

The Second Coming of Christ

Scripture Passages on the Second Coming

1. Old Testament Passages on the Second Coming

- Psalm 2
- Psalm 24
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 11:1-12:6
- Zechariah 14:3-11

2. New Testament Passages on the Second Coming

- Matthew 24:21-29
- Luke 17:22-37
- Acts 1:11
- Acts 15:16-18
- Revelation 1:7
- Revelation 19:11-21

3. Consequences of the Second Coming

- Resurrection
- Judgment
- Satan will be bound

Description the Second Coming

1. It is Certain

The return of the Lord is basic to true faith in Christ. The Old Testament promised the coming of a Messiah to rule the earth (Daniel 7:13-14), Jesus promised His return (Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11) and the apostles often repeated this expected coming (1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Tim. 4:1).

2. It is Unexpected

Although the second coming will be preceded by the events of the tribulation, the coming of Christ will catch people by surprise and unprepared, much like the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39).

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3. It is Physical

While Jesus is with us spiritually (Matthew 28:20), He will return in bodily form, just as he ascended nearly 2,000 years ago (Acts 1:11).

4. It is Visible

The descriptions of the second coming describe an event that is quite conspicuous (Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30). Christ's return will be seen by all (Revelation 1:7).

5. It is Triumphant

In contrast to Christ's first advent, His second advent will be with exaltation, power and glory (Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27; Revelation 19:11-19).

Resurrection and the Second Coming

The second coming of Christ will coincide with certain resurrections which are shown below. While each of these resurrections are for a different group and may differ in time, they are all physical and bodily (cf. Romans 8:11; 22-23; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-57).

1. Resurrections prior to the Second Coming

a) Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:23)

Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the dead. His resurrection is the beginning of God's plan for resurrection for His people.

In addition, Matthew 27:52-53 describes the resurrection of "many holy people" following Christ's resurrection. It is unclear whether this resurrection is to earthly bodies, like the resurrection of Lazarus and others, only to die once again, or whether they were raised with glorified bodies.

b) Resurrection of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

The church, living and dead, will be raised at the rapture, at the beginning of the tribulation period.

2. Resurrections at the Second Coming

a) Resurrection of Tribulation Saints (Revelation 20:3-5)

These are the believers, Gentiles and of Israel, who passed away or were martyred during the tribulation period.

b) Resurrection of OT Saints (Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 26:19)

Joining with the resurrection of the tribulation saints, will be the resurrection of Old Testament believers at the second coming of Christ.

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3. Resurrections after the Second Coming

a) Resurrection of Millennial Saints

This resurrection is not explained in the Scripture. We must rest upon a logical deduction of when this will occur.

The reason there must be a resurrection of millennial saints is because there appears that those people who enter the tribulation period in earthly bodies will pass away (Isaiah 65:20). It is possible that these saints will be raised at the end of the millennium, to enter the new heavens and the new earth.

b) Resurrection of the Unsaved (Revelation 20:5; 11-14)

This resurrection is in contrast to all other ones. This resurrection will bring those who have rebelled against the Lord before their final judgment. They enter this judgment because their names were not in the book of life and this severity of the judgment will be according to their deeds and knowledge (cf. Luke 12:47-48) and cast into the eternal lake of fire.

Judgments and the Second Coming

The following judgments will occur upon the second coming of Christ:

1. The Judgment of Israel (Matthew 25:1-30)
2. The Judgment of the Gentiles (Matthew 25:31-46)

These will be further examined in a later section.