



Sermon Series Notes

“The Soon Coming of Jesus Christ” (Rev.22)

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v.7 Behold I am coming soon

v.12 This is the second time he says his coming is soon, and he adds that when he comes he will distribute rewards based on deeds.

vv.18-19 We will cover these verses in detail in our next study, our last in our current study of Revelation. Heads up, we go from Revelation to the book of Acts beginning the last weekend in March.

v.20a This is the third time Jesus says he is coming **soon**.

v.20b Amen means “so be it,” and then the heartfelt prayer “Come, Lord Jesus.” Could we say that together? “Amen. Come Lord Jesus.”

This closing chapter has one very clear message - Jesus is coming “SOON.” Three times in these brief verses we are told this. But what does soon mean? It’s been over 2,000 years and he still has not come!

Some people are glad Jesus has not come yet, because they want to get married. Some want him to come because they got married...

Why has he not come? Peter gives us the answer in II Peter 3:8-9

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

I do understand why the delay. The delay is to give people a chance to be saved. I understand that, and I’m thankful for serving such a gracious and merciful God. But for some, the delay is extremely painful. See Rev.6:9-11; 20:4. For those Christians suffering at the hands of a wicked movement called ISIS, the delay of Jesus’ return is hard to take.

If I am not careful I can actually be offended at the truth of Psalm 90:4. Why? Because I am not God, and I don’t see things the way he sees them. For me a thousand years is not like a day, and a day like a thousand years. I do not personally have God’s perspective on time.

Even though for the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day, I am convinced that he is writing these words about his soon coming to be understood from our perspective, not his. He wants us to believe that the second coming of Christ is soon, as **we** understand soon.

Every generation has believed that Christ could return in their generation, and that’s what God intended. Even those generations that had many pieces of the prophetic puzzle missing still believed by faith that their generation could be the last. They trusted that God could fill in the pieces that were missing in a short amount of time as only God can do. Isaiah 60:22, speaking of the fulfillment of end times prophecy, God says this: “I am the LORD; in its time I will do this **swiftly**.”

But the generation we live in has very few pieces of the puzzle to be filled in prior to Jesus’ return. We are indeed a blessed generation! See Matthew 13:16-17. As blessed as the apostles and those who saw the fulfilled prophecies of Jesus’ **first** coming were, we are **more** blessed. We are closer to the **second** coming

of Jesus than ever. And the prophecies we have seen fulfilled, as well as the understanding we have now compared to past generations is quite incredible.

1. The church age

- See Daniel 9:25-27; The rebuilding was completed in a total of 49 years. Anyone needs only to read the book of Nehemiah to understand that the rebuilding was met with great opposition (streets, a trench, times of trouble). The second division is the sixty-two sevens, or 434 years. This was the period between the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Nehemiah and the coming of the Anointed One, Jesus the Christ. Over a hundred years ago in his book, *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the sixty-nine weeks, using "prophetic years," allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, the change from B.C. to A.D., and figured that the sixty nine weeks ended on the day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before his death! N.T. scholar Harold Hoehner calculates that the end of the 483 years was on March 30, A.D. 33, the same date he concludes Jesus made his triumphal entry! (Also may see Alva J. McClain, *Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks*: Zondervan, 1969).

- Eph.3:4-6, 9b; Rom.11:25-27

- The church age ends with the beginning of the final week of Daniel's vision, a seven year period known as "The Great Tribulation," or the time of "Jacob's Trouble."

- For years the Jews waited for the coming of Messiah, but he finally came. And he will come again, soon!

2. The rebirth of Israel as a nation

- Over 2,700 years ago, God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel about the miraculous revival of the nation of Israel (see Ezek. 37:1-14). Having been brought to the brink of extinction by The Holocaust, and yet in one day Israel was miraculously reborn as a nation. May 15, 1948 was the day the United Nations officially recognized Israel as a nation. And let's not forget why Israel disappeared for some 2,000 years. It was because of their rejection of Jesus Christ and as a result what is called "The Dispersion." They were dispersed to other nations for hundreds of years. But Ezekiel's prophecy was in time fulfilled, and this coming May Israel will celebrate her 60th birthday after being desolate for so long.

3. First time in history clear signs for the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39.

- See Ezekiel 38:1-5, 8; Two nations listed here have never had a military alliance, but they do today (Russia & Iran).

4. Readiness for the building of a temple in Israel.

- We know from Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24, & II Thess.2:4 that there will be a temple in Jerusalem when Jesus comes.

- The Temple Institute is ready with all utensils needed for re-establishing worship services, as well as providing Levites to serve for this purpose.

5. Modern military capability

- The number of people who will die during the Tribulation is not possible apart from modern weapons of war (50% of the population); See Joel 2:1-5 (note v.5); Rev.9:17-19.

6. The ability for the world to view the two slain witnesses of Revelation 11:7-10.

7. The technology for the mark of the beast (Rev.13:16-17)

8. Further signs of a future global economy

- Bitcoin: New currency created in 2009 that uses no banks, transaction fees, & is not tied to any particular country.

9. The increase in knowledge

- Dan.12: 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.
- There has never been a time when people have been able to travel so fast and so often as in our day.
- The computer age/the internet

10. Increased persecution of Christians

- The Tribulation period sees a tremendous increase of persecution of Christians worldwide. So should we not expect as we get closer to this period of time seeing greater persecution? Note Rev.20:4, the beheading of believers is happening in our world in our generation!

11. No known prophecy to be fulfilled for the rapture of the church.

Verses on the rapture: Rev.4:1; I Thess.5:1-9; 4:13-18; I Cor.15:50-52.

It has been my position that the rapture of the church takes place at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. I still hold that position, but there are some who I highly respect in Christianity that hold a different position than me. Here are the different opinions on the timing of the rapture of the church:

Pre-Trib	Prior to the seven year Great Tribulation
Mid-Trib	Middle of the Great Tribulation
Pre-Wrath	Prior to God's wrath during the Great Tribulation
Post-Trib	End of the Great Tribulation

Despite the debate and mystery of the timing of the rapture of the church, both the rapture and the second coming of Christ will be at a time when no one expects it.

Check out these verses on Jesus' second coming:

He will come suddenly; Luke 17:24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

He will come like a thief (I Thess.5:1-3)

He will come in the middle of the night (Luke 17:34)

He will come in the middle of the day (Luke 17:35)

He will come when no one expects him to (see Matt.24:36-44)

So, his coming will be sudden & unexpected, even for his faithful followers. So if any more knuckleheads set dates on the second coming, you can know that Jesus will not come when they predict him to.

We will not have time to get ready, we must be ready.

Are you ready for his coming?

How do I know that I am ready for Jesus' second coming? See Matthew 24:45-51

- Do I have "sufficient oil?" (Matthew 25:1-13)
 - Eph.1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...
 - Romans 8:16 the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
 - I John 3:24...And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
- Am I investing financially for his kingdom? (Matthew 25:14-30)

- The very least a true child of God can do is invest financially in the kingdom. I believe the tithe is the biblical standard, and I believe the local church is the entity through which we should give the tithe. Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, who is Christ. Heb.7 refers to that tithe in light of Christ. In Gen.28 Jacob committed to giving God a tithe of all that God would give him. Prov.3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your increase; II Chron.31:5...the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey, and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.
 - Matthew 6:19-20 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
 - I did some calculating during my study for this message, and I was so encouraged to know that I have invested far more in the kingdom of God through the local church than I have in my house, my boat, vacations, etc. I have been tithing ever since I became a Christian at age 19. It's a great feeling, and I'm a blessed man as a result. See Malachi 3:10-12; II Cor.9:10-11.
- Am I ministering to Jesus by ministering to needy people? (Matthew 25:31-46)

“Any spirituality that does not lead from a self-centered to an other-centered mode of existence is bankrupt.” (Brennan Manning)

Practical suggestions on being prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ: Tithing to the Lord through the church, Special Needs Fund, Men of Arms, Women of Heart, Prison Ministry, Short Term Missions, Easter Outreach, Downtown Outreach, Foster Care, Mentoring, Youth Ministry, , Life groups, people along your personal path, etc.

CONCLUSION

The book of Revelation is meant to do more than stir us emotionally, or inspire us theologically. It is meant to move us to be involved in the business of the kingdom, because Jesus is coming soon!

John 9: 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

Only one life, 'twil soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last.