

The Church of the Servant King

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Prophecy Series

(Proph20A_The Coming of the Lord_Lsn1)

Among “fundamental” and “evangelical” Christians, there is a general consensus that Jesus is coming again someday. References to Jesus’ coming are generally accompanied by a variety of other terminology and imagery that, largely due to the disparities and different views that are extant, create a foggy mixture of Biblical fact and non-Biblical notions of what exactly will occur.

The purpose of this set of lessons within our Prophecy series is to attempt to clarify the Biblical position on the subject consistent with the context of the passages and consistent with how well they reconcile to other passages. To a brief extent, I will attempt to introduce other views and positions that contrast with the pre-Tribulational, pre-Millennial position to which I adhere regarding this subject.

The Thesis of This Lesson Set: There is a distinction between passages that are applicable to the Age of the Body of Christ (a.k.a. the Church Age) and those that are applicable to other ages of human history. When the distinction is recognized, Scripture highlights two separate comings of the Lord – one for the Body of Christ (a.k.a. the “rapture”) and one for the judgment associated with the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom (a.k.a. the 2nd Advent).

In this first lesson, we will obtain an overview of many of the passages that, on the surface, present a conflicting picture of what is often called “end-time” events. For example, let us consider the following passages. Obviously, there must be some explanation for the contrasting explanations of the Lord’s coming found in Scripture.

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| <p>13 So that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father <u>at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.</u> (1 Thess 3:13)</p> <p>13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so <u>God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.</u> 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For <u>the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God;</u> and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain <u>shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.</u> (1 Thess 4:13-17)</p> <p>2:1 NOW we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and <u>our gathering together to Him.</u> (2 Thess 2:1)</p> | <p>4 And in that day <u>His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,</u> which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (Zech 14:4)</p> <p>31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 “And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matt 25:31-34)</p> <p>41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matt 25:41)</p> <p>6 For after all it is <i>only</i> just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and <i>to give</i> relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the</p> | <p>Contradictions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At His coming, does Jesus bring resurrected believers or angels with Him? ➤ Does He meet resurrected believers in the air or does He set His feet on earth, specifically the Mount of Olives? ➤ Do only believers participate or are unbelievers also present? ➤ Are those gathered to Him always to be with Him or is there a separation and judgment? ➤ Who remains after the Lord’s coming – unbelievers (unrighteous) or believers (righteous)? |

1 Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.

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| | <p>Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. (2 Thess 1:6-10)</p> | |
| <p>10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that <i>hour</i> which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth. (Rev 3:10)</p> <p>5:1 NOW as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" <u>then destruction will come upon them suddenly</u> like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Thess 5:1-3)</p> <p>9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. (1 Thess 5:9)</p> <p>3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and <u>what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?</u>" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "<u>See to it that no one misleads you.</u> 5 "<u>For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.</u> 6 "<u>And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.</u> 7 "<u>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.</u> 8 "<u>But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</u> 9 "<u>Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.</u> 10 "<u>And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.</u> 11 "<u>And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.</u> 12 "<u>And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.</u> 13 "<u>But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.</u> 14 "<u>And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.</u> (Matt 24:3-14)</p> | <p>So shall the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "<u>Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.</u> 41 "<u>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.</u> (Matt 24:39b-41)</p> <p>11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God. 14 <u>And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.</u> 15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God; 18 in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. 20 <u>And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet</u> who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; <u>these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire</u> which burns with brimstone. 21 <u>And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.</u> (Rev 19:11-21)</p> | <p>Contrast or Contradiction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some people are kept from the "hour of testing" while others are "killed with the sword" so that their carcasses are consumed by the birds of the air. Are believers on the earth during this time or with Jesus? ➤ Are believers preserved from "wrath" or are believers delivered to "tribulation" and killed and hated because of their association with Jesus? ➤ Who is taken and who is left – believers or unbelievers? When? |
| <p>50 Now I say this, brethren, <u>that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.</u> 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and <u>the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.</u> 53 For this perishable must put on</p> | <p>34 "<u>Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'</u> (Matt 25:34)</p> <p>6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand</p> | <p>Contrast or contradictions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do believers "inherit the kingdom" or not? ➤ Do believers "inherit the kingdom" in their earthly bodies or their resurrection bodies? ➤ If believers receive a resurrection body at the |

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| <p><u>the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (1 Cor 15:50-53)</u></p> | <p>years. <u>7 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,</u> Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 <u>And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city,</u> and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20:6-10)</p> | <p>coming of the Lord (1 Thess 4:13-17), how do we reconcile that fact with believers who “inherit the kingdom” at Christ’s coming?</p> |
| <p>42 “Therefore be on the alert, for <u>you do not know which day your Lord is coming.</u> 43 “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 “For this reason you be ready too; for <u>the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.</u> (Matt 24:42-44)</p> <p><u>The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know.</u> (Matt 24:50)</p> <p>13 “Be on the alert then, for <u>you do not know the day nor the hour.</u> (Matt 25:13)</p> <p>2 For you yourselves know full well that <u>the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.</u> (1 Thess 5:2)</p> | <p>25 ‘And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and <u>they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.</u> (Dan 7:25)</p> <p>27 “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations <i>will come</i> one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” (Dan 9:27)</p> <p>7 And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a <i>time</i>; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these <i>events</i> will be completed. 8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what <i>will be</i> the outcome of these <i>events</i>?” 9 And he said, “Go <i>your way</i>, Daniel, for <i>these</i> words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. 10 “Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. 11 “And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, <i>there will be</i> 1,290 days. 12 “How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days! 13 “But as for you, go <i>your way</i> to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise <i>again</i> for your allotted portion at the end of the age.” (Dan 12:7-13)</p> <p>15 “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Matt 24:15)</p> <p>29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days <u>THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky,</u> and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, 30 and <u>then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,</u> and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 “And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (Matt 24:29-31)</p> | <p>Contradictions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can the coming of the Lord be at such an unknown time when there is so much information given as to its timing? |

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| | <p>2 “And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and <u>they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.</u> 3 “And I will grant <i>authority</i> to my two witnesses, and <u>they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days.</u> clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev 11:2-3)</p> <p>6 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she *had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Rev 12:6)</p> <p>13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male <i>child</i>. 14 And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she *was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (Rev 12:13-14)</p> <p>5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. (Rev 13:5)</p> | |
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Without a proper understanding of the context of each of these passages and/or without an understanding of the dispensational framework for human history, any person reading this compilation of passages would naturally be confused and bewildered – beyond “belief” when blinded by the additional noise and confusion present in Satan’s cosmos. When a little cosmic dust (e.g. New Age thinking, false religions, systems that promote and reward human good, etc.) is thrown in the face and eyes of a person, the resulting darkness and confusion is so thick that even the piercing light of the Truth can be blurred.

In our next lessons, we will examine the context of these (and other) passages. The result will be that an eschatological picture like the following will emerge.

A Dispensational Perspective of the Lord's Coming

