

Chapter Forty-Six

The Second Coming of Christ

Step # One

Chapter Forty-Six The Second Coming of Christ

Find the Outline





52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURES SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

Lewis Sperry Chafer John F. Walvoord

Chapter Forty-Six The Second Coming of Christ

- A. Importance of the Second Coming
- B. Old Testament Prophecies of the Second Coming
- C. Second Coming in the New Testament



Chapter Forty-Six The Second Coming of Christ A. Importance of the Second Coming In both the Old and New Testaments the importance of the coming of Christ to establish His kingdom is set forth in many passages. 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. 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. 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.



B. Old Testament Prophecies of the Second Coming

Probably the first of the clear prophecies concerning the second coming of Christ is in Deuteronomy 30:1-3. In this prophecy concerning the regathering of Israel to her land, it is predicted that Israel will return to the Lord spiritually and that then the Lord "will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee" (v. 3). The ex pression "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.



Psalm 2 describes the major contention of God with the Understand It 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 "shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (v. 9).

> In Psalm 24 the Chief Shepherd is revealed, who is coming as the King of Glory to reward faithful shepherds (1 Pet. 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).



The reign of Christ from Zion is mentioned in Psalm 50:2. Understand It As will be seen later, in the study of the Millennium, Psalm 72 describes Christ as having come to the earth to reign over all nations. Psalm 89:36 speaks of Christ's throne as being established in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant following His second coming. Psalm 96, after picturing the honor and glory of God, exhorts the heavens and the earth to rejoice

> 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).



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. An extensive picture of the results of the second coming of Christ in establishing His kingdom is painted in Isaiah 11-12. 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.

In the prophecies of Daniel concerned with the times of the Gentiles and God's program for the nation of Israel, the con summation of both is related to the coming of the Son of Man from heaven (Dan. 7:13-14).



Most of the minor prophets likewise take up this theme, and especially the Book of Zechariah. According to Zechariah 2:10-11, the Lord declares, "Sing and rejoice, 0 daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee." Even more specific is Zechariah 8:3-8: "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain" (v, 3).



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

C. Second Coming in the **New Testament**

In the Old Testament the predictions of the first and second comings of Christ were often mingled, and prophets had difficulty distinguishing the two events. 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



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.

At least twenty major passages may be selected as contributing the major elements of the New Testament revelation of the Second Coming (Matt. 19:28; 23:39; 24:3 - 25:46; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:22-37; 18:8; 21:25-28; Acts 1:10-11; 15:16-18; Rom. 11:25-27; 1 Cor.11:26; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Pet. 3:3-4; Jude 14-15; Rev. 1:7-8; 2:25-28; 16:15; 19:11-21; 22:20).

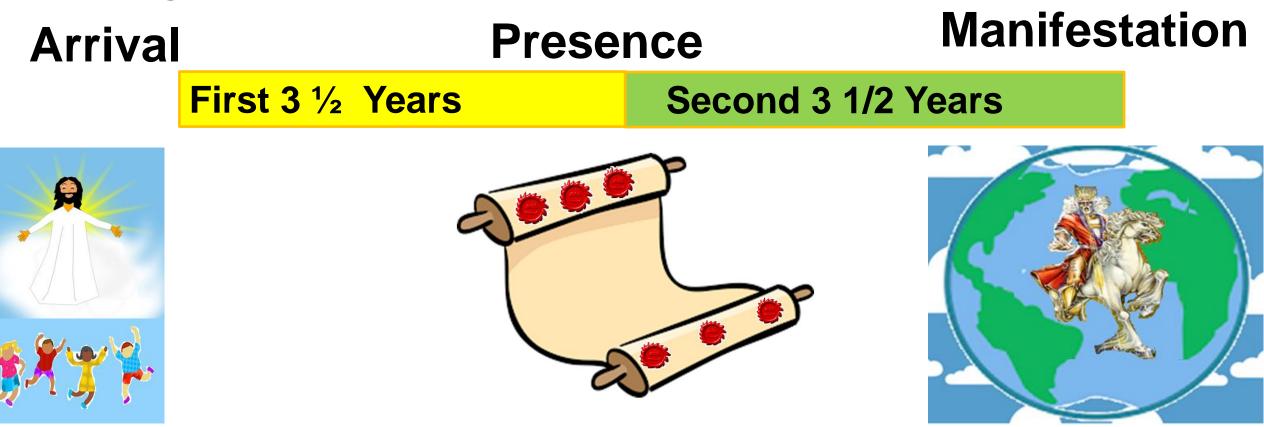


The tendency has been, on the part of those who spiritualize prophecies relating to a future kingdom on earth, to merge the prophecies of the Rapture and the prophecies of Christ's second coming into one event making the Rapture a postribulational event. A literal interpretation of the Second Coming which is followed by a literal millennial kingdom on earth also serves to distinguish the second coming from the rapture of the church. Major differences can be seen between these two events.

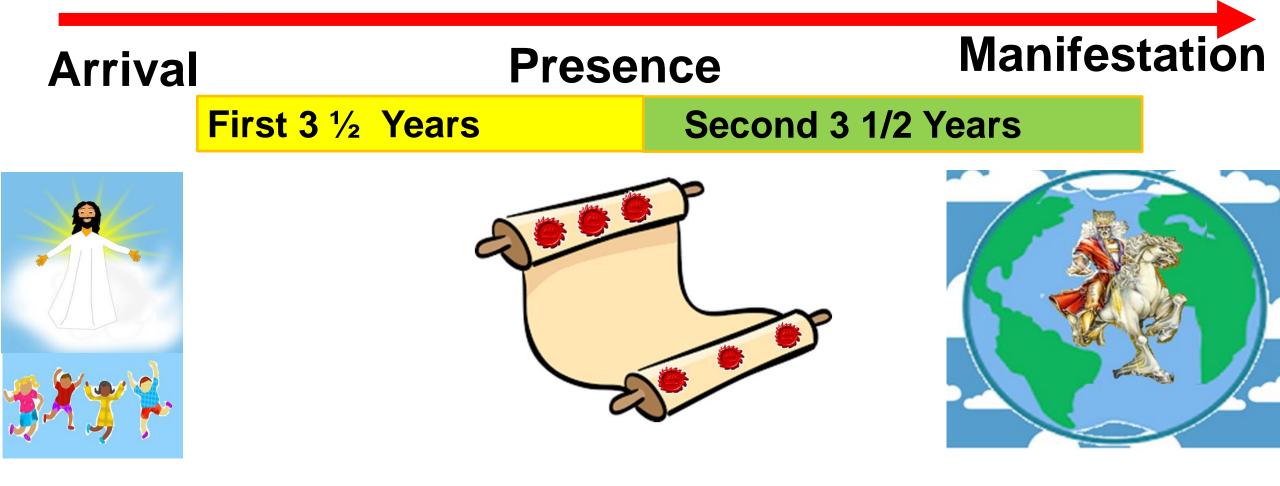
One Return or Two?

A common criticism of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture is that it is Two comings...

Those who believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture see it as one coming in three distinct phases...



This is all the Second Coming ...



Differences in His arrival...











1Th 4:17 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.





Zech 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day **upon the mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the

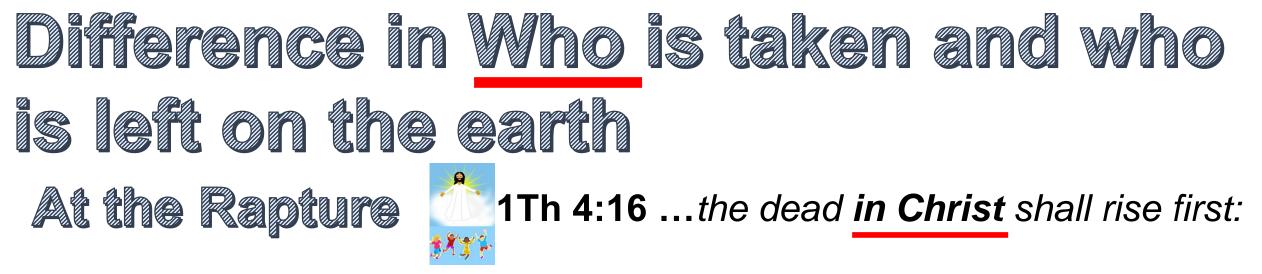


John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself;





Mat 24:31 And **he shall send his angels** with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect...



1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up**... (Raptured)





Matt. 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.



Luke talks about this same event and tells where the women will be taken too...

Luke 17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.



Luke 17:37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Where will the eagles be gathered?



At the 2nd Coming...

Mat 24:27-28 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

At the end of the Battle of Armageddon...

Rev 19:17-18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he scried 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...



In The Rapture Question, by John F. Walvoord, fifty reasons are set forth for holding that the Rapture is pretribulational and the second coming of Christ to establish His kingdom is post-tribulational. 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 the principles of interpretation employed. 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.

The next principle is to build a physical file cabinet



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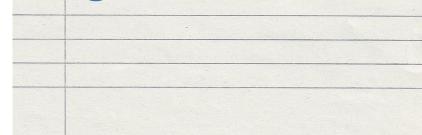
Chapter 46 : The Second Coming

Mike Borland

What does the Bible teach about The Second Coming?



Using Major Bible Themes write a study about the Second Coming

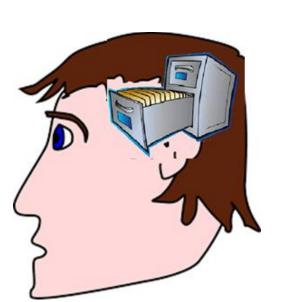


Memorize it

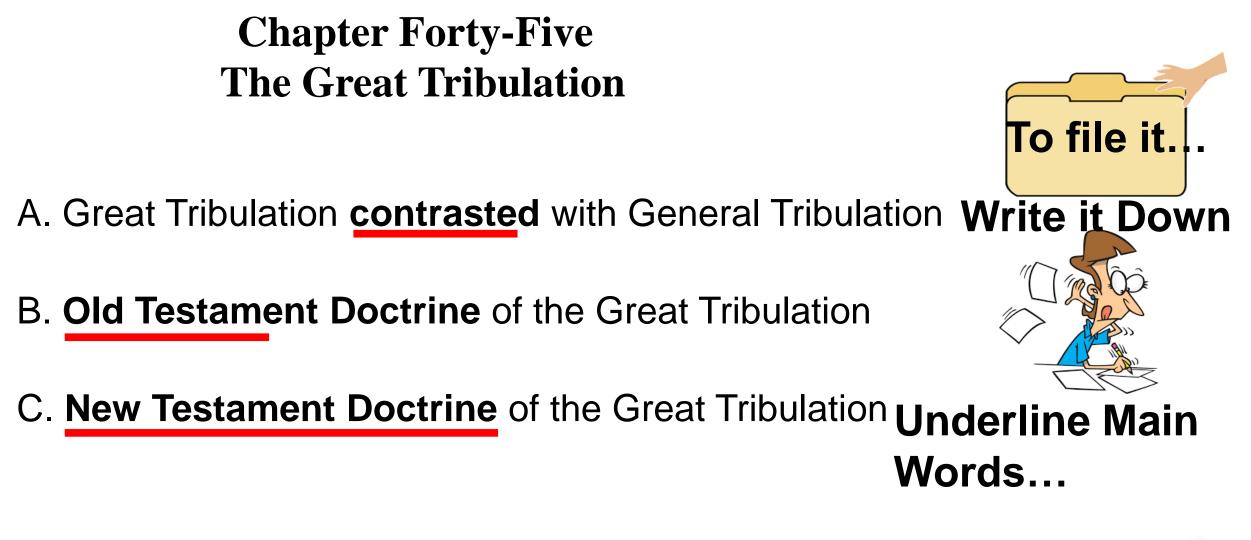
Chapter Forty-Five The Great Tribulation

A. Great Tribulation contrasted with General Tribulation

B. Old Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation



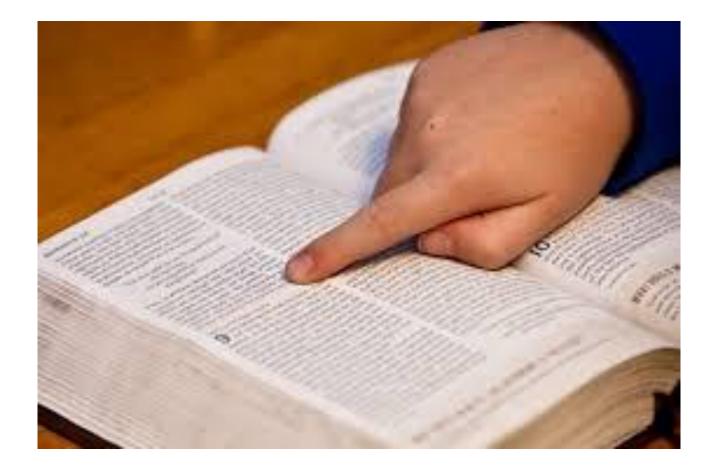
C. New Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation







Read the Section and look up the passages



Chapter Forty-Six The Second Coming of Christ

B. Old Testament Prophecies of the Second Coming

Probably the first of the clear prophecies concerning the second coming of Christ is in Deuteronomy

Deut 30:3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and **will return** and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

In Psalm 24 the Chief Shepherd is revealed, who is coming as the King of Glory to reward faithful shepherds

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Psa 24:7-8 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and **the King of glory shall come in.** Who is this King of glory? The LORD **strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Although the rulers of the world desire to reject God and His rule over them, God declares His purpose Psalm 2

Psa 2:6-9 Yet have *I* set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. *I* will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

The reign of Christ from Zion is mentioned in the Psalms

Psa 50:2-4 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. **Our God shall come**, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that **he may judge his people**.

Psa 89:35-37 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

Psa 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isa 63:1-5 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

In the prophecies of Daniel concerning the coming of the Son of Man from heaven

Dan 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Zechariah 2:10-11, "Sing and rejoice, 0 daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee."

Zechariah 8:3-8: "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain" (v, 3).

Zechariah 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

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Zec 14:1-4 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

C. Second Coming in the **New Testament**

At least twenty major passages may be selected as contributing the major elements of the New Testament revelation (Matt. 19:28; 23:39; 24:3 - 25:46; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:22-37; 18:8; 21:25-28; Acts 1:10-11; 15:16-18; Rom. 11:25-27; 1 Cor.11:26; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Pet. 3:3-4; Jude 14-15; Rev. 1:7-8; 2:25-28; 16:15; 19:11-21; 22:20).

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the **Son of man shall sit in** *the throne of his glory,* ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that **cometh in the name of the Lord.**

Read Matthew 24:3 - 25:46

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 21:25-28 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the **Son of man coming** in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. **Act 1:10-11** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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.

Act 15:16 After this **I will return**, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall **come out of Sion the Deliverer**, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death **till he come.**

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus **shall be revealed** from heaven with his mighty angels,

2Pe 3:4 And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming**? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Jud 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh** with ten thousands of his saints,

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 16:15 Behold, *I come as a thief*. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Read Revelation 19:11-21

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come** quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Step # Three Memorize one Passage per section Learn general and specific later.

Highlight key words
Understand difficult words and the meaning

Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize

Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone







Step # Four Take the Test at the end of the chapter Chapter Forty-Six The Second Coming of Christ

- 1. What are some of the great themes related to the doctrine of the Second Coming?
- It deals with the important themes of the resurrections, the judgments of God on Israel and other nations, and the millennial kingdom. These great themes combine to provide the scriptural goal of history, which in large measure determines the interpretation of the entire Bible.
- The great covenants of Scripture relate to God's program especially these covenants with Abraham, Israel, and David, and the new cov enant. Much of the revelation of the Psalms and the major and minor prophets revolves around this great theme. 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. For this reason, the doctrine of the Second Coming in large measure determines the total theology

- 2. How extensive is the doctrine of the Second Coming in the Old Testament?
- 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.
- 3. What does Deuteronomy 30:1-3 contribute to the doctrine of the Second Coming?

It is the first mention of it

4. How does Psalm 2 deal with the Second Coming?

Psalm 2 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 "shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (v. 9). 5. What great themes are unfolded in Psalms 22, 23, and 24?

In Psalm 24 the Chief Shepherd is revealed, who is coming as the King of Glory to reward faithful shepherds (1 Pet. 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).

6. Summarize truth about the second coming of Christ and the millennial kingdom in Psalms 50, 72, 89, 96, and 110.

The reign of Christ from Zion is mentioned in Psalm 50:2. As will be seen later, in the study of the Millennium, Psalm 72 describes Christ as having come to the earth to reign over all nations. Psalm 89:36 speaks of Christ's throne as being established in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant following His second coming. Psalm 96, after picturing the honor and glory of God, exhorts the heavens and the earth to rejoice 7. What is contributed by Isaiah 9:6-7?

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

8. How does Daniel 7 describe the Second Coming?

Dan 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the **Son of man came with the clouds of heaven**, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was **given him dominion**, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. 9. What are the contributions of Zechariah 2, 8, and 14 to the doctrine of the Second Coming?

According to Zechariah 2:10- 11, the Lord declares, "Sing and rejoice, 0 daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee." Even more specific is Zechariah 8:3-8: "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain" (v, 3).

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 10.How does Zechariah 14 refute the idea that Christ has already fulfilled the promise of His second coming?

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.

11. What difficulty did the Old Testament prophets have in distinguishing the first and second comings of Christ?

In the Old Testament the predictions of the first and second comings of Christ were often mingled, and prophets had difficulty distinguishing the two events. 12.What corresponding difficulty is found in the New Testament in distinguishing the Rapture and the second coming of Christ to set up His kingdom?

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.

13.Summarize the evidence that the second coming of Christ to the earth to set up His kingdom is post-tribulational and premillennial.

The second coming is post-tribulational because the purpose the events of the Tribulation is to Judge the earth and these must be complete before Christ returns. It is premillennial because Christ must first to establish the Davidic Kingdom 14. How does premillennialism depend upon principles of interpretation of Scripture?

Yes, literal interpretation of the scripture leads to premillennialism

15. Demonstrate that the second coming of Christ is a personal coming.

The descriptions of the second coming of Christ in all the major passages relating to it make clear that His return is personal. 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." 16. What evidence supports the conclusion that Christ will return bodily in His second coming?

The same passages which indicate that His return will be personal also make clear that it will be a bodily return. 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. In His second coming, Christ will bodily return, - just as He bodily ascended. This is supported by Zechariah 14:4- "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount pf Olives" - and by the fact that His return is said in Acts 1 to happen the same way as His ascension.

17.Contrast the extent to which Christ will be seen by the world at the Rapture with the extent at the second coming to establish His kingdom.

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. Christ Himself described His return as lightning shining from the East to the West (Matt. 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." 18. How is the second coming of Christ intimately related to the earth in contrast with the Rapture?

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.

19. Who will accompany Christ in His second coming from heaven to earth?

The church and Holy Angels

20. Summarize the teaching that Christ will judge the earth in His second coming.

The stated purpose of the Second Coming is to judge the earth (Ps. 96:13). 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. In Matthew 19:28 Christ told the twelve apostles they would join Him in judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 25:31-46 describes the judgment of the Gentiles on earth at the time of the Second Coming. Ezekiel 20:35-38 predicts the judgment of Israel at the time of the Second Coming. Those who die during the time of persecution preceding the Second Coming will be raised and judged, according to Revelation 20:4.

21. Distinguish the judgments which will occur before the Millennium from those which will come at the close of the Millennium.

The goats judged before the millennium will be cast into Hades. The sheep will go into the millennium. Those judged after the millennium will be cast to hell. The judgment at the end of the tribulation will not destroy the earth. It will partially restore it. 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

22. How does the return of Christ relate to delivering the saved in the Great Tribulation?

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.

23. To what extent does the second coming of Christ inaugurate a new spiritual state?

The second coming of Christ, however, not only brings judgment on the wicked and deliverance for the righteous, but introduces a new spiritual state of the Millennium.

24. How does the return of Christ relate to the reestablishment of the Davidic kingdom?

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

- 25.Summarize the main facts that relate to the second coming of Christ as an important event.
- 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. 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. It will be related to the earth rather than to heaven and specifically to Jerusalem in the Mount of Olives.