

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #46 – The Second Coming of Christ

Note: Most information based on pages 327-337 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

The Importance of the Second Coming

1. In previous study of the doctrine of the Second Coming, the major facts concerning the Rapture, the coming of the Son of God for His saints (Doctrine #12), and the coming of Christ with His saints (Doctrine #13) have already been presented.
2. Here, the second coming of Christ with His saints to establish His kingdom will be considered in its place as a major event in the prophetic program.
3. Coupled with this study are the doctrines which follow, dealing with the important themes of the resurrections, the judgments of God on Israel and other nations, and the millennial kingdom.
4. These great themes combine to provide the scriptural goal of history, which in large measure determines the interpretation of the entire Bible.
5. In both the Old and New Testaments the importance of the coming of Christ to establish His kingdom is set forth in many passages.
6. The doctrine, as revealed, is far more than a simple ending of human history; it is rather a grand climax which brings the program of God to its highest point.
7. For this reason, all systems of theology which tend to ignore or minimize the doctrine of the second coming of Christ and the extensive volume of Scripture dealing with Christ’s kingdom on earth are inadequate and can be justified only by denying the plain, literal meaning of the many prophecies and ignoring extensive scriptural revelation.
8. The second coming of Christ, along with the kingdom which follows it, is in fact, the very heart of the progress of Scripture and is the major theme of Old Testament prophecy.
 - a. The great covenants of Scripture relate to God’s program—especially these covenants with Abraham, Israel, and David, and the new covenant.
 - b. Much of the revelation of the Psalms and the major and minor prophets revolves around this great theme.
 - c. Great prophetic books like Daniel, Zechariah, and Revelation focus on the subject of the second coming of Christ and the consummation of history and the kingdom.

9. For this reason, the doctrine of the Second Coming in large measure determines the total theology of the interpreter of the Bible and justifies the attempt to order prophetic events yet to be fulfilled in considerable detail in faithfulness to the extent of scriptural revelation.

The Old Testament Prophecies of the Second Coming

1. While the rapture of the church is a New Testament doctrine and is never mentioned in the Old Testament (because the church as such was a mystery, not revealed in the Old Testament), the second coming is embedded in many Old Testament passages.

- a. Probably the first of the clear prophecies concerning the second coming of Christ is in Deuteronomy 30:1-3. In this prophecy concerning the re-gathering of Israel to her land, it is predicted that Israel will return to the Lord “spiritually” and that *“then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.”* (v. 3).

NOTE: The expression “will return” indicates an act of intervention of God in the situation, and in the light of later Scripture it is clearly linked to the return of Christ Himself!

- b. The Psalms, although they constitute the book of worship of the Old Testament, frequently refer to the return of Christ.
 - 1) After the introductory description of the righteous, in contrast with the wicked in Psalm 1, Psalm 2 immediately describes the major contention of God with the nations. Although the rulers of the world desire to reject God and His rule over them, God declares His purpose: *“Yet have I set My king upon My holy hill of Zion”* (2:6). The psalm goes on to predict that this king in dealing with the wicked: *“Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel”* (v. 9).
 - 2) The trilogy of Psalms 22, 23, and 24 presents Christ as the Good Shepherd, who would give His life for His sheep (John 10:11); the Great Shepherd, who ever lives to intercede for His own (Hebrews 13:20); and the Chief Shepherd, who is coming as the King of Glory to reward faithful shepherds (1 Peter 5:4). Psalm 24 pictures the millennial situation: *“The earth is the LORD’S”* (V. 1). The gates of Jerusalem are exhorted to be lifted up to admit the King of Glory (24:7-10).
 - 3) The reign of Christ from Zion is mentioned in Psalm 50:2. As will be seen later, in the study of the Millennium.

Psalm 50:2 *“From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.”*

- 4) Psalm 72 describes Christ as having come to the earth to reign over all nations.
- 5) Psalm 89:36 speaks of Christ’s throne as being established in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant following His second coming.

Psalm 89:35-36 *“Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness— and I will not lie to David— that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun...”*

- 6) Psalm 96, after picturing the honor and glory of God, exhorts the heavens and the earth to rejoice *“before the LORD: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth”* (v. 13).
 - 7) The present position of Christ at the right hand of the Father is described in Psalm 110, but *it* is also predicted that the day will come when He will rule over His enemies and His power will go out of Zion (vv. 2, 6).
2. It is clear from these many prophecies that the truth of Christ’s second coming and His reign on earth is a major, not a minor, revelation of the entire Old Testament.
 3. This is confirmed as a principal theme of the major and minor prophets.
 - a. In the great prophetic utterance of **Isaiah 9:6-7**, Christ is described as a child born who is at the same time the “mighty God.” His government upon the throne of David is described as never terminating.

Isaiah 9:6-7 *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”*

- b. An extensive picture of the results of the second coming of Christ in establishing His kingdom is painted in Isaiah 11—12, which will be discussed in the study of the millennial kingdom. The introduction of the kingdom reign, however, depends upon the doctrine of a literal second coming to the earth and the display of divine power judging the wicked.
- c. The scene is also mentioned in **Isaiah 63:1-6**, where the judgment of Christ upon the earth at His second coming is graphically described.

Isaiah 63:1-6 *“Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with His garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? ‘It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save.’ Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? ‘I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with Me. I trampled them in My anger and trod them down in My wrath, their blood spattered My garments, and I stained all my clothing. IT WAS FOR ME THE DAY OF VENGEANCE; the year for Me to redeem had come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so My own arm achieved salvation for Me, and My own wrath sustained Me. I TRAMPLED THE NATIONS IN MY ANGER; in My wrath I made them drunk and POURED THEIR BLOOD ON THE GROUND.”*

- d. In the prophecies of Daniel, concerning the times of the Gentiles and God's program for the nation of Israel, the consummation of both is related to the coming of the Son of Man from heaven in this passage:

Daniel 7:13-14 *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."*

- e. Most of the minor prophets likewise take up this theme, and especially the Book of Zechariah.
 - 1) According to **Zechariah 2:10-11**, the Lord declares, *"Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.."*
 - 2) This is clearly a reference to the millennial earth and the reign of Christ subsequent to His second coming.
 - 3) Even more specific is **Zechariah 8:3-8**:

"This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?" declares the LORD Almighty. This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."

- 4) **Zechariah 14:1-4** dramatically pictures the second coming of Christ Himself, coming at the height of the world war which has engulfed the Middle East and the city of Jerusalem. Zechariah states,

Zechariah 14:1-4 *"A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. THEN THE LORD WILL GO OUT AND FIGHT AGAINST THESE NATIONS, as He fights on a day of battle. On that day HIS FEET will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south."*

- i. This graphic description of the division of the Mount of Olives at the time of the second advent of Christ makes clear that no event of the past can compare with His second coming.

- ii. The ridiculous interpretation that the Second Coming was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost or in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 is not only contradicted by later prophecies which look forward to the second coming of Christ as a future event (as in the Book of Revelation), but is here supported by the fact that the Mount of Olives today remains unchanged.
 - iii. When the feet of Christ touch the same Mount of Olives from which He ascended in Acts Chapter 1, it will signal a change in the topography of the whole area about Jerusalem, in preparation for the kingdom which will follow.
- f. Accordingly, the second coming of Christ in the Old Testament is not to be explained away as some past event, some contemporary spiritual experience—such as the coming of Christ for saints when they die—or any of the other explanations which are totally inadequate to explain the scriptural revelation.
 - g. Rather, the second coming of Christ in the Old Testament is the grand consummation of world history, in which the Son of God comes to claim the world for which He died and to exert His power and His authority over the world that would not have Christ reign over it.

The Second Coming of Christ in the New Testament

1. In the New Testament revelation concerning the second coming of Christ, a new factor is introduced with the revelation of the rapture of the church. In the Old Testament the predictions of the first and second comings of Christ were often mingled, and prophets had difficulty distinguishing between the two events.
2. With prophecies concerning the first coming now fulfilled, there is no longer any problem in distinguishing the prophecies relating to His suffering as contrasted with those relating to His glory.
3. In the New Testament, however, because of similar terminology in describing the coming of Christ *for* His saints and the coming of Christ *with* His saints, it is not always clear which event is in view; the decision in each case must be based upon the context.
4. The subject of a future coming of Christ, however, is a major theme of the New Testament, and it is estimated that one out of twenty-five verses refers to it in one way or another.
5. At least twenty major passages may be selected as contributing the major elements of the New Testament revelation

Matthew 19:28 *“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, WHEN THE SON OF MAN SITS ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’”*

Luke 18:8 *"I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES, will he find faith on the earth?"*

Luke 21:25-28 *"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

Acts 1:10-11 *"They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, WILL COME BACK IN THE SAME WAY YOU HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN."*

Acts 15:16-18 *"'After this I WILL RETURN AND REBUILD DAVID'S FALLEN TENT. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear My name, says the Lord, who does these things- things known from long ago."*

Romans 11:25-27 *"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: 'THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob; And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins.'"*

1 Corinthians 11:26 *"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death UNTIL HE COMES."*

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 *"...and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen WHEN THE LORD JESUS IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN IN BLAZING FIRE WITH HIS POWERFUL ANGELS. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you."*

2 Peter 3:3-4 *"Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'WHERE IS THIS 'COMING' THAT HE PROMISED? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

Jude 14-15 *"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: 'See, THE LORD IS COMING with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'"*

Revelation 1:7-8 *"'Look, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS,' and 'every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of Him.' So shall it be! Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and WHO IS TO COME, the Almighty.'"*

Revelation 2:25-28 “...except to hold on to what you have UNTIL I COME.’ To the one who is victorious and does My will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star.”

Revelation 16:15 “Look, I COME LIKE A THIEF! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

Revelation 19:11-21 “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN WERE FOLLOWING HIM, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords...And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.’ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and His army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”

Revelation 22:20 “He who testifies to these things says, ‘YES, I AM COMING SOON.’ Amen. COME, LORD JESUS.”

NOTE: For more references to the second coming of Christ, you can look up the following verses as well: **Matthew 23:39; Matthew 24:3 through 25:46; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 12:35-48; Luke 17:22-37.**

6. In addition to the facts brought out in Doctrine #45, where we studied a breakdown of Matthew 13, major points of emphasis may be noted.
 - a. The second coming of Christ is post-tribulational and pre-millennial.
 - 1) The literal interpretation of the prophecies relating to the second coming of Christ not only makes clear that it is the prelude for the casual event which establishes the reign of Christ on earth for a thousand years, but also serves to distinguish it from the rapture of the church, which is Christ coming for His saints.
 - 2) The tendency has been, on the part of those who spiritualize prophecies relating to a future kingdom on earth, to merge the prophecies of the Rapture and the prophecies of Christ’s second coming into one event.

- a) By merging the Rapture and Christ's second coming, they are forcing the Rapture to be a post-tribulational event.
 - b) The same literal interpretation of the Second Coming which leads to the conclusion that it will be followed by the millennial kingdom on earth also serves to "distinguish it" from the rapture of the church.
- 3) In "*The Rapture Question*", by John F. Walvoord, fifty reasons are set forth for holding that the Rapture is pre-tribulational and the second coming of Christ to establish His kingdom is post-tribulational.
 - 4) Likewise, in "*The Millennial Kingdom*" by Walvoord, the arguments for a literal kingdom on earth are set forth, historically and theologically. While theologians will continue to disagree on these subjects, the issue is determined largely on how the principles of interpretation are employed.
 - 5) Those who interpret prophecy literally, and who consistently take into consideration the details of prophecy, can support adequately the conclusion that the second coming of Christ is post-tribulational and pre-millennial.
- b. The descriptions of the second coming of Christ in all the major passages relating to it make clear that His return is personal.
 - 1) This is, of course, supported by the revelation of the angels in **Acts 1:11**, who informed the disciples as they were gazing up into heaven, "*This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come IN LIKE MANNER as ye have seen Him go into heaven.*"
 - 2) This refers to the second coming of Christ to the earth, rather than to the Rapture. Just as He personally went to heaven, so He will personally return.
 - 3) This, of course, is supported by other major passages such as:

Matthew 24:27-31 "*For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when THEY SEE THE SON OF MAN coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*"

- c. The same passages which indicate that His return will be personal also make clear that it will be a bodily return.
 - 1) While the deity of Christ is omnipresent and can be in heaven and earth at the same time, the body of Christ is always local and is now at the right hand of God the Father.

- 2) In His second coming, Christ will bodily return,—just as He bodily ascended.
 - 3) This is supported by **Zechariah 14:4**—“*His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives*”—and by the fact that His return is said in Acts 1 to happen the same way as His ascension.
- d. In contrast with the Rapture, where there is no evidence that the world as a whole will see the glory of Christ, the second coming to the earth will be both visible and glorious.
- 1) Christ Himself described His return as “*lightning shining from the East to the West*” (**Matthew 24:27**). Just as the Ascension was visible in Acts 1:11, so His second coming will be visible, and Christ “*shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*”
 - 2) Christ said in **Matthew 24:30**, “*Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.*”
 - 3) The main point of the Book of Revelation is that Christ will be “revealed” to the world in His second coming and subsequent kingdom.

Revelation 1:7 “*Look, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS,’ and ‘every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him’; and all peoples on earth ‘will mourn because of Him.’ So shall it be! Amen.*”

- 4) They will see Christ not as the lowly Nazarene in suffering and in death, or even in His resurrection body in which the glory was somewhat veiled while Christ was yet on earth.
 - 5) The second coming of Christ will fully display the glory of the Son of God as revealed earlier to John in **Revelation 1:12-18** and described in detail in **Revelation 19:11-16**.
 - 6) The Second Coming, accordingly, will be one of the most dramatic events of all time and will be the climax of the whole program of God beginning in the Garden of Eden when Adam sinned and lost the right to rule.
- e. The second coming of Christ is also intimately related to the earth and is not a meeting in space as is the rapture of the church.
- 1) Many passages speak of Christ as reigning in Zion, coming to Zion, or going from Zion, all references to the literal city of Jerusalem

Psalm 14:7 “*Oh, that salvation for Israel WOULD COME OUT OF ZION! When the Lord restores His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!*”

Psalm 20:2 “*May He send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support FROM ZION.*”

Psalm 53:6 “*Oh, that salvation for Israel WOULD COME OUT OF ZION! When God restores His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!*”

Psalm 110:2 *“The Lord will extend Your mighty scepter FROM ZION, saying, ‘Rule IN THE MIDST OF Your enemies!’”*

Psalm 128:5 *“May the Lord bless you FROM ZION; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.”*

Psalm 134:3 *“May the Lord bless you FROM ZION, He who is the Maker of heaven and earth.”*

Psalm 135:21 *“Praise be to the Lord FROM ZION, to Him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.”*

Isaiah 2:3 *“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths. The law will go out FROM ZION, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.’”*

Joel 3:16 *“THE LORD WILL ROAR FROM ZION and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.”*

Amos 1:2 *“He said: THE LORD ROARS FROM ZION and thunders from Jerusalem the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”*

Zechariah 14:1-4 *“A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. THEN THE LORD WILL GO OUT AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS, as He fights on a day of battle. On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”*

Romans 11:26 *“...and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written; THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob.”*

- 2) According to Scripture, not only will His feet touch the Mount of Olives, but His return is in connection with destroying the armies which will be attempting to conquer Jerusalem

Zechariah 14:1-3 *“A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. THEN THE LORD WILL GO OUT AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS, as He fights on a day of battle.”*

- f. The second coming of Christ will be attended by all the holy angels and all the saints of all ages who are in heaven.
 - 1) It is the coming of Christ *with* His saints rather than *for* His saints and although an important purpose of the Second Coming is to deliver afflicted saints still living on earth, the description of the event in Matthew 25:31 states that all the angels will be with Him.

- 2) Revelation 19:11-21 is even more explicit, where the armies from heaven are described as following Him. These undoubtedly include both the holy angels and the saints in heaven.
- g. The Second Coming will be a time of the gathering of all the elect—those resurrected, those translated, and even those in their natural bodies on the earth. All participate in one way or another in this dramatic event related to the Second Coming.

7. The stated purpose of the Second Coming is to judge the earth:

Psalm 96:13 *“Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for He comes, HE COMES TO JUDGE THE EARTH. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.”*

- a. This will be brought out in subsequent studies of the judgment of Israel, the judgment of the nations, and the judgment of Satan and the fallen angels.
 - 1) In Matthew 19:28, Christ told the twelve apostles they would join Him in judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - 2) Matthew 25:31-46 describes the judgment of the Gentiles on earth at the time of the Second Coming of Christ.
 - 3) Ezekiel 20:35-38 predicts the judgment of Israel at the time of the Second Coming.
- b. Those who die during the time of persecution preceding the Second Coming will be raised and judged, according to Revelation 20:4.

Revelation 20:4 *“I saw thrones on which were seated those WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO JUDGE. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

- c. The same truth is brought out in the various parables dealing with the end time in the Gospels, and frequent mention of this truth is found in Scripture:

Luke 12:37 *“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”*

Luke 12:45-48 *“But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. ‘That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants WILL BE BEATEN WITH MANY BLOWS. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment WILL BE BEATEN WITH FEW BLOWS. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

Luke 17:29-30 “*But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and DESTROYED THEM ALL. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.*”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “*And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. HE WILL PUNISH THOSE WHO do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. THEY WILL BE PUNISHED with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*”

2 Thessalonians 2:8 “*And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and AND DESTROY BY THE SPLENDOR OF HIS COMING.*”

Jude 15 “*...TO JUDGE EVERYONE, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.*”

Revelation 2:27 “*that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and WILL DASH THEM TO PIECES LIKE POTTERY’—just as I have received authority from my Father.*”

Revelation 19:15-21 “*Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which TO STRIKE DOWN THE NATIONS. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.’ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and His army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. THE TWO OF THEM WERE THROWN ALIVE INTO THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”*

- d. The earth – which is now being permitted to manifest its sinfulness and its unbelief and, for the most part, is living as if God did not exist—will be brought under the righteous judgment of God.
- e. The judgment, as extensive as it is, however, will not completely destroy the earth.
- f. The judgment by fire, described in **2 Peter 3:10**, will not take place until the end of the Millennium when the present earth and heaven are destroyed and a new heaven and a new earth created.

2 Peter 3:10 “*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 IN IT WILL BE LAID BARE.*”

- g. The day of the Lord, which begins at the Rapture and includes in its introduction the judgments preceding and immediately following the Second Coming, concludes with the end of the millennium and with the final destruction of the present heaven and earth.

- h. The triumph of sin in our modern world is temporary; but, be assured, the triumph of the righteousness of God is coming and sure.
- 8. The major purpose of the return of Christ is to deliver those who have survived martyrdom during the Tribulation, both among Israel and among the Gentiles.
- 9. If the second coming of Christ were delayed indefinitely, according to **Matthew 24:22**, the catastrophic judgments poured out on the earth would destroy the entire race.

Matthew 24:22 *“If those days had not been cut short, NO ONE WOULD SURVIVE, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”*

- 10. This Tribulation is cut short by the second coming of Christ to deliver the elect from this fate. Israel is described as saved or delivered in:

Romans 11:26-27 *“and in this way ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED. As it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.’”*

- 11. This is supported by **Luke 21:28**; where the second coming of Christ is referred to as “your redemption.”

Luke 21:28 *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION IS DRAWING NEAR.”*

- 12. In the Old Testament, passages such as **Zechariah 14:4** also describe this deliverance.

Zechariah 14:4 *“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. YOU WILL FLEE BY MY MOUNTAIN VALLEY, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord My God will come, and ALL HIS HOLY ONES WITH HIM.”*

- 13. The second coming of Christ, however, not only brings judgment on the wicked and deliverance for the righteous, but introduces a new spiritual state which will be considered in the study of the Millennium.
- 14. The same event which brings judgment to the wicked brings a new spiritual revival to those who have trusted in the Lord. This is supported by **Romans 11:26-27** (see above) and is embodied in the new covenant of **Jeremiah 31:31-34**.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord. ‘This is the covenant I will make*

with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord. 'I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' BECAUSE THEY ALL WILL KNOW ME, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. 'FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR WICKEDNESS AND REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.'"

15. Christ's return has also the central purpose of reestablishing the Davidic kingdom.

- a. In the discussion of the relationship of the church to the Gentiles in the counsel at Jerusalem in Acts 15, it is brought out that the earlier prophecies of **Amos 9:11-15** predicted the order of Gentile blessing first, to be followed by reestablishment of the tabernacle of David.

Amos 9:11-15; *"In that day 'I WILL RESTORE DAVID'S FALLEN SHELTHER—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins'—and will rebuild it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name, declares the Lord, who will do these things. 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, and I WILL BRING MY PEOPLE ISRAEL BACK FROM EXILE. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I WILL PLANT ISRAEL IN THEIR OWN LAND, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,' says the Lord your God."*

- b. This was to coincide with Israel's re-gathering and reestablishment in the land, never to be scattered again (Amos 9:14-15; cf. Ezek. 39:25-29).
- c. The physical return of Israel, the reestablishment of the Davidic kingdom, and the outpouring of the spirit of God upon the house of Israel combine to prepare Israel and the world for the glories of the kingdom to follow.

Ezekiel 39:29 *"I will no longer hide my face from them, FOR I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, declares the Sovereign Lord."*

- d. According to Ezekiel 37:24, the Old Testament saints will participate in the kingdom, with David raised up to be a prince over Israel under Christ.
- e. It was the purpose of God, as announced to the Virgin Mary in **Luke 1:31-33**, that Christ should come to reign over the house of Israel forever.

Luke 1:31-33 *"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and HE WILL REIGN OVER JACOB'S DESCENDANTS FOREVER; His kingdom will never end."*

16. Taken as a whole, the second coming of Christ is a tremendous event occurring at the close of the Great Tribulation and introducing the millennial kingdom.

17. It will be a personal and bodily return which will be visible to the entire world and will be the manifestation of the glory of God.

18. It will be related to the earth rather than to heaven and specifically on the Mount of Olives directly to the east of Jerusalem.
19. Christ in His return will be accompanied by the holy angels and the saints.
20. His purpose in His return is to judge the world, to deliver those who have trusted in Him whether Jews or Gentiles, to bring spiritual revival to Israel and the world, to reestablish the kingdom of David and to introduce the final dispensation of His kingdom on earth for a thousand years.

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #46 – The Second Coming of Christ

1. Read Pages 1-15 from the Doctrine#46 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “The Second Coming of Christ” as you read:

a. The Importance of the Second Coming

- 1) True or False. The doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ along with dealing with the important themes of those doctrines which immediately follow His physical return (i.e. “resurrections”, “judgments”, “millennial kingdom”, etc.) provide the scriptural goal of history, which in large measure determines the interpretation of the entire Bible.
(page 1, top)

- 2) The doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ is far more than a simple ending of human history; it is rather what? (page 1, middle)

- 3) What is the only way that a system of theology can minimize the doctrine of the second coming of Christ?
(page 1, middle)

- 4) What is the very “heart” of the progress of Scripture and is the major them of O.T. prophecy?
(page 1, bottom)

b. The Old Testament Prophecies of the Second Coming

- 1) What is a reasonable response for those who reject the doctrine of the Rapture of the Church because it is not mentioned in the Old Testament? (page 2, top)

- 2) In which passage of Scripture in the Old Testament can we find probably the first clear prophecy concerning the second coming of Christ? (page 2, top)

- 3) The trilogy of Psalms 22, 23, and 24 present Christ how?
(page 2, middle; John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; and 1Peter 5:4)

- 4) According to Psalm 50:2 (and many, many other passages of Scripture), “from” where will Christ reign when He returns to this earth?

- 5) According to Psalm 89:36, the establishment of Christ’s throne at His second coming is a fulfillment of what covenant of God?

- 6) True or False. The second coming of Christ is a neglected theme of the major and minor prophets.
(page 3, top)

- 7) What are two of the major themes of the prophecies of Daniel which are both consummated at the coming of the Son of Man from heaven? (page 4, top; Daniel 7:13-14)

- 8) Zechariah 2:10-11 is one of many scriptural passages which is a clear reference to “what” that are “subsequent” to Christ’s second coming? (page 4, top-middle)

- 9) Zechariah 14:1-4 dramatically pictures the second coming of Christ as “when”? (page 4, bottom)

- 10) According to biblical prophecy, what “mountain” in Israel is critical to Christ’s second coming and still a current proof that He has NOT returned physically as of yet? (page 4, bottom – page 5, top)

- 11) The Second Coming of Christ in the O.T. is the grand consummation of “what” for what “reason”? (page 5, top-middle)

c. The Second Coming of Christ in the New Testament

- 1) What is the new factor that is introduced in the revelation of the New Testament? (page 5, middle)

- 2) Because of the similar terminology used, what two doctrines involving the coming of Christ are not always clear when reading the New Testament which requires the interpretation to be based on the context of each passage? (page 5, bottom)

- 3) The subject of a future coming of Christ is a major theme of the New Testament and is referred to by how many verses one way or another? (page 5, bottom)

- 4) What are the 20 major passages of Scripture in the New Testament which give us the most revelation about the second coming of Christ? (page 5, bottom – page 7, middle)

- 5) According to Luke 18:8, what is something Jesus asked His disciples if the Son of Man would find when He comes back to the earth?

- 6) According to Luke 21:25-28, people will faint in terror when they see the Son of Man coming how?

- 7) In teaching about the Lord's Supper and what it symbolizes, Paul said that Christians are to proclaim the Lord's death through eating the bread and drinking from the cup until "when"? (1 Corinthians 11:26)

- 8) According to Revelation 16:15, Jesus will also be coming like "whom"?

- 9) True or False. Because various Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments point to Christ's second coming as occurring "before" the millennial kingdom is set up on this earth and "after" God's judgment of the wicked that have rejected Him, this makes the second coming of Christ "post-tribulational" and "pre-millennial" if literal interpretation of the Scriptures are applied. (page 7, bottom)

- 10) What has the tendency been on the part of those who "spiritualize" prophecies relating to Christ's return (i.e. The Catholic Church)? (page 7, bottom)

- 11) In his book "*The Rapture Question*", John F. Walvoord set forth 50 reasons for holding what viewpoints concerning the "rapture" of the church and the second coming of Christ? (page 8, top)

- 12) According to Acts 1:11, in what way will Christ return to this earth?

- 13) While the "deity" of Christ is omnipresent and can be in heaven and earth at the same time, His "body" is always "what" and is currently "where"? (page 8, bottom)

- 14) According to Zechariah 14:4, what part of Christ will stand upon the Mount of Olives?
- 15) According to various scriptural passages, what is the significant difference between the “evidence” that the world will “see” concerning Christ’s Rapture of the church and His Second Coming?
(page 9, top; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7, 12-18, 19:11-16)
- 16) True or False. Both the second coming of Christ and His rapture of the Church are intimately related to specific places on the earth. (page 9, bottom)
- 17) According to Psalm 110:2, from “where” will the Lord “extend His mighty scepter” when He returns to?
- 18) According to Scripture, not only will His feet touch the Mount of Olives, but Christ’s return is in connection with “what”? (page 10, bottom; Zechariah 14:1-3)
- 19) According to Revelation 19:11-21, the “armies of heaven” are described as “following” Christ as He returns to the earth. Who is undoubtedly included in these “armies of heaven”? (page 11, top)
- 20) What is one of the stated purposes of the Second Coming of Christ according to Psalm 96:13?
- 21) Ezekiel 20:35-38 predicts what at the time of Christ’s second coming?
- 22) According to 1 Thessalonians 1:7-9, “who” will be punished when the Lord Jesus “is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels”?

- 23) According to Revelation 19:15-21, what ultimately will happen to both the “beast” (i.e. “the Antichrist”) and the “false prophet” (i.e. “who performed signs on the beast’s behalf to deceive the nations”) at the Second Coming of Christ?
- 24) True or False. According to scriptures like 2Peter 3:10, when Christ returns to “judge” mankind, He will ultimately destroy the earth by “fire” before He sets up His millennial kingdom.
(page 12, bottom)
- 25) Based on Scripture, compare the “triumph of sin in our modern world” as compared to the “triumph of the righteousness of God ”? (page 13, top)
- 26) According to Matthew 24:22, if the second coming of Christ is delayed “indefinitely”, what would be the results of God’s coming judgments on this earth?
- 27) According to Romans 11:26, who are the “elect” that will be “saved” when Christ returns?
- 28) The second coming of Christ not only brings judgment on the wicked and deliverance of the righteous, but also introduces “what” that will occur during a period of time called the Millennium?
(page 13, bottom; see also Romans 11:26-27 and Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- 29) Christ’s second coming also has the central purpose of reestablishing what kingdom on earth?
(page 14, top; Amos 9:11-15)
- 30) According to Ezekiel 39:29, what is something Christ will pour out on the people of Israel when He returns to the earth?

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31) According to Ezekiel 37:24, who will be “participating” in the millennial kingdom and who will be raised up to be the “prince” over Israel under Christ’s world-wide rule?

32) According to Luke 1:31-33, who will ultimately rule over the descendants of Jacob on the earth forever?