

THE PROMISE

I will come again!

#1 Thief in the Night

“Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again!”

1. THE PROMISE OF HIS 2ND COMING

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and will take you to myself, that where I am you may also be.

Hebrews 9:28 ...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time**, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, **he is coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

2. THE NECESSITY OF HIS 2ND COMING

3. THE NATURE OF HIS 2ND COMING

- A. Personally – “for the Lord himself...” 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- B. Literally – “in the same way as you saw him go ...” Acts 1:11
- C. Visibly – “every eye will see him...” Revelation 1:7
- D. Gloriously – “with power and great glory...” Matthew 24:30
- E. Suddenly & Unexpectedly – “like a thief in the night”
I Thessalonians 5:2; Luke 21:34-35
- F. Imminently – “be ready” Matthew 24:44; James 5:8
- G. In two stages ...

4. THE TIMING OF HIS 2ND COMING

Matthew 24:36 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

5. THE SIGNS OF HIS 2ND COMING

Sign: Increasing Religious **DECEPTION**, Intense **HOSTILITY** Towards Christians, and Resulting **MASS** Defections Matthew 24:4,9-11

Sign: Widespread **WAR**, Hunger, Disease, and Natural Disasters Matthew 24:6-7

Sign: Spectacular **COSMIC** Events Visible to All Luke 21:11.

Sign: Rampant **LAWLESSNESS** Matthew 24:12; I Timothy 3:1-4

Sign: Ethnic Jews Returning To Their **HOMELAND** Isaiah 11; Ezekiel 37

Sign: The **GOSPEL** Proclaimed To All Nations Matthew 24:14

END TIMES VOCABULARY

The “Rapture” – the sudden ‘snatching away’ of believers to meet Christ and their saved loved ones in the air (I Thessalonians 4:14-17).

The Glorious Appearing/Second Coming/Revelation of Christ – the return of Christ to the earth with his saints at the end of the age to save Israel, judge unbelievers, and establish his kingdom (I Peter 1:7; Titus 2:13)

The Beast/Anti-Christ: the deceptive, satanic world ruler who rises to power to lead a one-world government that severely persecutes God’s people (I John 2:18; Revelation 13:1-10)

The Day of the Lord – the general period of the final outpouring of apocalyptic judgment on the earth (I Thessalonians 5:2)

The Tribulation: a distinct, seven-year period of judgment and suffering in the world (Matthew 24:29)

The Great Tribulation: the final stage of the Tribulation period characterized by widespread anguish, destruction, and death (Revelation 7:14)

Armageddon: the ultimate end-time war pitting the world’s armies against Israel and Christ (Revelation 16:16)

The Millennium: the 1000-year earthly reign of Christ over the world with his glorified saints (Revelation 20:1-7)

Signs of the times: various prophesied events meant to grab peoples’ attention and point to Christ’s coming (Matthew 16:3)

Prophetic Birth Pangs: Divinely-orchestrated events that will occur with increasing frequency and intensity as the return of Christ draws near (Matthew 24:8)

6. THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS 2ND COMING

We need to **BE READY!** Matthew 24:44

We need to **BE AWAKE!** Romans 13:11-12

We need to **BE TOGETHER!** Hebrews 10:25

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor
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