

## Bible Study

# *Bible Prophecy: Christ's Second Coming*

The Second Coming of Christ is greatly heralded in the bible because it is the fulfillment of a much anticipated event, the reunion of Christ the Bridegroom with His beloved bride, the Church (John 14:1-4; Ephesians 5:22-27). In fact, by some calculations, it is estimated that one of every ten verses in the bible gives reference to the Second Coming of Christ. Further in comparison, for every reference to Christ's First Coming, there are eight references to Christ's Second Coming. Therefore, it is without a doubt that all heaven awaits this majestic event.

In our studies of bible prophecy, we have learned that often when God would have His people know a particular truth, He will repeat the matter several times, providing increasing detail and clarity. We have also observed that for every truth of God, the enemy of our souls, Satan, has devised any number of counterfeits.

Could it be that Satan has devised counterfeits for this most astounding event, Christ's Second Coming? Consider that Christ Himself warns three times in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew: "*Take heed that no one deceives, you*" (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 23, 24). Let us prayerfully see what the bible says of Christ's Second Coming:

### Christ's Second Coming is a **LITERAL** Event:

1. **John 14:1-3:** "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me..."
2. **Titus 2:13:** "...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,"
3. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53:** "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..."

### Christ's Second Coming is a glorious **VISIBLE** Event:

1. **Revelation 1:7:** "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him..."
2. **Matthew 24:27, 29-31:** "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be..."
3. **Acts 1:9-11:** "...This same Jesus, who was taken up from you in heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
4. **See Also:** Revelation 6:14-17; Mark 8:38, 13:24-27; 1 Pet 4:13

### Christ's Second Coming is an **AUDIBLE** Event:

1. **1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17:** "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God..."
2. **John 5:25:** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live."
3. **Revelation 16:18, 20:** "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake..."
4. **Hebrews 12:25-29:** "...whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven..."
5. **See Also:** 2 Peter 3:10, Psalm 50:3

### Christ's Second Coming is a **DECISIVE** event for the **RIGHTEOUS**:

1. **John 11:24:** "...I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."
2. **Matthew 16:27:** "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

3. **Matthew 25:46:** “...And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
4. **See Also:** Matthew 13:47-50; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Isaiah 35:4-6, Rev 20:4-6

Christ’s Second Coming is a **DECISIVE** event for the **UNJUST**:

1. **Matthew 13:38-43:** “...Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age...”
2. **Matthew 13:47-50:** “...separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire...”
3. **Nahum 1:4-9:** “...The mountains quake before Him, the hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence...”
4. **See Also:** Zephaniah 1:2, 3, 14-18; Joel 2:1-11; Isaiah 13:4-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9, 2:8; Revelation 19:17-21; Jeremiah 4:23-28; Luke 17:22-37

**But doesn’t the bible say that Christ will come in secret, as a thief in the night?**

(2 Peter 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2)

- Yes, however, the manner in which Christ comes is not the secret but rather the **time** of His coming. The question therefore isn’t **how** will He come, but rather, **when** will He come as a thief in the night?
  - a. Matthew 24:36: “But of that day and hour no one knows...”
  - b. Matthew 24:42: “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”
  - c. Matthew 24:43, 44: “...if the master of the house had known what *hour* the thief would have come... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
  - d. Matthew 25:1-13: “But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept...” “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” **See Also:** Mark 13:32-37

**But doesn’t the bible say “...one will be taken and another left behind”?**

(Matthew 24:40, 41, Luke 17:34-37)

- Yes, however, the statement is made in the context of the fait of the two classes of people at the time of Christ’s Second coming, the just and the unjust, similar to the two classes in the time of Noah and Lot.
  - a. Matthew 24:37-39: “But as the days of Noah were... and did not know until the flood came and **took them all away**...”
  - b. Luke 17:26-30: “...But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed [them] all**.” **See Also:** Matt 13:24-30, 37-43; Revelation 22:6-15

**Four Categories of People at Jesus’ Second Coming:**

<b>Righteous Living</b>	<b>Wicked Living</b>
<b>Righteous Dead</b>	<b>Wicked Dead</b>

## Timeline: Today until Eternity

	Today	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ	Millennium	End of Millennium	Eternity
<b>Inhabitants of heaven</b>	God the Father, Jesus, 24 Elders, Angels, Enoch, Elijah, Moses, first-fruit of the dead (Mt 27:52,53)	God the Father, 24 Elders	God the Father, 24 Elders, Jesus, Holy Spirit, all the redeemed	God the Father, 24 Elders, Holy Spirit (Rev 21:2, 20:9)	No one – God will make His tabernacle with man on earth (Rev 21:1, 3, 22-27)
<b>Inhabitants of earth</b>	Devil, fallen angels, righteous living, righteous dead in graves; wicked living, wicked dead in the graves	Devil, fallen angels, wicked dead slain by Jesus's glory (2Thess 2:8; Heb 12:29; Rev 6:15-17)	Devil, fallen angels, wicked dead in the graves and dead bodies spread upon the earth	Devil, fallen angels, resurrected wicked, New Jerusalem descends (Jesus & saints in the city)	God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, 24 Elders, all the redeemed
<b>Events</b>	1. <b>Investigative judgment</b> in heaven (Dan 7:9, 10, 13, 14; 8:14)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resurrection of righteous dead</li> <li>2. Rapture of transformed righteous once dead</li> <li>3. Rapture of transformed righteous living</li> <li>4. Slaying of the wicked living</li> <li>5. Binding of devil and fallen angels to a desolate destroyed earth in darkness for 1000yrs (Rev 20:1-3; Jer 4:23-27; Zeph 1:14-18; Isa 24:1-3)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The redeemed review books in heaven</li> <li>2. Judgment of the devil, fallen angels, the wicked</li> <li>3. <b>Sentencing Judgment</b> of the devil, fallen angels, and the wicked (1 Cor 6:3; Rev 20:4, 6)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Jerusalem descends from heaven</li> <li>2. Wicked resurrected</li> <li>3. Satan's final deception of wicked, seek to take New Jerusalem by force</li> <li>4. Satan, fallen angels, wicked see their own life history in the books</li> <li>5. Satan, fallen angels and wicked destroyed in the lake of fire (<b>Executive Judgement</b>)</li> <li>6. God recreates the earth</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God's tabernacle is with men</li> <li>2. Men will receive the earth made new</li> <li>3. Dwell with God forever!! Amen!!!</li> </ol>

Therefore, the First Coming of Christ in contrast to His Second Coming tells the story of complete opposites. Let us make ready for our King's Arrival!

First Coming of Christ	Second Coming of Christ
Comes in obscurity to the town of Bethlehem	Comes in great glory with the angels to all the earth
He is beheld by shepherds and three wise men	Every eye will see Him in His glory, especially those who pierced Him (Rev 1:7)
Comes as a humble baby to die for the sins of the world	Comes as a conquering King to claim the citizens of His Kingdom and take vengeance on the wicked (Rev 19:11-15)