

2. SOME REASONS WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN: Satan's Defeat. (1)

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For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, instructing us to renounce godlessness and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we look with earnest longing for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of the great God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2: 11-13 my translation).

WE have already noted that Titus 2: 11-13 teaches there are two comings of Jesus Christ:

First coming: Verse 11 ... For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus came teaching and demonstrating God's Kingdom-plan for the world. God sealed the deal when, after his atoning death on the cross, He raised Jesus up again — thus guaranteeing His promise of the life of the Age to come for all who would obey the Gospel-word of our Lord Jesus ... First Coming: God was in Messiah reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Cor. 5: 18).

Second coming: Verse 12 ... We are looking for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the great God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus is coming back to reign as God's righteous King on a regenerated earth. He is going to inherit all of His Father's promises on behalf of the redeemed.

LAST WEEK:- I gave my first reason for why we should be looking for the Second Coming, the return of Jesus Christ. **1. I WANT JESUS TO GET WHAT HE DESERVES ...** Universal honour, the children, the family, the inheritance, the worldwide Kingdom which God promised His Christ. Now I give my second reason.

2. I WANT TO SEE THE DEVIL GET WHAT HE DESERVES.

I am aware of course, that not only is the doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ unpopular, but I also know that the doctrine there is a supernatural, personal Devil — *the Satan, the Evil one, the Serpent, the Dragon* who deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9) and who is the sworn and implacable Enemy of God Himself and all that's good — is not taken seriously in the world, and is usually given only a passing nod by many Christians — which is to say, it has no experiential relevance in our practical daily experience. Most are oblivious to Satan's malicious schemes in our world.

Yet, if we claim to take the Bible as our authority, then ...

We must accept that the whole world lies under the control of the Evil one (I John 5:19). We must accept that Satan is the god of this world and that he blinds the minds of the unbelievers lest they should believe the Gospel and be saved.(2 Cor. 4:4).

We must accept Jesus' own explanation that once the Gospel message is presented the

¹ These are the notes of the second message I preached in the Mardon Road Church of Christ in Hamilton, New Zealand, in February 2023.

Devil himself, whom Jesus called **the Wicked one** and **the Enemy (Matt. 13: 19, 39)**, is the personal Satan who had tempted him in the wilderness to rebel against God. We must accept the fact that Jesus spoke the absolute truth when *three times* he called the Devil **the Prince (Ruler) of this world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)**.

Jesus said the Devil **is a murderer from the beginning** --- referring to his luring Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden away from the God of all life. The Bible says, **the Devil sinned from the beginning** and that **for this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the Devil (I John 3:8)**.

Look, I admit ...

It really is hard for us to grasp the fact that behind the world we see there is an unseen realm of angels and demons. It really is hard for us to grasp the fact that there is the Satan (the Bible uses the definite article for him ... *the Devil*) who is the super-intelligent head of a vast array of demonic personalities who are hell-bent on inflicting sickness, disease, death, war, deception, division, destruction upon mankind.

But make no mistake about it, the Bible teaches that very thing. And the Bible teaches that just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth the Devil and his rebel demonic hordes will be in a rage, stomping all over the earth wreaking havoc and destruction;

Woe to the earth and the sea; because the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time (Rev. 12:12). *The Devil knows and believes that Jesus Christ is coming to claim his victory over the powers of darkness even if we don't!*

Remember when Satan tempted Jesus in the desert that if he would just fall down and worship him, then he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of this present world? Jesus did not contest Satan's authority to do this. The Devil spoke the truth to Jesus, **"All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whoever I wish" (Lk. 4: 6)**.

Yes, there is a cosmic war unseen to natural human eyes. And we only get glimpses of it. We experience the injustice of oppression, war, etc. And the Devil and his demonic hordes are digging their toes in. If you don't get this then you don't have a Biblical worldview.

THE COMING ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

And here's the thing. The Bible predicts that just before Christ personally sets foot back on planet earth to rightfully claim what is his on behalf of His Father God, the Devil will have tried to set up a one-world government with a one-world economy, and with a one-world religion. Satan is going to control the politics, the economy and the socio-religious worship of the world — except for those who are sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.

Remember how old **King Nebuchadnezzar** struck up the music and demanded worship and allegiance before his massive idol? Well, just so our world is heading for a time when **the 'mark of the Beast'** will be forced upon the citizens of the world. How close we are to these things we do not know, but the technology is there now, the stage is being set, the trap is ready to spring shut, and those with eyes to see see it.

A COUPLE OF CURRENT EXAMPLES

One of the major banks in Queensland has just sent out a customer survey. Given the fraud and the hacking that has become endemic, as a customer of **Suncorp Bank** would you be willing to accept a digital identity? We recommend this for your own security and peace of mind (when did we hear that line just fairly recently?). Think of your own security, your own safety, get a digital ID!

Optus, Medicare, all hacked, and now the Federal Government is suggesting that for everyone's identity security, it is a good idea to have a **Digital ID**. (²)

We already know that at the end of 2022 **the Federal Government mandated** that every company director and executive in Australia and every business owner had to apply for a digital identity number — failure to apply would automatically incur (get this!) a fine of \$1,000,000! And it's not just in Australia of course. The nightmare of a social credit system is about to get very real.

The **Australian Taxation Department** was so overwhelmed with enquiries and requests for more time to meet the deadline, that the Federal government 'graciously' extended the date for compliance another few weeks. Time is about up folks. No more head in the sand!

Do you know who or what a **PEP** is? In the United Kingdom it's become fashionable to talk about PEPs. That is, Politically Exposed Persons. Don't believe me? Google it. A PEP is someone in the UK who has been identified by an institution or community organisation who disagrees with the Government narrative. **Nigel Farage** (who led the charge for Brexit) has been identified as one such **PEP**. **Farage** was "debanked" by the Coutts Bank as a **PEP**. They cancelled his accounts with no explanation. Thankfully, the CEO of the bank resigned over it, but it has alerted the citizens of the UK that freedom of speech is under threat.

Redlands Markets in Brisbane ... is now a 'card only' market. Stall owners are on notice that if they accept cash they will be heavily fined.

Cash is on the way out. What's so bad about that, you ask? Well, when I pay by cash the financial institution and/or government does not know the transaction. But once they have your I.D. number centralised, they will know where you are (they already do with every credit card transaction already), what your business transactions are. Rest

² We have just learned (as of July 2023) that the Federal Labour Party plans on introducing a bill into Parliament mandating that every citizen be given a Digital ID. Senator Katy Gallagher announced this after the major hacking scams to Telstra, Optus, & Medicare recently. But don't be concerned, it will be "citizen-centred" and for our own safety!

assured, that down the track if you don't comply with their other narratives)e.g. climate, gender, health, etc. then your assets will be frozen and you will not be able to buy nor sell — just as the Bible predicts. It's coming. It's almost here now! And guess who is lurking behind it all in the corridors of anti-God deception?

I could go on. But you get the picture. **Oxford and Cambridge Councils in England, Premier Dan Andrew's Victorian State government in Australia**, and many other jurisdictions around the world are about to introduce climate lockdowns, travel restrictions in their cities to help "save the planet". You will not allowed to drive more than say, 15 or 20 minutes from your home in your own sector a specified number of times annually. There will be number plate recognition, other surveillance.

And forget about flying without your **World Health Organisation's** travel passport stamped with your vaccination status! In my own humble opinion, **the Covid-19 pandemic** has already given us the blueprint for how this will be achieved by the globalists:- No vaccine certificate, no travel! We all know what it was like to be denied access to stores or restaurants without a mask and vaccine certificate.

The name given to this trend is **the Great Global Reset**. The Bible warns that the governments of this world, just before Jesus sets his feet back on earth, will have been controlled and ruled over by a religio-political and economic world-order under the direct leadership of Satan's empowered man, the Antichrist.

This **man of sin**, also called **the son of perdition**, will arrogate to himself divine honours like no other human being in history, for **he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship (2 thess. 2: 3-4)**. The Roman Caesars did it. Many others have.

We also read about the Antichrist's sidekick, a false prophet who will be religiously affiliated with the Antichrist's political system.



This photo of the **Papal See** shows the so-called Vicar of Christ (dressed in white) and his Archbishops sitting directly under a grotesque, evil-looking throne.

The early Protestant Reformers all believed the Papacy was the Antichrist. It's hard to disagree when looking at this photo. Look carefully and you can see faces of demons under the supervision of the overarching Devil who superintends his minions! (³)

³ Some folks who listened to this sermon came to me later to express their doubts about my interpretation of the symbolism here depicted. They had done some research on the internet and reported that the "official" interpretation is that it's a depiction of the resurrection of Christ at the moment of his triumph over the powers of Hell. Oh, really?

The Devil knows Jesus is coming to get the glory and the honour he deserves but which he has treacherously usurped. The Devil knows he is squatting on land he has usurped from its rightful owners.

The Bible says that when he returns with heaven's glory, Jesus will slay these Satanic puppets (the Antichrist and his False Prophet) with the breath of his mouth. They will be the first two human beings sent into the fires of Gehenna (Rev. 19:20). Too depraved, they will be sent directly to perdition.

And I say, Hallelujah! Glory to God on High! Rejoice, O heavens! For the great Day of God's glory has come (Rev. 12:12).

PSALM 2

Of course, the kings and rulers and governments of this world have opposed God's Kingdom rule down through the generations. Psalm 2 has ever been their case,

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD, and against his Anointed one saying, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh: The LORD shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion... Therefore you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way ..."

God has decreed that His Son, Jesus Christ, and all his redeemed people, will inherit the earth. The Bible is full of the prediction that God is going to establish His sovereignty over the entire cosmos through His appointed Messiah and his people. And Satan's dark world will give way to the brightness of the light when Jesus sets foot on planet earth there in Jerusalem!

SHOWDOWN AT ARMAGEDDON

The Devil's final act of defiance against Christ will be to gather an international military force intent on slaughtering the apparently defenceless people of God, recently gathered in Jerusalem with their returned Lord Jesus.

Located in the plain of Esdraelon, the valley of Jezreel, near the ancient fortress town built by Solomon on the small hill of Megiddo (in Hebrew it's called 'Harmageddon'). This will be the Devil's mammoth blunder. For Jesus returns no longer riding a donkey --- symbol of humility and peace --- but symbolically on a charging white horse (Zech. 9:9-10; Rev. 19:11).

Aren't you tired of all the physical, emotional, and spiritual pollution the Devil has inflicted from the beginning?

Aren't you tired of seeing the pain of broken families?

Aren't you tired of the corruption and apostasy in the so-called church?

Aren't you tired of all the pain of sickness and disease?

Aren't you tired of all the depression and anxiety?

Aren't you tired of all the droughts, fires, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions?

Aren't you tired of all the little children going hungry?

Aren't you tired of all the sexual predation and abuse of innocent ones?

Aren't you tired of the tears of disappointment?

Aren't you tired of the terrorism, the senseless bombings, stabbings, shootings, torture of innocent people?

Isn't your prayer, "O LORD, how long? How long till You vindicate your great Name?

How long till You deliver your people who cry to You for justice day and night?"

I can't wait till Jesus comes back because the Devil is going to get what he deserves.

Jesus said, the flames of hell **have been prepared for the Devil and his angels from the beginning**. Yes, the moment the Devil sinned, his fate was sealed.

We live in a moral universe where the actions of God's heavenly family and His earthly family have consequences. God is righteous. But it won't be fully realised until the return of Jesus Christ. God is going to judge the world through His appointed man, Jesus (**Acts 17: 31**). What a day that will be when the Devil is bound and his Antichrist and his False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire and universal justice prevails!

"THE COVERING CHERUB" BECOMES A GAZING SPECTACLE BEFORE THE COSMOS!

Many Bible scholars believe we get a little glimpse into Satan's original created perfection, his fateful rebellion, and his final fate in passages like **Ezekiel 28** and **Isaiah 14**. Speaking of the one who was once created all-glorious and who was **the covering Cherub**, we are told he was **full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, sealing up the sum of created perfection (Ez. 28:12)**. This **Star of the Morning** it seems was once responsible for directing all heaven's worship and praise to the LORD of hosts, the Creator of all.

It seems this arch-cherub was lifted up with pride and coveted the sole worship that all the heavenly hosts gave to God. Yes, Satan was **perfect in his ways from the day he was created, till unrighteousness was found in him (Is. 14:15)**.

This perfect one who was created to be Second In Charge now said, **"I will make myself like the Most High"**. But God decreed, **Nevertheless you will be thrust down to the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, "Is this the one who made the earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness ...? (Is. 14: 15-17)**.

Friends, what a day, when Jesus comes back and Satan is bound. And all the world gazes at this despicable creature. Satan will look pathetic. His sin will have shrivelled

him up to a grotesque distortion of his once former glory. And the created universe will gaze and ponder over him saying, “Is this the one who made the earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness ...?”

He who was created once as the covering Cherub is now bound in disgrace and the subject of the despising stares of the assembled heavens and earth. Satan is destined to receive the collective gasp of abhorrence from God’s mighty hosts. He will be the gazing stock of horror and shame. The mighty angels of the LORD God, the redeemed people of God, will all let out a visceral, gut reaction of surprised disgust --- Is this the one who made the earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness ...?

That’s what sin does. That’s what rebellion against the all-good and beautiful God results in. Sin against God is self-destructive. Sin against God brings a curse, it shrivels and destroys. Sin is self-hatred. Sin saps beauty. The results of fighting against God are always ugly.

And the Devil is the ultimate, pathetic example of this fact. For at the last, at the coming again of the triumphant Lord Jesus the King of kings, the one who is the embodiment of evil and rebellion against Yahweh the God of Heaven will be stripped of his covering of darkness and the light will expose and shrivel him.

SATAN’S SHAMEFUL DESTRUCTION FORESHADOWED IN OTHER OLD TESTAMENT TYPES

And the best part? He will bow the knee and confess to the glory of God that Jesus Christ is Lord! You get that in prophetic type in the OT. When the five kings found hiding in the cave of Makkedah were captured and brought to the feet of Joshua, Joshua ordered Israel’s chief men of war , “Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came near and put their feet on their necks. Joshua said to them, “Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.” So Joshua struck the kings and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees; and they hung on the trees until evening (Joshua 10:16f). The kings were then thrown into the cave where they had tried to hide, and were interred there in shame.

When Agag the evil king was captured and presented before the prophet Samuel, we are told he swaggered up to the prophet thinking, “Surely the bitterness of death is past”. But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal (1 Sam. 15: 32f) Agag sauntered up to Samuel. But he ended up whimpering, cringing, cowering, and whining as a crawling sycophant.

Remember Saddam Hussein? The once mighty dictator who ruled as god in Iraq? When Justice hunted him down they found him hiding in a hole. Pathetic creature he now was! Frightened. Scared. Whimpering. Dishevelled. Emaciated.

Remember Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi? Fleeing into a cave. And **Conan**, that dog of vengeance, which chased him down the tunnel system. With **Conan** and the troops of vengeance on his heels, **Al-Baghdadi** detonated his suicide vest.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God ... [for] our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 10: 31;12: 29).

And before being consigned to his eternal fate, Satan will look at our glorious, exalted Lord Jesus (and all the host of the immortalised redeemed new humanity!) — reigning in heaven’s splendid, unfading glory — where he was originally stationed to be!

The Bible says that, **God has highly exalted Jesus and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2: 9-11).**

Oh come Lord Jesus! We long for you to get what you deserve, the glory that rightfully belongs to God’s Messiah and King. We long for the Devil and his demonic hordes to get what they deserve! Justice and eternal shame and defeat. The confession that Jesus Christ is Lord and that our **great God** and Father will be honoured as the All in All Supreme Deity (I Cor. 15: 28).

Rev. 19: 1-7

And after these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power to the LORD God!

“For true and righteous are His judgements, because He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.”

And again they said, “Alleluia! And her smoke rises up for ever and ever!”

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!!” ...

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the LORD God Omnipotent **reigns!**” Yes, every knee is going to bow, and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus is the Lord Messiah to God’s glory. Oh, what a day, when the Devil gets what he deserves! Oh, come Lord Jesus! Amen!