

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS OR HIS RETURN:

The second coming of Jesus Christ has always been an interesting topic and it is often misunderstood. The disciples asked Jesus when the end of this present age would be, He gave them the answer in Matthew 24:3- 51, which are signs to show that the time is near. However, we must remember that in God's eye one thousand years are as a day. (2 Peter 3:8). The disciples asked because they were expecting Jesus to free them from the Romans and establish His earthly kingdom. After His resurrection they asked Him again. He told them, it was not for them to know the time that the Father has fixed for His own authority, and He told them what they should do. (Acts 1:6-8). That same message to the disciples then, is the message for us today. That being said, does it mean we should not be concerned with His return? Certainly not, on the contrary, we are to live in expectation of His eminent return. For certain, He is coming back. We will look to the Bible for guidance, what it tells us about the events concerning His return.

1. HOW WILL HE RETURN? He will return the same way He left. Acts 1:9-11

2. HIS RETURN WILL BE IN TWO PHASES: (a) HE WILL RETURN FOR BELIEVERS

PHASE ONE: 1 Thes.4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-55. The event described in this passage of scripture is often referred to as the rapture of believers. Both those who are asleep or fallen asleep, (believers do not die they sleep until the resurrection) and those who are alive at that time, will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. Rapture is not mentioned in scripture but caught up. Please note this is not the second coming of Christ to earth. Believers meet Him in the air, His feet will not touch earth in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. He promises a way of escape for those who are faithful to Him. (Revelation 3:10-13) We believe that event is that way of escape. This event will take place before the great tribulation which will last for 7 years. (Revelation 6-18); Jesus tells us that He is gone to prepare a place for us, and He will come and get us. (John 14:1-

4;) Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 1Cori. 15:51-58; explaining that our fleshly bodies will not inherit the kingdom; we will have new bodies. After the rapture, there will be a world leader who will try to calm the people by making promises of happiness and prosperity. The people will listen to him and accept him as their world leader. He will make a treaty with all the people of the world and he will be accepted by them. Things will go well for three and a half years. At that point he will declare himself to be god and demands that he be worshipped. This leader will be revealed as The ANTICHRIST. The great tribulation will be a time of distress for those who refuse to follow the Antichrist. He will command that all receive his mark in order to survive in his economy. Christians who refuse to obey him will be killed for the faith in Jesus. The terror will continue for three and a half years. At the end of three and a half years Jesus will return. Every eye will see Him. (Matt. 24:21- 28; Rev. 1:7)

3. (b) HE WILL RETURN WITH BELIEVERS; Revelation 19:11-22:21, 20:4, 1:7, 22:12-14; Zechariah. 14:1-2; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 6-18; Zechariah 14:1-5

4. WILL BELIEVERS GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION? The answer is no, here are some passages of scripture to support this answer. 1 Thes.4:13-18, 5:9-10; Rev.3:10, Rev.4:1; Eph.2:3-6; 5:6; Romans 5:9

5. The Church is not mentioned during the tribulation. (Rev. 6-18)

6. Let us now turn our focus on the return of Jesus Christ. Revelation 19-22.