

THE SECOND COMING

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST ANTICIPATED

- There are many references to Christ's 2nd coming in both the Old and New Testaments:
- This has been called the blessed hope, the imminent return, the 2nd coming, or the Parousia

Zechariah 9:14-15; 12:10-14; Joel 3:1; Amos 9:11-15

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ~ and to wait for His Son from heaven

1 Thessalonians 2:19 ~ For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 ~ so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 ~ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 5:7-9 ~ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

1 Peter 1:13 ~ Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:13 ~ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation

Colossians 3:4 ~ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Revelation 22:20 ~ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

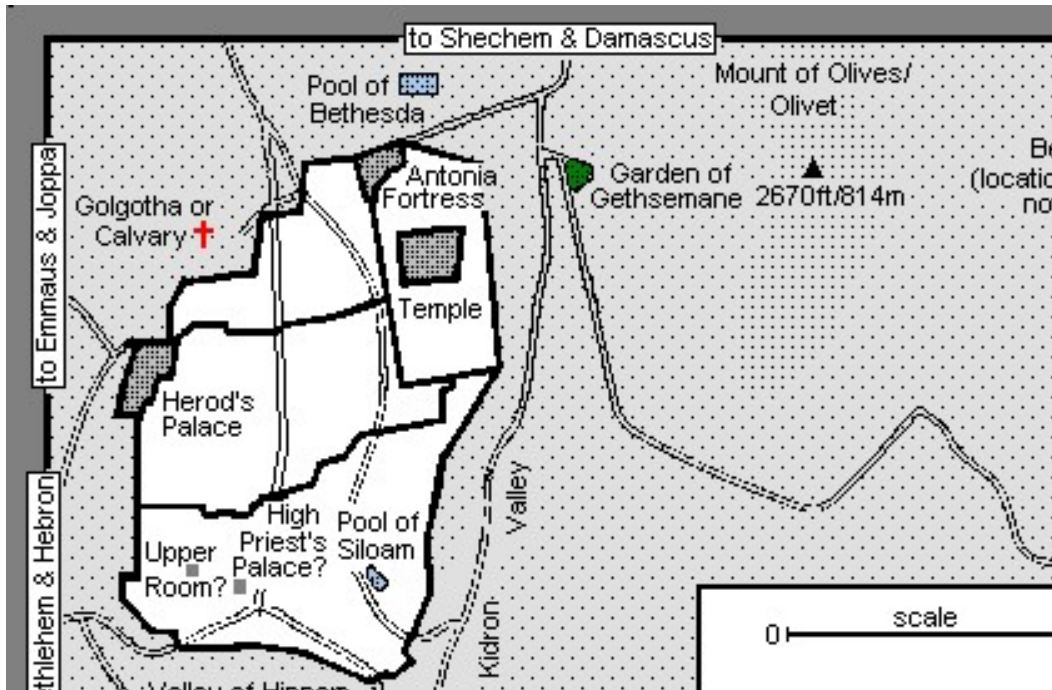
THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST DESCRIBED

- The tribulation period is brought to a close and preparation for the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth is made when Christ returns

Zechariah 14:3-4 ~ Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, 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.

- The armies of the nations ruled by Antichrist will assemble against Jerusalem in the "valley of Jehoshaphat" (Joel 3:2, 12), probably the Kidron valley located between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives
- The Jews will realize that they are outnumbered and about to be destroyed by Antichrist's armies
- They will no longer be able to defend themselves....their leadership will be unable to thwart Antichrist's advances....they will be on the brink of defeat
- In fact, the Antichrist will think that he has all but conquered Jerusalem

- For the Jews all hope will be essentially lost...It is then that Christ will come and “go forth and fight against those nations” (vs. 3) and will personally intervene to fight against the gathered nations
- Christ will return to the Mount of Olives (vs. 4), east of the Kidron Valley, the very same mountain he ascended to heaven from (Acts 1:9-12)
- When he returns, he will split the mountain in half when his feet touch the earth (vs. 4)



Matthew 24:27-30 ~ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, 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.

- Christ’s return will be very noticeable, like lightning flashing in the sky (vs. 27)
- His return will follow the “tribulation of those days” (vs. 29)
- Remarkable events will occur when Christ returns (vs. 29)

- At the sight of Christ’s return, the “tribes of the earth will mourn” – probably a reference to the army of Antichrist knowing that their doom is certain

Revelation 19:11-16 ~ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down 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. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- This passage describes Christ’s coming in glory along with all church saints arrayed in white linen, poised and ready for battle
- As men tread grapes in a winepress, bringing stains of the crushed grapes on their garments, so will Christ tread out the blood of guilty men
- The King of kings and Lord of lords comes in power and authority!

EVENTS OF THE SECOND COMING

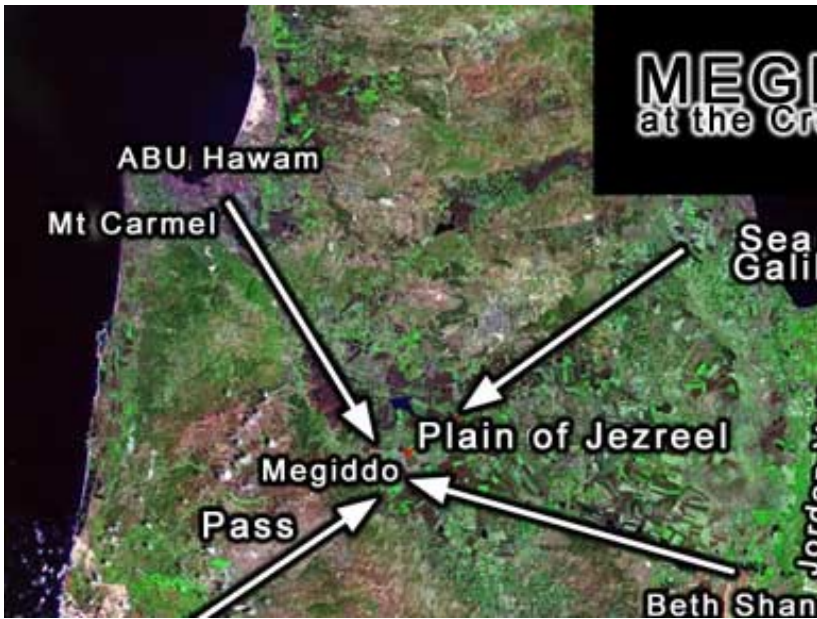
Armageddon

Revelation 16:13-14, 16 ~ And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty...And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

- Har-Magedon = in Hebrew “the mountain or hill of Megiddo”
- Mt. Megiddo is located 60 miles north of Jerusalem
- Megiddo or Tel Megiddo, an ancient fortified city, is one of the most famous battlegrounds in the world. Historians believe that more battles were fought at this location than anywhere else on earth
- The valley of Megiddo, now known as the valley of Jezreel, will serve as the gathering place for the final battle between Christ and Antichrist’s
- Actually, the final battles will encompass the entire length of the nation of Israel

Revelation 14:19-20 ~ So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.





- The Battle of Armageddon is not a single battle, but a whole series of conflicts
- The word used by John in Rev 16 to refer to the battle (*polemos*) indicates that Armageddon is really a campaign made up of numerous conflicts among a number of nations over a period of time at the end of the Tribulation
- Possibly Antichrist rules from Jerusalem during this time
- It is possible that, despite his rule over whole world, considerable unrest develops against his rule and people will begin to oppose Antichrist
- Nations begin to congregate in Palestine with the intention of overthrowing Antichrist
- But soon the “sign of the Son of Man” (Matt 24:30) appears in sky
- As nations realize Christ is coming back, they unite together to do battle against Christ

Revelation 19:17-19 ~ Then 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, so 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.” And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

- This battle marks the pinnacle of the Day of the Lord, a frightening holocaust unparalleled in human history
- Those who assemble to make war with Christ will be executed
- The battle will begin with a summons to the birds of the air to feed on the corpses of those who will be killed

Antichrist and the False Prophet Cast into the Lake of Fire

Revelation 19:20-21 ~ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet 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; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- Verse 20 tells the fate of the Antichrist (the beast) and the false prophet: they are cast alive into the lake of fire
- These are the same beast and false prophet referred to in Rev 13:1-4 (beast) and Rev 13:11-17 (false prophet)

Daniel 7:11 ~ Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

Daniel 11:45 ~ He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

- Their bodies are immediately transformed and they pass directly into the lake of fire
- They are the first of millions of ungodly men and fallen angels who are cast into the lake of fire
- The “lake of fire” is the final hell, the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, angelic or human (cf. 20:10,15).
- That it is a place of fire and brimstone indicates that it is a place of divine judgment
- Verse 21 tells the fate of the armies of the Antichrist: they are killed by Christ
- Christ will kill the rest with the “sword which came from [his] mouth” – probably referring to Christ’s voice of authority...Christ’s words will go forth like a sword of destruction to cause their deaths
- Antichrist’s hosts will rise to fight, but with swords only drawn and not used, they will fall in death
- Those in Christ’s great army act only as observers, apparently not needing to fight at all

Jews in Israel Accept Christ as Messiah

- The terrible devastation of the Tribulation will have its desired affect on the nation: the stubborn, rebellious will of the Jews will be broken and they will seek the Lord their God and come to saving faith in Christ
- At the return of Christ, the Jews will finally see and believe that Jesus is the Messiah and will accept Him

Zechariah 12:10 ~ I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Zechariah 13:9 ~ And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’

Ezekiel 36:25-27 ~ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Romans 11:26 ~ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”

- The surviving Jews in Israel will give their allegiance to Christ their Messiah

Judgment of the Gentiles

- Those Gentiles still alive at the end of the Tribulation will be judged when Christ returns
- This is called the Sheep and Goats judgment
- This judgment is for individuals, not nations

Joel 3:1-2 ~ For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

Matthew 25:31-46

- All Gentiles will be gathered to the valley of Jehoshaphat to determine their spiritual condition
- The purpose is to see whether they are allowed to enter the Millennium
 - The saved Gentiles (sheep) will be allowed into the kingdom in their earthly bodies and will be a part of repopulating the earth during the Millennium
 - The unsaved Gentiles (goats) will be cast into hell
- The internal spiritual condition of Gentiles is revealed externally by the way in which they treated Israel or believers during the Great Tribulation
- No Gentile will place their life in jeopardy by dealing kindly with a Jew or a believer unless they were genuinely converted

Judgment of the Jews

- When Christ returns, He will defeat His enemies at Armageddon and will regather the people of Israel from all over the world to the land of Israel

Matthew 24:31 ~ 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.

- Those Jews still alive at the end of the Tribulation will be judged when Christ returns to determine who are saved and who are unsaved
- This judgment was anticipated in the OT

Ezekiel 20:34-38 ~ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord God. I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the Lord.

- This judgment is described in the Parable of the 10 Virgins and the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25

Matthew 25:1-30

- This judgment is also one of individuals not nations
- Its purpose is for determining who is allowed to enter the Millennium
- Christ determines which are saved and which are unsaved
 - The saved Jews (wise virgins) are allowed to enter; they will enter the kingdom in their earthly bodies and will be part of repopulating the earth during the Millennium
 - The unsaved Jews (foolish virgins) are not allowed to enter
- Therefore Millennial kingdom begins with only believers

Resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation Saints

- Two groups of people will be resurrected at Christ's 2nd coming: OT Saints and Tribulation saints
- These believers who died either in the Tribulation or millenniums earlier in Old Testament times will be rewarded when raised from the dead

Daniel 12:2 ~ And many of those who sleep will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

- The context of this text is the Tribulation and refers to a resurrection that occurs immediately after the resurrection
- Although this verse talks about resurrection of BOTH righteous and unrighteous without indicating any time exists between the two, when this verse is combined with Revelation 20:4-6, the time interval is obvious: the righteous are raised before the Millennium and the unrighteous are raised after it
- Daniel 12:2 does not definitely identify these people as OT saints but Daniel 12:13 shows it must be ~ But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.
- Daniel was promised a resurrection at “end of the age”
- The context says that the “end of the age” is the end of the Tribulation
- If Daniel, an Old Testament saint, is raised at that time, then it is logical to conclude that the rest of the OT saints will be as well
- A further reason for placing resurrection of OT saints at the end of the Tribulation is that this period is more consistent with OT times than the rapture of church saints

Revelation 20:4-6 ~ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 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 years.

- Those who had not worshiped the beast "came to life"
- The phrase “the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed” (vs. 5) is a parenthesis and refers to the second death/resurrection after the Millennium → Great White Throne
- The “first” resurrection refers to a category of resurrected people rather than a chronological order; “First” refers to kind not sequence
- Only believers are resurrected in the first resurrection and it has multiple phases:
 - Christ at His resurrection
 - Those who rose after Christ’s resurrection (Matt 27:52-53)
 - Purpose was probably to provide further support for Christ’s resurrection
 - These people were probably well known to those still living and did not die again (like Lazarus)
 - Probably taken directly to heaven
 - Church saints at Rapture
 - Two witnesses in middle of Tribulation
 - OT/Tribulation saints at 2nd Coming
 - (Millennial saints who died?? – Bible does not say)
- Only unbelievers are resurrected in second resurrection/death (Rev 20:6, 11ff)

Satan is Bound

Revelation 20:1-3 ~ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

- During the present age, Satan has freedom to move about as he wishes; however, when Christ returns, he will be cast into the abyss and kept there for the entire 1,000 year Millennium
- At the end of the Millennium, Satan is let loose for a little season to go forth and deceive the nations

Revelation 20:7-8 ~ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

- He is somewhat successful at first, being able to gather an army to move against the forces of God
- However, fire is sent from God, the army is devoured, and Satan himself is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are

Revelation 20:9-10 ~ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 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.

Christ's Kingdom is Established

- When Jesus comes again, He returns as King of kings with the purpose of reestablishing the throne of David and fulfilling the Davidic Covenant
- It is God's purpose to establish a kingdom that will last forever

2 Samuel 7:16 ~ Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.

- Jesus has never sat upon the throne of David to fulfill this covenant, but that will change when he returns
- There will be a 75-day period between the return of Christ and the actual beginning of the millennial kingdom

Daniel 12:11-12 ~ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

- There will be 1260 days from abomination of desolation to 2nd coming (Rev 11:2-3; 12:6)
- 1290 days must indicate 30 days for judgments
- 1335 days must indicate 45 days to set up kingdom
- These 75 days are necessary for preparing for the millennial kingdom and will involve such things as the removal of the abomination of desolation from the Temple, the judgments of those who made it through the tribulation alive (see above), and the resurrection and rewarding of the Tribulation and OT saints
- With these and other matters settled during this 75 day period, the Messianic age can begin