

## ESCHATOLOGY - III

### "THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD"

- I. THE REALITY AND EXPECTATION OF HIS COMING.
- A. He came; He went; and He's coming again!
  - B. (Heb 9:28 KJV) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
  - C. (John 14:3 KJV) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
  - D. (Acts 1:11 KJV) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye 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.
  - E. (Jude 1:14 KJV) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, (Jude 1:15 KJV) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
  - F. (Titus 2:13 KJV) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- II. WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE?
- A. (Mat 24:3 KJV) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
    - 1. When shall these things be?
    - 2. What shall be the sign of thy coming?
    - 3. What shall be the sign of the end of the world?
  - B. The coming of the Lord is associated with the end and is synonymous with the establishment of His kingdom and will take place at the final trump.
    - 1. (Rev 11:15 KJV) And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.
    - 2. (Mat 24:29 KJV) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (Mat 24:30 KJV) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Mat 24:31 KJV) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- C. The establishment of posttribulational advent of Jesus.
- D. A two-phase coming?

### III. WHAT TAKES PLACE AT OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADVENT.

#### A. ***Judgment.***

1. (2 Tim 4:1 KJV) I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
2. II Thes. 1:8 - "...in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
3. (Rev 19:11 KJV) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. (Rev 19:12 KJV) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (Rev 19:13 KJV) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. (Rev 19:14 KJV) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (Rev 19:15 KJV) And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (Rev 19:16 KJV) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

B. ***Rewards for the righteous.*** Rev. 22:12 - "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*"

C. ***Judgment of sheep and goat nations*** - (Mat 25:31 KJV) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: (Mat 25:32 KJV) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: (Mat 25:33 KJV) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. (Mat 25:34 KJV) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

### IV. WHAT ADDITIONALLY TAKES PLACE AT SECOND COMING?

- A. ***Resurrection of dead saints.*** (1 Th 4:14 KJV) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (1 Th 4:15 KJV) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (1 Th 4:16 KJV) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (1 Th 4:17 KJV) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- B. ***Translation of living saints.*** (1 Cor 15:51 KJV) Behold, I show you a mystery;

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (1 Cor 15:52 KJV) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- C. ***Gathering unto the Lord.*** (2 Th 2:1 KJV) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2 Th 2:2 KJV) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
1. (Eph 1:10 KJV) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
  2. (1 Th 4:17 KJV) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
  3. (John 14:3 KJV) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

V. WHAT MUST PRECEDE COMING OF THE LORD (II Thes. 2).

- A. ***Evil must be revealed first.*** (2 Th 2:1 KJV) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2 Th 2:2 KJV) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (2 Th 2:3 KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (2 Th 2:4 KJV) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Th 2:5 KJV) Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (2 Th 2:6 KJV) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. (2 Th 2:7 KJV) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. (2 Th 2:8 KJV) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (2 Th 2:9 KJV) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (2 Th 2:10 KJV) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (2 Th 2:11 KJV) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (2 Th 2:12 KJV) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. Man of sin to be revealed.
  - a. Anti-christ or beast system.
  - b. Abomination of Desolation.  
Establishment of temple (without divine sanction).  
Mt. 24:15 - "...when you shall see the abomination of desolation...shall be great tribulation."  
Dan. 9:27 - "...confirm covenant for one week...midst of week cause

*sacrifices to cease...and for overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate."*

Dan. 11:31 - "...take away daily sacrifice and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolation..."

...But the people who know their God shall be strong...

2. Wicked revealed, whom Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

**B. *Church must fulfill its purpose in the earth.***

1. Reveal the wisdom of God. Eph. 3:10 - "...to the intent that to principalities might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God..."
2. Come to maturity - (Eph 4:11 KJV) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (Eph 4:12 KJV) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:13 KJV) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
3. Must become one - (John 17:11 KJV) And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.
4. Must be present glorious.  
Without spot or wrinkle - (Eph 5:27 KJV) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.  
A glorious church - full of God's glory.

- A. ***Gospel of the kingdom must be preached in all the world.***(Mat 24:14 KJV) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

**VI. TIMES AND SEASONS.**

**A. *The things that belong to God.***

1. Acts 1:6 KJV) When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
2. (Acts 1:7 KJV) And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
3. (Deu 29:29 KJV) The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- B. ***Not know the day nor the hour.*** (Mat 25:13 KJV) Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**C. *Times and seasons.***

1. Discerning the times (Mat 16:3 KJV) And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?
2. We can know the times and the seasons (1 Th 5:1 KJV) But of the times

and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (1 Th 5:2 KJV) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (1 Th 5:3 KJV) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Th 5:4 KJV) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (1 Th 5:5 KJV) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (1 Th 5:6 KJV) Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Th 5:7 KJV) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

#### VII. THE QUESTION OF IMMINENCY.

- A. As far as we know, no predicted event will necessarily precede the coming of Christ.
- B. Incorporates three essential elements:
  1. Suddenness.
  2. Unexpectedness or incalculability.
  3. Possibility of occurrence at any time.
- C. Requires only Christ might come before tribulation, not that he must.
- D. Imminence would only raise the possibility of pretribulationism on a sliding scale with mid and posttrib.
- E. Readiness denotes not so much tiptoe anticipation as faithful service day by day..

#### STIMULUS FOR HOLY LIVING.

- A. Purifying influence of second coming doesn't lie in fear of getting caught.
- B. Need to always be ready.
- C. Incentive to holy living.
  1. *The grace of God.*"(Titus 2:11 KJV) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (Titus 2:12 KJV) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; (Titus 2:13 KJV) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Titus 2:14 KJV) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
  2. *The expectation of a new heaven and new earth* (2 Pet 3:11 KJV) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (2 Pet 3:12 KJV) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (2 Pet 3:13 KJV) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Pet 3:14 KJV) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

3. *The expectation of one day being like him.* (1 John 3:1 KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. (1 John 3:2 KJV) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:3 KJV) And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

(1 Tim 6:14 KJV) That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

In none of these passages does imminence form the crux of the exhortation to righteous living.

Self-purification in the light of the second coming rests, not on the fear of sudden exposure, but on the certainty of the event and the knowledge that the conduct of our whole Christian life will be revealed in the light of divine presence.

We are to watch, both because we cannot know exactly and because we must be alert to the signs which will enable us to know approximately.