

**The Lord's Coming  
and  
The Lord's Appearing**

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## **The Lord's Coming and The Lord's Appearing**

In talking with fellow believers recently, I have heard more and more the mention of the Lord's Kingdom in relation to the 'Rapture'.

One Christian pastor said that we have to include the kingdom when we preach the gospel. Another said, "To require man to repent to be saved was adding works to salvation." Another asked if we could maintain the integrity of man while we preach the gospel.

I would like to state here at the beginning that the hope of the Church is to spend eternity in Heaven with Christ. We are to preach the total sinfulness and depravity of man and the wondrous grace of God. The Gospel of the Grace of God is not preparing the earth for the coming King, but preparing man to be part of the bride of Christ through repenting of, and forsaking, sin and trusting in the value of the blood of Christ.

*(NOTE: Scripture quotations are all in italics.)*

### **Outline of Events**

1. The Lord will come to take his bride, the church, home to heaven. [the Rapture]
2. a: The great tribulation will take place here on earth. See Revelation 4 to 19.  
b: The judgment seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place in Heaven.
3. The Lord will Appear in judgment to set up his kingdom and reign 1000 years. [the Appearing]
4. The Great White Throne - judgment of the dead at the end of the millennium, and Christ then delivers up the kingdom to His Father that God may be all in all.
5. A comparison of the scene in heaven in Ezekiel's day, and the scene in Rev 4.

Let us review what the Word of God has to say on the subject. Strange as it may seem I would like to start with Revelation, the last book of the Bible.

**Rev. 1:19** Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter:

Here we see that John is told of three things: First, what he has seen in his vision —that is the candle sticks and the Lord among them (in judgment, because the book of Revelation is a book of judgment). The candle sticks [Lamp Stands] represent the testimony of each church age. Notice here that the last four church ages in chapters 2-3 include ‘till I come’. This indicates that each will go on to the time of the Lord’s coming. The things which are - that is the church here on earth, in chapters two and three. And finally, the things which shall be hereafter, or literally the ‘things which shall be after these’. From chapter 4 to chapter 19 the earth is dealt with from heaven and the church is seen in heaven with the Lamb. In chapter 19 we have the Lord coming in power the set up his kingdom, at the end of the tribulation period.

You may ask why is this so important? If you read through the book of Revelation you would agree that it is not a fun time on earth. Would you wish to go through such a time? Listen to what God says:

**Rev. 3:10** Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Notice that he does not say ‘I will keep thee through the hour of temptation’, but from it. Noah was kept through the flood. The flood is a picture of the coming trouble for this earth.

Enoch was taken home before the flood came. Something of interest here is that while Noah typifies the faithful remnant of Israel who go through the tribulation, it takes two men to typify the church. Methuselah who lived 969 years and Enoch whom God took home to heaven without dying. Methuselah’s name means “when I am gone, it will come”. Also his long life speaks of the long suffering grace of God. God is not willing that any should perish. It was said *Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.* (Gen 5:24) What a beautiful picture of the church. Now notice in Revelation chapter four that the church is seen as in heaven.

*Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

### **THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CHURCH**

We see, today, a parallel to what was happening in the end of the period of the Kings. In 2 Kings 23, Josiah kept a passover better than anyone since the days of the Judges. That is even better than Solomon. After this, however, Josiah interfered in the affairs of this world (vs 29) and was killed because of it. You see it is now the end of the period of the church, and we have had the privilege to remember the Lord as well as any before us. Now many are giving up the hope of the Lord's coming to take us to heaven by becoming involved in the affairs of this world. In Christendom many today hear more about writing a congressman than of spending time studying the scriptures and in prayer with the Lord of Lord's.

The result of this involvement with the world is a focus on this earth and a loss of the hope of the Lord's coming. The hope of the Lord's coming is being replaced by a focus on His appearing to set up His Kingdom.

### **THE LORD'S COMING FOR HIS SAINTS**

Let us look at some of scriptures regarding his coming for us.

*1 Thes 4:15 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. 16 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: 17 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.*

Notice here that the term *with the voice of the archangel* could be rendered 'with archangel voice'. You may say what is

the difference? Well it is not the archangel who shouts but the Lord himself. The archangel is the one with the authority of heaven. We see that the Lord comes with all of the authority of heaven to call us home, and to raise the dead.

***Song of Solomon 2:10** My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. **11** For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; **12** The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle [dove] is heard in our land;*

This may not be what the Lord shouts when he comes for us, but it does express the thought. “Rise up, my love” ñ He will call is bride home to be with him in glory.

***1 Cor. 15:51** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** 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. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **56** The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

### **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

What will be happening with the church in heaven?

***Romans 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

***1 Cor. 3:12** Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **13** Every man’s*

*work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Here we have the judgment seat of Christ where the believers will receive rewards for what is done for Christ. We will have perfect vision as to these works and side with Christ as he evaluates them. I am sure that there will be a lot of amazement there, both for things rewarded that we never thought about, and the loss of those things that we thought that we did for Him, but really did for ourselves. Only what is done for Christ will last.

Now also the marriage supper of the Lamb, where Christ is united with His bride the church. The old testament saints are the friends of the bridegroom, ie. John the Baptist. *John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: **this my joy therefore is fulfilled.***

*Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come**, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in **fine linen, clean and white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

You may ask why this is seen in the end of the Revelation. Well, the very next passage is that of the Lord himself descending in power and judgment. This is one of the most awe inspiring passages of scripture. Notice that the 'armies' that were in heaven are "**clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**" This is the church and old testament saints as seen from the previous verses. By putting this here in the Revelation, God makes it clear that we, the church, will be with him at his appearing, we are not waiting here on earth for his appearing.

## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

We will not discuss the great tribulation here, but suffice it to say that the first three and a half years [of Daniels 70th week] they will say peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall fall on the whole earth. At the end of the seven years, the Lord Jesus appears on the earth to set up his kingdom.

***Daniel 9:24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. **25** Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. **26** And **after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. **27** And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

***1Thes 5:1** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. **2** For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. **3** 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. **4** **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.** **5** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober,*

*putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

### **THE LORD'S APPEARING**

***Rev 1:7** Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

***Rev 19:11** 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. **12** 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. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** 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. **16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. **17** And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*

***2 Thes 1:7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; **10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

What more needs to be said? The scriptures are so clear as to the appearing of the Lord in his glory.

But we should not be ignorant as to these things. Those in the tribulation will see the unbridled sway of evil on the earth:

*2 Thes 2:1* Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, **2** 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. **3** 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; 4** 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, shewing himself that he is God. **5** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? **6** And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [hindereth] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way. **8** 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: **9** Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, **10** And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: **12** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In this passage we have reference to the removal of the Holy Spirit from the earth *he who now letteth [hindereth] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way.* The Lord promised that he would send the Spirit to dwell with us and be in us. If he is to leave then he must take us too. For He cannot forsake us, leaving us on the earth. We will be gone before the coming evil. We may well be present to see some of the building evil even as we see the rise of Islam today.

*Malachi 4:1* For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. **2** But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of

*righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

### **THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY**

At the beginning of the millennium the Lord will judge the living nations on the earth.

***Matthew 25:31** 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: **32** 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: **33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **34** 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:....**41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:....**46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Notice that this is the final judgment for these people. The righteous go into eternal life and the condemned go to the lake of fire.

***John 5:22** For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: **23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.....**27** And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

### **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT**

At the end of the millennium, man, who has experienced 1000 years of righteous reign, will rise up against the Lord. They will be led by Satan, who has been let out of the bottomless pit.

***Rev 20:7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, **8** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,*

*Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

Then the Lord Jesus will judge the dead.

*Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Here is the judgment of the spiritually dead. The believers have all been raised from among the dead, and are in blessing with Christ, both in heaven and on the new earth. This is the end of time, and eternity begins.

#### THE HEAVENLY SCENE

Notice the description of the Lord in glory as seen in Ezekiel chapter one. The man on the throne above all the confusion of this scene.

*Ezekiel 1:4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. 5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. 6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. 7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. 8 And they had the hands of a man under*

*their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. 9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. 11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. 12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. 15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. 18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. 20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. 23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one*

toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. **24** And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. **25** And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. **26** And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. **27** And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. **28** As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

In Revelation we see the same scene but there is now a set of seats for the Elders who represent the old testament and church saints.

**Rev 4:1** After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. **2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. **3** And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. **4** And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. **5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. **6** And before

*the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

In Ezekiel the point of the chapter is to show that the heavens are in control over this earth. The scene is total confusion but is under control from above. During the tribulation, this scene will again be total confusion to the natural eye. But the heavens rule. Also the saints of God are shown as part of the company in fellowship with the ruling Lamb.

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