

“DON’T BE IGNORANT” (Part 7)

About the Second Coming (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

INTRO: Final in series on... 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Context of 1 Thess. ... We are living in the “last days” – the days between His two comings (church age). The coming again of Christ is a prevalent theme in Scripture (10 slides) ... Review chart “Overview of End Times Events...”

COMPARISON of Two Comings 7 years apart - Rapture & Return (PPT)
PROMISED RETURN by:

- God – God made 333 promises about His Coming, but only 109 were fulfilled in His 1st (224 left).
- Christ (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:6-11; Matt. 24:27, 30-31; Rev. 22:20 – 6 times in Rev.) – Note: We’re not waiting for an event, but a Person.
- Holy Spirit – Through Paul (Ph. 3:20; 1 Cor. 1:4-7); Jam. 5:7-8; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:13).

Let’s note 3 FACTS when He returns:

I. There will be HELL ON EARTH (Matt. 24:7-31; Rev. 6-18)

For 7 years the oppressive, godless Anti-Christ has ruled with an iron hand. Billions (58% world population dead) have died from the seals, trumpets, & bowl judgments. It has been hell on earth like never before, an unparalleled time of terror. In heaven it has been the best of times, on earth, the worst of them. Heavens take (Rev. 6:9-11). Near the end, after 7 long years of hell on earth, the stage is set for the grandest event of all - the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

II. He will bring HEAVEN TO EARTH (Rev. 19:11-16)

A. His ARRIVAL on earth will be:

1. Physical, bodily (Acts 1:10-11) -
2. Personal, Himself (Acts 1:10-11) -
3. Visible (Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30) -
4. Glorious & powerful (Matt. 24:30) – contrast to first

B. His ASCRIPTIONS are relevant:

1. (v.11b) “*Faithful & True*” (3:14). He is reliable to His promises, to protect in temptation and from Satan, to forgive, and not forsake. He is the True One, not counterfeit.
2. (v.13b) “*The Word of God*” - He’s the perfect expression of God (Jn. 1:1, 14).
3. (v.16) “*K of K & L of L*” - He is sovereign ruler over all. “*Robe*” - position; “*Thigh*” - power.

C. His APPEARANCE is revealing:

1. (v.12a) “*eyes like flames of fire*” - penetrating & piercing in judgment; sees and knows all; no escaping Him.
 2. (v.12b) “*head*” is crowned with diadems of majesty, royalty, & victory - pictures ruling sovereignty & absolute authority.
 3. (v.13a) “*dressed in robe dipped in blood*” - more refers to the wrath that was and is to be. Source of blood? Battle.
 4. (v.15) “*from His mouth comes a sharp sword*” - all judged by His Word.
- D. His ARMIES of following (v.14) Who are they? All angels and the saints of the ages are with Him as He brings heaven to earth.
- E. His ACTIVITIES are frightening: cf. Zech. 14:1-8, 12:15; Isa. 64:1-2; Joel 3:9-15; Matt. 24:27-31)
1. (v. 11b) He judges and makes war –
 2. (v. 15a) He smites and rules the nations –
 3. (v. 15b) He treads the nations – Rev. 14:14-20
 4. (vv. 17-19, 21) He defeats the armies of the earth – v. 17 a second SUPPER (Judgment)
 5. (v. 20) He defeats the Beast and the False Prophet – cast alive into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41). Unbelievers slain.

III. He will bring HOPE FOR EARTH

- A. 1st, He will *Conquer & Judge* (vv.11b, 15, 17-21). The gathered armies of the earth at Armageddon will be defeated, the Beast & F. P. cast into lake of fire, the living Jews and Gentiles will be judged and sentenced. All believers enter M.K. and the rest to hell. Satan also will be bound for 1000 yrs.
- B. Next, He will *Renovate & Reign* on Earth. The M.K. begins - joy and peace for 1000 years (20:4-6). The curse of Eden will be lifted and there will be increased productivity, perfect weather, peaceful coexistence with animals, perfect judicial system, etc. He will reign as a benevolent dictator and His saints with Him - truly a golden age.

RESPONSE? (1 Thess. 1:9-10) Turn, Serve, Wait (actively and expectantly). Titus 2:11-14 same message.

CONC: The King is coming! To interrupt hell on earth, to bring heaven and hope to earth. What a glorious day and time that will be! What a contrast between His two comings: as tiny babe born in a horse stable to Son of God riding a horse in majesty; in humility to power & glory; a lamb to save to a lion to judge; to be hammered to a cross to be honored as King - this time to stay! Ph. 2:9-11 WHEN will you bow & confess?