

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST *Adapted from Alban Douglas pp. 61-63*
I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-54; John 11:25,26

INTRODUCTION

There are six Greek words used to reveal this fact:

1. Parousia – personal presence II Thess. 2:1
2. Apokalupsis – revelation Revelation 1:1
3. Epiphaniea – appearing II Timothy 1:1
4. Episunagōgē - gathering together II Thessalonians 2:1
5. Paralambanō - take unto, to receive near John 14:3
6. Harpazo – seize, take up, caught up, Rapture I Thessalonians 4:17

These six words signify that there will come a time when Christ will return in a public or personal revelation of Himself to the world.

Some teach that the second Coming (Advent) is when at death “Jesus comes to receive the soul” but that is not a public revelation of Himself visible to the entire world. Rev. 1:7

Acts 1:10,11 describes the ascension (going up) as:

1. Personal
2. Bodily
3. Visible
4. Powerful

The Savior’s first coming was in humiliation, but the Second Advent will be Glorious.

I. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST’S SECOND COMING (ADVENT)

His first coming was prophesied and those prophecies were fulfilled literally. This gives us great confidence that the prophecies of the second coming will be fulfilled literally and not in a figurative or spiritual sense.

1. It was foretold by the prophets. Dan. 7:13
2. It was foretold by the Lord Matt. 25:31

3. It was foretold by Paul I Tim. 6:14

4. It was foretold by Angels Acts 1:10-11, when the Saviour ascended from the earth. None of these prophecies were fulfilled at His first coming.

II. TIME OF CHRIST'S COMING AGAIN

This is a secret known only to God. Matt. 24:36

Jesus Christ as a man did not know that date but Jesus Christ as God is omniscient and certainly knows the exact moment of His return. It may be moveable depending on the speed of the spread of the gospel. Matt. 24:14

III. PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING

1. To complete the salvation of the saints. Heb. 9:28; Phil 1:6
2. To be glorified in His saints. II Thess. 1:10; I Peter 5:10-11
3. To bring to light the hidden things of darkness. I Cor. 4:5
4. To Judge. II Tim 4:1; II Cor. 5:9-11; Matt. 24:..
5. To Reign. Rev. 11:15; Rev. 20:4-6; I Cor. 15:20-28
6. To receive us be with Him. John 14:3; I Th. 4:16-17; II Th. 2:1,2
7. To destroy death I Cor. 15:25-26, 54-57

IV. HOW IS CHRIST COMING?

1. Secretly at the Rapture. I Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:44, 50; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:14-17
2. Publicly at The Revelation. Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30; Titus 2:13 NOTE: These may refer to both the secret and public.

V. WHERE IS CHRIST COMING TO?

1. At the Rapture – in the clouds of the air – I Thess. 4:17
2. At The Revelation – Probably the Mt. of Olives – Acts 1:9-11; Zech. 14:1-5 cf. Rev. 19:11-21

VI. MANNER OF HIS COMING

1. In the clouds Matt. 24:30
2. In the Glory of His Father Matt. 16:27
3. In His own Glory Matt. 25:31

4. In flaming fire II Thess. 1:8
5. With power and great glory Matt 24:30
6. As He ascended, In bodily form Acts 1:9-11
7. With a shout and the voice of the Archangel I Thess. 4:16-17
8. With His saints I Thess. 3:13
9. Accompanied by Angels Matt. 16:27
10. Suddenly Mark 13:36

VI. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

II Timothy 3:1-7 To Church 23 signs

Matt. 24:5-7 & 12-38 To Jews 10 signs

CONCLUSION: Be not like the scoffers in II Peter 3:3, for His coming is sure and certain. Is it right to sell everything and sit on a hilltop waiting for Him? Definitely not! We ought to plan and work as if He were not coming for another century but live a holy and pure life as if He were coming today. I Thess. 3:12,13. This doctrine must affect our lives.