

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

A general discussion

- LET US BEGIN WITH SOME GENERAL REMARKS
- BEFORE WE BRIEFLY DISCUSS OUR OUTLINE

- It is very important to note that the second coming of Christ **occurs over a period of time and is not just a single event.**
- The second coming of Christ will occur in **two distinct phases**, both of which are clearly identified in several scriptural passages.

- In the first phase the Lord comes FOR the saints at the RAPTURE.
- In the second phase the Lord comes WITH the saints at the REVELATION.

- The references to the second advent of Christ in the Old Testament ALL refer to **the second phase** of the second coming of Christ.

- The second coming of Christ begins with the rapture of the church [the blessed hope of Titus 2:13 a] when the Lord comes **IN THE AIR FOR THE SAINTS**, and climbs to another height seven years later at the glorious appearing of Titus 2:13 b], when He returns to earth **WITH the saints [Jude 14, Rev 19 :11-16]** to usher in the millennial kingdom so often spoken of by the Old Testament writers.

- **The Rapture of The Church** [**the first phase of the second coming**] is an exclusive experience of the true Church, and is fundamentally a New Testament doctrine.
- Truths concerning the rapture were first alluded to by Jesus during the Olivet discourse [**Matthew 23-25**] and in **John 14** as part of the Upper Room Discourse recorded by John only, in John 13-17.
- These embryonic mentions of this doctrine were later expanded on by **Paul in 1Cor 15: 51 ff, and in 1 Thess 4:16-18**, by **Peter in 2 Peter 3, John in Rev 4 inter alia**. They are also other brief mentions to this event in some of the other epistles.

- **The time line of the second coming of Christ may conveniently be broken down into about ten major events to facilitate our comprehension.**
- As we consider the doctrine of the second coming of Christ, it is good to have in our minds **a good working outline**, to which we can continually add references as we continue to study the Scriptures on this topic.

- The working outline of the second that I have been using since 1982 is given below in chronological order.
- **Believers, will participate in the events in RED, but NOT those in BLUE, although we will be onlookers.**
- **1.The Rapture of the Church** (1st Phase), **occurs simultaneously with the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, 2 Thess. 2:6-7**
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- It is followed by the judgement Seat of Christ (bema) and the marriage of the lamb.(John 14:1-3, **1 Cor. 15:51,52; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev.3:10;; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10.**)
- **These events occur BEFORE the start of the seven year period called the ‘ tribulation’.**
- **2.The Revelation of Antichrist.** --. The anti-Christ rises to power over the Roman confederacy (**Dan. 7:20, 24.; 2 Thes 2 , Rev. 13**)
- **3.The Rigors of The Great Tribulation.**

- **4. The Resounding Victory of Christ at the Battle of Armageddon---** Armies unite at Armageddon against Christ and the armies of Heaven (**Joel 3:9-11; Rev. 16:16; 19:17-19**), and are (destroyed by Christ: **Rev. 19:19,21**).
- **5. The Return of Christ in Glory (2nd. phase) Jude 14-15**
- **6. The Renegade Satan is bound- (Rev 20:1-3)** The "beast" (anti-Christ) and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire: **Rev. 19:20**.
- **7. The Rule of Christ in the Millennial Kingdom.** (Several OT scriptures) (**Rev 20:1-7, 1000 years mentioned 5 times**)
- **8. The Rebellion of Satan for the last time. (Rev 20:7-10)**
- **9. The Rejection of unbelievers at the last judgement. (Rev 20:11-15)**
- **10. The Retirement of the saints to the new heaven and the new earth. (Rev 21)**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

- **IMPORTANT**

- The importance of the doctrine of the second coming is demonstrated by its prominence in Scriptures.
- **1 out of every 30 verses** in the Bible mentions this doctrine.
- In the New Testament this truth is mentioned **300 times, or once in every 25 verses.**
- For **every 1 mention of the first coming there are 8 mentions of the second coming.**
- **318 mentions of this subject are made in 216 chapters**
- **Whole chapters** are devoted to it e.g **Matthew 24 & 25, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2 Peter 3** and **some books are practically given over to it; like 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation.**

- **Jesus** spoke about it in John 14:1-3,
- the **Apostles** taught it,
- **Moses and the prophets and the Psalmist** all preached it.
- **The angels** who bore such faithful testimony to his first advent, informed us at his departure that he would come again [Acts 1:1]. Such faithful testimony by Jesus, the angels and the apostles force us to conclude and believe that
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMPORTANT.**

- If the number of times mentioned makes a subject important, then surely the second coming of Christ is one of the most important matters in the mind of God.
- The Word of God has provided us with so much information concerning the second advent of Christ that men are left with out excuses on this vital subject, so as to prepare for its arrival.
- Our only conclusion then is that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMPORTANT.!!**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

- **IMPERATIVE**

- We can be very sure that the second coming of Christ **must** occur because of the fact that **God has kept all his promises in the past.**

- Since the numerous prophecies concerning the first coming were so **accurately fulfilled**, it is quite reasonable to anticipate an **equally accurate fulfillment of the more numerous** mentions of the second coming.

- Scripture passages that confirm that God has kept his promises in the past include [Joshua 21:45](#) which reads
- **“There failed nothing of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”**
- Similarly in [Joshua 23:14b](#) we read **“and ye know in your hearts, and in your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”**
- Again in [1 Kings 8:56](#) **“Blessed be the Lord, who hath given rest unto his people, Israel, according to all that he promised; there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses, his servant.”**
- [Isaiah 40:8](#)
- **The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

- [Psalm 119:89](#) For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.
- We certainly have not exhausted the scriptures that relates to the keeping of God's promises.
- JESUS IS GOD, and he promised in John 14:2-3
- In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.
- **The Bible clearly teaches that God's Promises Shall Stand, and on the strength of the Word of God, I can declare to you confidently today that**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMPERATIVE**

**THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
IS**

• IMMINENT

- **This means that it can happen at any time.**
- **We can never presume on the timing of God, but the imminence of the Lord's second coming is certainly very clearly taught in the NT in texts such as **Philippians 4:5****
- **Let your moderation be known unto all men. **The Lord is at hand.****
- **And **James 5: 8****
- **Be ye also patient, establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord draweth near****

- The NT clearly teaches that the Lord can come at any time at the rapture.
- Paul certainly spoke of the rapture as a definite possibility within his own lifetime for on two occasions he reminded believers of the likelihood that they would be changed without experiencing physical death.
- Significantly he included himself as one of those who might be transformed without dying [1Thes 4:17& 1Cor 15: 51 &52]. The rapture is certainly imminent.
- Jesus exhorted us to watch expectantly for his return as though it can occur at any time in Matt 24:42- 44 where we read “ watch therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come: therefore be ye also ready for in such hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.”
- From the time of the early church until now believers have been looking for and expecting Jesus soon return. *Notice we say soon rather than immediate.*
- Hebrews 10:37 states yet a little while and he that shall come will come and will not tarry.

- It is clear from the teaching of scriptures that **there is now nothing to prevent the coming of Christ for his saints at any moment.**
- **No prophetic event or events await fulfillment prior to the coming of Christ according to a correct interpretation of the Scriptures .**
- The return of Christ might occur at any moment now and interrupt the activity of the day. Jesus could come today.
- Before the day is over we could here the shout of His voice and the trump of God and we who trust Christ as Saviour and who are looking for his return [IThess 4:16-18 & Heb 9:28], would be caught up immediately into His presence.

- Although it is true that no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's coming, but **we may know when it is at hand** (Matt. 24:36-42; 1 Thes. 5:15).
- A proper study of the Olivet discourse, indicates that one can predict the onset of the Tribulation and great Tribulation periods.
- **Since scripture clearly teaches that the rapture precedes the tribulation by 7 years, the more evident the signs of the tribulation appear the more obvious is it that the rapture is most imminent.**

- Many things are in place in the world today that indicates that the second coming of Christ is **more imminent than ever before.**
- These things indicate that **“now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”** (Romans 13:11b).
- These things indicate that
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMINENT**

- The imminence of Christ's coming demands from each Christian
- **A CIRCUMSPECT WALK,**
- **A CONSISTENT WITNESS,** and
- **A CONSCECRATED WILL** as taught in 2 Peter 3 and throughout the book of I Thessalonians.
- The imminence of Christ's coming demands from each Christian
- a **perennial looking for Him** [Heb 9:28] and a **practical life for Him** [Titus 2:11-13 , 2 Pet 3:11-18.]

- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMPORTANT**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMPERATIVE**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMMINENT**
- **And the THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS an unchanging fact, in other words.....**

**THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
IS**

• IMMUTABLE.

- In Hebrews 6:12, Paul, after exhorting his hearers to be followers or imitators of himself and his companions who through faith and patience inherit God's promises, gives an illustration in the life of Abraham as recorded in Genesis 15.
- The need for emphasizing this element of faith lay in the growing discouragement of the Jewish Christians at the seemingly long delay of Christ's coming.
- Paul reminded his readers that God made a promise and then confirmed it by an oath. He reminded them that since there was no higher or unchangeable authority to swear by, God had to swear by Himself.

- Men try to swear by or appeal to the highest court for justice and the oath is considered final for confirmation that one will give true testimony.
- God thus condescended in accordance with universal human custom just because he wanted as far as he possible could to show to the heirs of promise the immutability or unchangeableness of his counsel, he pledged himself with an oath.
- A promise is an assertion of intention made. In giving of an oath character is publicly and solemnly put behind the assertion .
- **Thus it is that we can declare confidently today that THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMUTABLE.**

- THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS
IMMUTABLE & INEVITABLE

- It is a sure and certain coming.
- One day soon the blessed hope of Titus 2: 13 will become the blessed reality!

**THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
IS**

• IMMIGRATIONAL .

- Immigration or emigration is an every day occurrence which can be used to illustrate one aspect of the second coming of Christ.
- In many countries of the world they reside immigrants from their native lands, who sought asylum or a better lifestyle in a new country.
- When the tyrannies and religious persecution of old Europe became too burdensome for them, the Pilgrim fathers risked the unknown perils of the Atlantic often on frail, friable, frigates in a furtive search for freedom in the new world, because whenever men want to better their lot they emigrate.

- **So it is too with believers.**
- Trapped in a world of escalating pressures and problems, believers long to realize certain benefits promised to them.
- One of these is given in 2 Pet 1:4 where we are taught that there are “ **given unto us great and precious promises; that by these [we] might be partakers of the divine nature , having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
- **We will emigrate and escape the world’s corruption.**

- Similarly we are told in **Romans 8:19-23**, that believers are groaning within our selves [and out loud sometimes too] **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of the body.**
- This truth is corroborated in **2 Corinthians 5:1-2**, where we read.....**For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.**

- We will experience the reality of these truths at the rapture when we will be translated to the glory of our true home.
- Passages like **1 Thess 4** tells how we will immigrate, but **Philippians 3:20-21** tells us where.
- “For **our conversation [or citizenship] is in Heaven**, from whence we look for the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.”
- This is our undying and motivational hope for **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMIGRATIONAL**

- Whereas **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMIGRATIONAL**, it is select as to the individuals who immigrate . To be eligible for immigration , one must pass through **THE DOOR [John 10:9]** and follow **THE WAY [John 14:6]**.
- You cant slip into the heavenly country, because there is a register kept of the names of the citizens [**Rev 20:15; 21: 27**].
- The journey home to heaven begins not with Christ's return---**it begins with the step of faith which puts one's feet down on the promises of the word of God.**
- The word of God promises that Jesus would take with him to the Father's house those who on earth placed their firm belief on Him as Saviour and Lord, and are now looking for his appearing. [Hebrews 9:28]

- We will immigrate to a place of **permanent residence** [John 14:2] and to **a glorious inheritance** 1 Peter 1:4-5. which reads
- To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you.** Who are **kept by the power of God** through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last day.
- **Did you notice that our inheritance is kept for us (v4) and that we are kept for our inheritance (v5)?**

- It is fashionable today to ridicule the idea of heaven and life after death, but Christians believe heaven to be a real place, simply because God has given us as it were some of the drawings or blue print plans of this place in **Revelation 21&22.**
- Whether you believe it or not,
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMIGRATIONAL .**

- Although modern day man likes to scoff at the idea of the second advent of Christ, the scripture tells us of a man from ancient times who found the idea most appealing, and spent much of his 175 years looking forward to it.
- In Hebrews 11:10, we are told that Abraham looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- And in verse 13 ff we are told that he, and a few others before him [such as Abel, Enoch, and Noah], all died in faith, **not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims ON THE EARTH. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a COUNTRY** [they like us wanted to emigrate!!]

- And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they [had] come out, they might have had opportunity to have returned **BUT NOW THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS A HEAVENLY: WHEREFORE GOD.....HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY!!!**
- We see this concept also in Hebrews 13:15 that **here we have no abiding city ,but we seek one to come!**
- **ALL of these early Godly Old Testament saints knew THAT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMIGRATIONAL.**

- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMPORTANT**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMPERATIVE**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
- **IMMINENT**
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
IMMUTABLE, and INEVITABLE.
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**
IMMIGRATIONAL . Next we see that.....

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

- **IMMANUEL.**

- **In Rev 21: 1-3 we read....**And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying “ Behold the tabernacle [or dwelling place] of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God.”

- This scripture teaches that one of the results of the Lord's second coming is that God will have his longest and dearest desire. The desire to dwell and share an intimate and close and special fellowship with mankind [1Jn 1;3].
- **The fact that God desires to fellowship with mankind is no secret, and one can easily trace this desire throughout the Bible** as God interacted with Adam, Cain, (though unsuccessfully) and Enoch, who became a picture or type of the saint who at Christ's second advent will be translated without seeing death and a picture of all believers whose removal at the rapture will provide for them an escape from the rigors of the tribulation period .
- “ For God has not appointed us [all believers] to wrath, but [has rather appointed us] to obtain salvation by [or through] our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us , that , whether we [are] awake or sleep [dead in Christ] at his coming, we should live together with him [for ever].[1 Thes 5: 9&10].

- Scriptures records and provide adequate proof which attests to the fact that God has ably and diligently persisted in his desire to fellowship with men, even though we have been most unworthy of his interest. Psalm 23: 6 puts it thus” Surely goodness and mercy shall **PURSUE ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE.....**
- Pursue is following earnestly in an effort to catch up with some one who does not seem to want to be caught.
- That is the meaning of “**follow**” in that verse. That this is true is seen in Romans 5:8,10 and also 1John 4;9-10.

- In fact the unifying phrase of the Old Testament is” **I WILL BE WITH THEE.**”
- I challenge you to look for this or similar phrase as you read the Old Testament

- The New Testament opens with the announcement that the virgin's child shall be called **Emmanuel or GOD WITH US**.
- And in John 1: 1 we are told that **the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us**.
- God wanted to be with us so badly that he came to stay on earth **in the form of a servant and in the likeness of men [Phil 2:7]**, so that one day **[Phil3:20]** he could change our vile body ,that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body....

- God sent his Son to die so that **HE MAY FELLOWSHIP WITH US.....what condescension!!**
- God sent his Son to purchase our redemption so that **HE MAY FELLOWSHIP WITH US!!**
- God came to be with us because we could not go to Him.....we didn't want to be with him
- While we were yet sinners , Christ [GOD] died for us [Rom5: 8].

- When we were yet sinners he offered up his own Son [Romans 8: 32 ; Hebrews 9: 26
- God came to us in the person of His Son , but when God came to his own they received him not.
- So he offered us the same opportunity. He set his people aside temporarily and came to us Gentiles and offered us the same opportunity.
- He so longs to be with us, that **He sent his Son to procure the means of bringing us back to Himself [1 Peter 2: 24]**
- GOD WANTS TO BE WITH US –HE WANTS TO BE WITH YOU....DO YOU WANT TO BE WITH HIM?
What ever your decision
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMANUEL !!**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

• IMMORTALITY

- At the end of the description of the Lord's coming for the saints at the rapture in **I Thes 4:16-18** Pauls ends with these words.....

So shall we ever be with the Lord! That's immortality!

- Jesus promised in **John 14:2** to return and receive us unto himself so that we may be with Him. That will be immortality!

- **In I Cor 15:52** Paul teaches that the bodies of all believers will be changed at Jesus' coming. With respect to this he tells us also in **Phil 3:21** that the Lord will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.... John corroborates this in **1 Jn 3:2** where he tells us that at Christ's appearing we will not only get the opportunity to see him [for whom we have been looking] as he is, **BUT WE WILL BE LIKE HIM.**
- We will not only have his quality of life but we will have glorified bodies....like the one John along with James and Peter saw on the Mount of transfiguration as described in **Matt 17:2**, and about which Peter remembers vividly in **2 Pet 1: 16-18.**

- **1 Cor 15: 52-54**, along with **1Thes 4:16** teaches that at the sound of the trumpet –like [or clarion clear] voice of Jesus [which according to **John 10: 27** can only be heard by his follower sheep]; that the resurrected believers [or dead in Christ] and the still living believers remaining will simultaneously receive changed, incorruptible, immortal bodies .
- **The result of this is a removal of the sting and victory which death has held since the entrance of sin into the garden [Gen 3].**
- Jesus' death, resurrection and return provides an ultimate victory and so we can thank God that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMORTALITY!**

- **In 2 Peter 1:4** we read that we were given great and precious promises....that by these ye might be partakers of the DIVINE NATURE ,HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION that is in the world through [or because of] lust.
- The corruption of the body [and all other types of corruption] originated with the sin of our fore parents.
- Not only did we inherit this tendency but we ourselves perpetuate it by following the same procedure they followed in **Genesis 3:6** . This is clearly taught in **James 1:13-15 & 1 John 2:16**.
- As a result we are taught in **Romans 8:22&23** that we with the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain ...until now.....waiting for the adoption , to wit , the redemption of our body.
- However Paul triumphantly declares in Romans 8:21 that we will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the Children of God!! Paul addresses this same issue in **2 Cor 1:9&10 and in 2Cor 5:1-8** . This is immortality!! These are immortal truths!! Herein is the fountain of youth!! **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMORTALITY!**

- Can a person really become immortal ? What is immortality? Jesus said in Jn 17:3 that it is **knowing the sent One**. He said ...**And this is life eternal , that they might know thee [the Father] the only true God and Jesus Christ , whom thou hast sent.**
- What is immortality ? In what must be the cardinal scriptures on the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer in John 10:28-30 Jesus states ...**And I give unto them [his sheep] eternal life and they shall never perish. Since immortality is identical to eternal life**, what is eternal life anyway?

- “ Eternal life is a special kind of life. **More than duration [or quantity] of life is meant.**
- **What is more poignant is that eternal life is a QUALITY of life which makes it possible for us to fellowship with God ---the whole purpose of it!!**
- The unsaved will have eternal existence, but nowhere does the Bible describe this existence as eternal life. Existence from God, even though men are able to think, speak, feel and remember is not life but death. **Jesus is the source of eternal life, He is the believer's eternal life.”**

- All the truths of this life are presented in the Bible, although this expression is most powerfully put in John's Gospel where there is revealed a full presentation of this life as Christ manifested in the flesh and living the life; and in John's first epistle, where there is a full discussion of the principles by which those who are possessors of this life should practice it. **Eternal life is immortality.**
- Because we enter into it fully at his second advent we can confidently say, and conclude that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMORTALITY!!**
- Other scriptures from John's gospel that teach the immortality that is associated with the second coming of Christ are John 1: 12-14; 3:14-16 & 36 ; 5:24 ; and 11: 25 –26.
- In all these verses we are taught that immortality or eternal life is obtained by going directly to the source and its giver.
- Let us therefore together LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE, because **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMORTALITY.**

- The second coming of Christ is educational and informative. That's **IMPORTANT**
- The second coming of Christ is an exciting prospect because it can happen any time. That's **IMMINENT.**
- The second coming of Christ signals the going to our eternal home...That's **IMMIGRATIONAL.**
- The second coming of Christ teaches that we are going to be with God. That's **IMMANUEL**
- The second coming of Christ teaches that we are going to live with God for ever. That's **IMMORTALITY**
- When all the truths are taken together we must all agree that **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMENSE.**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

• IMMENSE

- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMENSE**
- To add to the above, we have the immense teaching of Rev 22:3-5 which tells us that the eternal heaven that awaits believers will be characterized by :-
- **PERFECT RESTORATION** for there shall be no more curse
- **PERFECT ADMINISTRATION**.... for the throne of god and the lamb shall be in it
- **PERFECT SUBORDINATION** his servants shall serve him
- **PERFECT TRANSFORMATION** ...for they shall see his face
- **PERFECT IDENTIFICATION** for his name shall be in there foreheads
- **PERFECT ILLUMINATION** for there shall be no night there and they need no lamp neither light of the sun for the Lord God giveth them light
- **PERFECT EXALTATION** for they shall reign for ever and ever
- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMENSE**

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS

• IMPLICATIONAL

- What are the implications of the rapture?
- (a) to believers
- (b) to unbelievers.

- The second of Christ is
- **SURE** as to its occurrence [IMMUTABLE]
2Peter 3:9, Rev 22:20
- **SELECT** as to the individuals 1 Cor 15:23
- **SECRET** as to its method 1 Thes 4 & 2 Peter 3:10
- **SUDDEN** in its operation 1 Thes 5:2 & 2 Peter 3:10, Rev 22:7a
- **SAVING** in its results 1 Cor 15:52-58 Romans 8:19-25 2 Cor 1:9-10

- Believers are we getting ready to see Him?
- He is coming soon!
- What are the implications of the rapture for us?
We are told to **work and watch as we wait** expectantly and earnestly for the Lord's coming. For believers, the rapture is :-
- **THE BLESSED HOPE** OF THE BELIEVER
Titus 2:13
- A **COMFORTING HOPE** FOR THE BELIEVER
I Thes 4:18
- A **PURIFYING HOPE** TO THE BELIEVER 1
John 3:3
- AN **ENCOURAGING HOPE** TO THE BELIEVER Rev 3 :11

- Throughout the New Testament it is everywhere clearly taught that after Christ appears for his church there will be a review of believers works. There upon prizes, crowns , and rewards will be distributed and status in the life hereafter conferred according to our faithfulness 2 Corinthians 5:10 ,1 Cor 4:5.
- Another implication of the rapture, is that it is an incentive for service. The conviction that Jesus might return immediately motivated the early Christians to love one another, to live pure lives [I John 3:2-3] and to evangelize. It should be the same for us.
- Christians who believe in and hope to see Jesus return at any time seek to maintain daily fellowship with God so as not to be ashamed at his coming [I John 2: 28-29]. It is not surprising then that Paul ends 1 Cor 15 , a chapter devoted to teaching the resurrection and the rapture with verse 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.
- In the context as a conclusion of the truths that Paul teaches about the second coming and its relations to resurrection, 1 Cor 15: 58 is a good summary of its implications

- **The second coming of Christ is**
- **a word of comfort,**
- **a word of encouragement,**
- **a word of blessing and**
- **a word of warning (I Thess 4:17-18)**

- For believers it will be
- a **glad surprise** ,
- a **glorious resurrection** and
- a **grand reunion** but

- for unbelievers it will be a
- **grievous separation** and a
- **great accounting**.....
- **because**

- **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS**

- **IMPENDING**

- According to **2 Thessalonians 1:5-11**, the future of those who do not know Jesus as their savior is bleak.
- Unbelievers can look forward to **tribulation [5]**,
- **vengeance, [8]**,
- **flaming fire [8]**,
- **punishment and everlasting destruction [9]**.
- The bible teaches that God is righteous and just to judge sin and condemn sinners especially since he has given them warnings and opportunity to repent (2 Peter 3:8).

- **FOR UNBELIEVERS** the second coming is a word of warning.
- Christ must come in order to fulfill the Scriptures **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMPERATIVE**
- He can appear at any time, because **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMMINENT**
- This appearing will be **IMMEDIATE** and with no warning as taught in 2 Peter 3.
- John 3:36 & John 5:29 clearly states that for the unsaved that God's wrath continues to abide or hang or hover over you – ie for you **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS IMPENDING**
- It is most necessary that you prepare now for his coming.

- For the Scriptures clearly teaches that the second coming of Christ will **be selective as to the individuals who meet Him in the air.**
- I Thes 4;16-18 points out that he will return for **THE DEAD IN CHRIST & THOSE BELIEVERS THAT REMAIN.** And Hebrews 9:28 reveals that **he is coming for those who look for his appearing .**
- Jesus himself admonishes you “ **BE YE READY ALSO!!**
- **DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!!**
- **Unbeliever are you prepared for the second coming of Christ Jesus at the rapture?**

- BE YE READY ALSO!!
- **DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!!**
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The End.

