will reign. Satan will be bound and the redeemed will enter into the joy of their Master.

*How are you resolved to live differently in light of His Second Coming?
How will you think differently? Believe differently? Serve differently? Pray differently?*

Are you ready for His return? If so, why are you so certain? If not, what do you need to do to become ready?

Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords over all creation. Is He Lord of your life?