

Introduction to 'Christ's Second Coming'

Tim Day – February 2023



Most Christians believe *Eschatology*, the study of Jesus Christ's second coming, is far too complicated and confusing to understand. Sadly, it has been relegated to the camp of the 'nerds,' as it were, in most churches today.

It is only a small subset of Believers who focus on End-time events. Many of these folks tend to be only interested in the esoteric nuances of this aspect of God's Word, to the exclusion of the full Gospel of God. This should not be.

This is simply out of balance. It is decidedly out of balance to focus too heavily on eschatology to the exclusion of other aspects of Scripture. It is equally out of balance to ignore the vast prophecies regarding His return and the events we can expect at the end of the age.

Importance

Many deem this subject as unimportant. But, it is clearly important. At least **30% of our Bibles** deal with Christ's second coming and the events therein. Jesus even took the time to discuss it in great detail, in the **longest recording of Jesus'** teaching in the Bible, less than two days from the cross. Surely, He had 'bigger fish to fry,' as they say, at that point, if it were not important.

There is **seven times more prophecy** regarding Jesus' second coming than there is for His first. With that much text, it strikes me that **God considered this important** for us. As such, it would seem that God did not intend that it was so confusing no one could understand it.

Israel

Others say, well every generation believed that Jesus was coming back in their day. So why bother, is their implication? It may be true that our forefathers did expect His return in their day. But, we have one event in our day that they did have not in theirs. It changes everything. **Israel is back in their homeland.** This is huge!

From 70 AD until 1948, for 1,878 years, there was no prophecy being fulfilled. Now in our day prophecy is being fulfilled in rapid succession (See: *Miracle that is Israel*). The end-time stage is set. We should be paying attention.

Confusion

Most Christians throw up their hands on this subject declaring it too difficult to discern and understand. However, it turns out it is not that complicated after all. What is confusing is that there are **six prevalent positions** regarding our Savior's Second Coming.

They are each **mutually exclusive** from one another. Logic dictates that they cannot all be correct. In fact, logic 101 would declare that, at most, one could be right and the rest have to be wrong.

Yet, we hold these six mutually-exclusive positions in our churches as equally valid. This might be the *definition of insanity*. Remember there is only **one right answer**; that is God's Word.

As it turns out, all the six positions are wrong. How can I say that? It turns out it is obvious once you understand what God said about Jesus' Second Coming.

You see, not one of these six popular positions lines up with God's Word. Indeed, not one of them comes even close to aligning with what Jesus plainly said in the **Olivet Discourse**. The Olivet Discourse is His extensive teaching in answer to this straightforward question from the disciples:

"What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

The Decoder Ring

Oddly, we act as if Jesus did not answer the question. But, He did, in brilliant detail. The **Olivet teaching** (*recorded in: Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13*) is the '*decoder ring*' to all of eschatology. Once you see what Jesus said, and understand the "*these things*" he said to look for, you quickly see how simple it is.

The **sequence of events** is repeated throughout Scripture, and always in the exact same order, without exception. The sequence follows the numerical Seals of the Scroll in the Book of Revelation. They were numbered for a reason. No, these numbers were not added, like chapter and verse numbers; they are in the original text.

Once you see the sequence of events, you will realize that all of the six prevalent positions are simply incorrect. Holding these counterfeit views as valid causes much confusion in our churches.

Simplicity

As it turns out the only confusing thing about eschatology are the six prevalent positions, telling you what the plain sense of scripture say is not what it means. Each of these common positions is doctrines of men. Each is also *eisegesis* – in each case, man read into scripture what they wanted it to say.

“When the plain sense of scripture makes perfect sense, seek no other sense” – *Dr. Walter Martin*

This “*Second Coming*” paper first looks closely at **what Jesus said** to lay the groundwork. Then it examines the six prevalent positions – four Premillennial, and two Postmillennial views – alongside what Jesus said. The appendix contains related materials dealing with the other aspects of Christ’ Second Coming.

Author

This intro-document, and the larger complete “*Christ’s Second Coming*” document it introduces, is the collection of 35 years of teaching on various aspects of this subject. A few years back, I felt like God was encouraging me to combine all my disparate teachings on this subject into one document. To my surprise, it fit together like a hand in glove. As I dropped the pieces into place, it became an instant, and rather complete, book. I pray you will find it of benefit.



Moreover, I pray that you will do, as I have, by praying that God will lead you to “*the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.*” Don’t take my word for it, be Berean.

Summary of Olivet Discourse



This is the essence of what the '*Christ's Second Coming*' document explains in greater detail. The actual framework is quite simple. It is, however, not what many want to hear. Neither does it match the six popular positions on the Second Coming of Christ. But, it is what Jesus described. Furthermore, all end-time prophecy in the Bible mirrors this sequence of events.

70 Week Prophecy

Daniel prophesied 70 weeks, 70 weeks of years, or 490 years (7x70), for the Jews. It is rendered in Daniel as 70 weeks "*are determined upon thy people.*" The 70-week prophecy began with the decree by the Persian king Artaxerxes for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem.

69 weeks, or 483 years, was precisely fulfilled "*from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the ... Messiah be cut off.*" In other words, from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the crucifixion of Jesus was 69 week, or 483 years.

70th Week of Daniel

The last week, the **70th Week of Daniel**, as it is known, has yet to be fulfilled. The last seven years of prophetic Jewish history will be fulfilled one day. It will include Jesus Second coming, and will bring to a close the Church age, the age of the gentiles, Jewish history, and the current age as we know it.

It will be followed by a one thousand year earthly reign of Christ from Jerusalem. This is known as the **Millennium**. At the end of the Millennium, God will destroy what is and create the eternal "*New Heavens and the New Earth.*" We will live there with Jesus forever.

Beginning of Sorrows

In the Olivet teaching of Jesus, He is describing the 70th Week of Daniel. In the first half of the Olivet Discourse, Jesus describes the first half of the 70th Week; approximately 3-1/2 years. He calls it "*the Beginning of Sorrows.*"

In the "*beginning of sorrows*" Jesus talks us through the first **Four Horsemen** of the Apocalypse, in numerical order; these are the **first four Seals** on the Scroll in the book of Revelation. These Seals include: the **antichrist, war, pestilence and famine, and death.**

While we have had *war, pestilence and famine, and death* going on for centuries, I suspect they will amp-up dramatically during this 3-1/2 year timeframe. The person of the antichrist comes on the scene and negotiates a peace treaty with Israel. It inaugurates the 70th Week. However, we do not know for sure this person is to be the antichrist at this time. In fact, it is not confirmed until the middle of the 70th Week.

The Scroll and the Seven Seals

Note that the Scroll in Revelation contains *God's Trumpet and Bowl judgments* on mankind for how they have treated Israel and His elect. We are "*not appointed to wrath,*" thus we are taken out of the way, in what is known as the Rapture, immediately before God's judgment commences.

The Scroll is held closed by **Seven Seals**. As Jesus is breaking the Seals, either literally or figuratively, there are corresponding events taking place on planet earth. Jesus teaches through these events, in His Olivet teaching, in numerical order. He has now discussed the first Four Seals of the "*beginning of sorrows.*"

These Things

After the description of the "*beginning of sorrows,*" in the first half of the 70th Week, it gets interesting quickly. Coming up are the "*these things*" that Jesus describes as the "*sign of [His] coming,*" as He answers the disciples' question:

"What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Skipping past Jesus answer for just a moment, once Jesus answers the question He makes four directives:

- When you see '*these things,*' look up for your redemption draweth nigh;
- When you see '*these things,*' know that the end is near;
- This generation shall not pass away until all '*these things*' are fulfilled; and lastly,
- Pray that you are counted worthy to escape all '*these things.*'

The question is, what are the “*these things?*” They are the key. Here they are.

Abomination of Desolation; Midpoint

Jesus says, when you “*see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,*” to flee. Daniel tells us that the “*abomination of desolation*” occurs in the **middle of the 70th Week**. Now we know we are 3-1/2 years in.

A lot happens in the middle. Michael, the archangel and defender of Israel, is told to “*stand up.*” In other words, he will no longer “*restrain.*” The Bible tells us that what will happen, will be allowed to happen.” And then “*there shall be a time of trouble.*”

Michael and his angel armies throw Satan permanently out of Heaven. He now “*knows his time is short, and his doom is sure.*” Satan now empowers the person of the antichrist. The antichrist desecrates the Jewish Temple, demands worship direct to him, and institutes the “*mark of the beast.*”

Great Tribulation; Fifth Seal

This leads to what Jesus calls the “*Great Tribulation.*” This is the **Fifth Seal**. Jesus says when they see this in Jerusalem, to flee – run. For “*then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*” This is thus a terrible time of persecution.

Jesus says, “*except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*”

Cosmic Disturbances; Sixth Seal

The Great Tribulation is cut short by what eschatologists call the “*Cosmic Disturbances.*” This is the **Sixth Seal**. We know it as “*sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven.*”

It is what I call a ‘*marker*’ verse. This comic event is mentioned 23 times in Scripture. In every case, without exception, it is announcing the “*Day of the Lord.*”

Day of the Lord; the Rapture

The “*Day of the Lord*” is Christ’s Second Coming to gather His elect, and then pour out judgment on earth. Thus, what should we expect to see next? Yes, the Rapture.

What do we see? Then Jesus says:

*“Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven ... they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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.”*

What does that sound like? Sounds like the Rapture to me.

Confirmation

So, Jesus went through Seals One through Four during the “*Beginning of Sorrows*,” the Abomination of Desolation in the middle, followed by the Fifth and Sixth Seals, and then the Rapture.

The **Seventh Seal** is not yet broken. Thus, we should be able to go into the Book of Revelation and look between the Sixth and Seventh Seals to see if there is any evidence of the Rapture.

What do we find? Paraphrasing, John says holy cow, who are all these folks that appeared out of nowhere. He calls them an “*innumerable crowd that no man could number*.” It sounds like the Rapture to me.

You see this is when the dead in Christ, and Christians still alive, receives their resurrected eternal bodies. This event includes all those in Christ from Genesis to present. That is surely to be a big crowd.

As you will see in the “*Christ’s Second Coming*” document, this sequence of events is corroborated numerous times in Scripture. In fact, it is never found out of this order. Additionally, you will see that none of the popular six positions align with what Jesus said.