

Jesus' Return Is Next

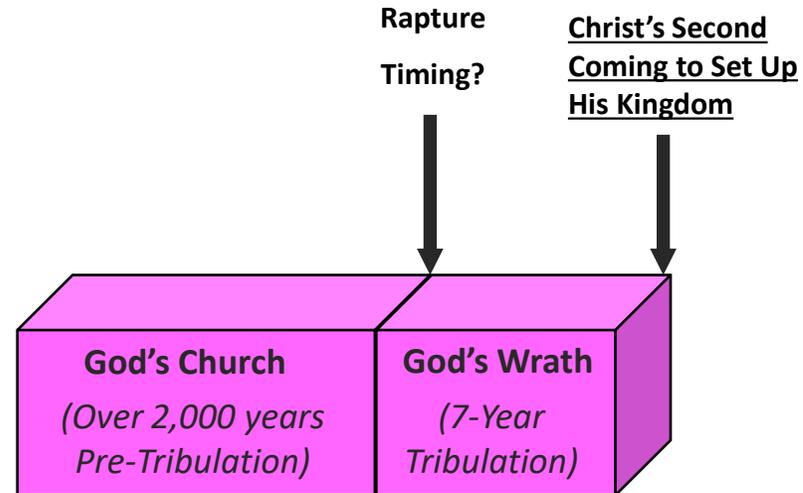
Study 7

The Next Event Is

- The Return of Jesus
 - The Rapture
 - The Tribulation
 - The End of God's Church Age
 - To establish the Kingdom of God
- This is the identical situation when Jesus first left earth 2000 years ago, except God's church has been built and expanded each year since His departure.
- Our mission until Jesus returns is to conform to the image of Christ as a fellow heir and adopted son of God.
 - Worship God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - Study The Word
 - Constant Prayer (and fellowship)
 - Evangelism
 - Preach the Word, Spread The Gospel.
 - Discipleship
 - Trust & Obey Jesus
 - Using our Spiritual Gifts

Next Event In The Master Plan

(The Return of Jesus)



The Church Age Begins with the
Resurrection of Jesus and ends With The
Return of Jesus

Trusting In Jesus As The Savior

The Devil Is Free To Tempt Man

Christ's Return: A Key Doctrine

- The top doctrine of the New Testament is Salvation by grace through faith.
- The second coming of Jesus is the next most popular doctrine of the church for the past 2000 years.
 - One of the 14 essential doctrines of Christianity
 - Scholars have identified 1,845 biblical references to the second coming.
 - 216 chapters of the NT contain 318 references to Jesus' second coming.
 - All nine authors of the NT mentions the second coming.
 - One in every 30 verses ... (That's like one reference in every chapter.)
 - 23 of 27 NT books contain teachings on Christ's return. Three books are single chapter letters originally written to a particular person about a subject not involved with the second coming. Galatians has only an implied reference. [Galatians 1:4](#)
 - In the Old Testament, Christ's return is emphasized in 17 books.
 - 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the first two books written for the early church, the return of Christ is taught in every single chapter.
 - The Lord Jesus, referred to His return twenty-one times.
- The fact that Christ's second coming features so prominently in Scripture is an indication that this event is important to God – and as a result, it should also be important to us.

Christ's Return: A Doctrinal Necessity

- Several Key doctrines in the Bible are absolutely dependent on the return of Christ
 - Doctrine of Salvation
 - Doctrine concerning the resurrection of the human body
 - Victory of Christ over Satan
 - Deity of Jesus Christ
- When Jesus returns, He will come in unrelenting power and annihilate the enemies of God in the bloodiest battle the world will ever know. It is the climax of God's judgment upon this wicked world. John introduces Christ the victor with this description: "In righteousness He judges and makes war" ([Revelation 19:11](#))
 - For 2,000 plus years, Christ has mercifully waited to execute His justice
 - As the time draws near, Christ will pull out all the stops to help us turn to Him before Judgment
 - He will dispatch two miracle-working witnesses to warn of His coming wrath.
 - Christ will send an additional 144,000 witnesses to take the gospel to the whole world once more.
 - But on that day when He leaves heaven with His saints and angels, the era of grace will end, and the hour of His wrath will come.
- For many people, the idea of a judging God is a deal breaker – an excuse to reject Christianity.

Seven Key Passages Previewing Christ's Return

Scripture Passage	Theme
Jude 1:4-15	According to Jude, Enoch was the first to predict the second coming of Christ
Daniel 7:13-14	Daniel describes the return of the Son of Man (Christ)
Zechariah 14:3-4	Describes the final epic battle between Christ and the Antichrist at the end of the Tribulation
Matthew 24:27, 29-31	Jesus describes the signs that will foreshadow His second coming.
Acts 1:11	After Jesus ascended into heaven, angels, speaking to the disciples describe how Jesus shall return
2 Thessalonians 1:7-10	Paul describes what the Day of Judgment will be like
Revelation 1:7	Description of Apostle John's vision of Christ's return

Jesus Appearance At His Second Coming

Scripture Reference	Attribute	Comment
Revelation 1:7 , 19:11-13	Portrayal	The first time Jesus came to earth it was in obscurity and people questioned who he was, with many rejecting his claim as messiah. The second time, however, 'every eye will see him. The entire world will witness His Return and know exactly who He is.
John 1:1 , Rev 1:5 , 3:7 , 15 , 19:11-13 , 16 ; 22:6 ; Isaiah 45:23 ; Romans 14:11	His Names	The Word of God, Faithful and True, The Faithful and True Witness, King of Kings and Lord of Lords
Revelation 1:14 , 2:18 , 19:12	His Eyes	Christ's firey eyes will burn up all that is false as He gazes upon people's hearts and minds. He will pierce through the motives of nations and individuals and judge them for what they really are.
	His Crowns	Jesus in his first visit was mocked as the King Of The Jews by having to wear a crown of thorns, When he returns, His many crowns will point to the fact no rule, might or authority will be able to stand against Him. In effect he wears the crowns of all nations
Revelation 13:8	His Robe	Jesus robe speaks of his victory, the redemption Jesus secured for us on the cross
Revelation 19:14 ; Zechariah 14:5 ; Jude 1:4 ; 1 Thessalonians 3:13 ; 2 Thessalonians 1:9	His People	Armies is plural. These armies are the believers from all ages, OT, NT, Tribulation
Revelation 19:11 , 14-15 ,	His Purpose	To judge and make war against the unsaved.
Revelation 19:17-18 , 21	The Punishment	The punishment of the wicked at this moment will be so horrific and death so extensive
Revelation 19:20-21 , Matthew 25:41	The Penalty	Cast into the everlasting lake of fire.

The First And Second Coming of Christ

Jesus' First Coming	Jesus' Second Coming
Born in obscurity (Philemon 1:5-7)	Seen by every eye (Rev 1:7)
Wrapped in swaddling clothes (Luke 2:7)	Clothed in a royal robe dipped in blood (Rev 19:13)
Surrounded by cattle (Luke 2:16)	Accompanied by the armies of heaven (Rev 19:14)
The doors of the inn were closed (Luke 2:7)	The doors of heaven will be opened (Rev 4:1)
Had the voice of a newborn baby (Luke 2:12)	Will have a voice with the sound of many waters (Rev 1:15)
The Lamb bring salvation (John 1:29)	The Lion bringing judgment (Rev 5:5)

Why Did The Jews Miss Jesus Christ As Their Promised Savior?

- Read [Numbers 29:17](#), [Micah 5:2](#), [Isaiah 9:6-7](#), [53:1-12](#), [Hebrews 9:24](#), [Malachi 4:1-6](#), [Acts 1:1-10](#)
- The majority of Jews took Scripture as stating only one coming of the Messiah to set up his Kingdom.
 - Some were seeking a prophet, a priest, and a king in two or three persons, they didn't expect these three descriptions in the Old Testament Scriptures to indicate fulfillment in one Messiah.
 - Many Jews expected a royal descendant of David, this righteous ruler would liberate Israel. Jesus did not rid Israel of Roman Dictators or set up his kingdom.
 - Liberating Israel would launch an era of unprecedented prosperity and peace for the Jewish nation. The land God promised to Abraham would be restored and Jesus would rule the world in his kingdom.
 - They believed all Messianic prophecies would occur during his lifetime. The crucifixion essentially ended most Jews belief that Jesus was the Messiah. He was a wannabe.
 - Jews had already been fooled by Messianic pretenders, three just before Jesus was born
 - Simon of Perea had led a huge revolt against Rome and was executed around the time of Jesus' birth.
 - Shortly thereafter Athronges claimed to be the Messiah and rebelled against Herod Archelaus and he was killed.
 - Around the time Jesus was about 10 years old Judas of Galilee made Messianic claims and led a rebellion only to be brutally crushed and killed.
 - Jesus repeatedly made statements he would die which defied what the Jews expected of their Messiah, who would live forever.
 - Jesus claimed that He was God in human flesh ([Mark 2:5-7](#); [John 8:58-59](#)), a declaration that would be difficult for any to believe, unless they could substantiate as Jesus did in the resurrection.

What Were The Jews Really Expecting?

- Since Adam everyone has been looking for someone to set the world right again.
 - Messiah in the Bible comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'appointed one'.
 - The Septuagint translators chose the Greek term Christos to represent the Hebrew word for "anointed one"
 - In English this is 'Christ'
- By God's ordinance, Pouring oil on a person marked that individual as someone God was empowering to perform a particular task
 - God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit ([Acts 10:38](#))
 - When Jesus was baptized, God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and declared Jesus to be his royal Son ([Mat 3:16-17](#); [Mark 1:10-11](#); [Luke 3:21-22](#))
- The entire Jewish nation was expecting a Messiah, but ...
 - They didn't know when he would arrive
 - They didn't know what he would do when he arrived
- What they felt was promised to them was ...
 - The Messiah would be sinless
 - They anticipated both a warrior Messiah and a priestly Messiah
 - This Messiah would rid Jerusalem and Israel of all non-Jews
 - Shatter the power of the Gentiles with an iron rod
 - Unrighteous persons would be delivered up to the sword
 - All the nations would serve under the Messiah
 - The tribes of Israel would receive the Promised Land again

Why Couldn't People See Who Jesus Was?

Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfillment
Be born in the town of Bethlehem of Judah	Micah 5:2-5	Matthew 2:1-6
Be born a king of the line of David	Isaiah 9:7	Matthew 1:1 , Luke 1:32 , Acts 13:22-23
Be born of the seed of Abraham	Genesis 17:7-8 ; 26:3-4	Matthew 1:1 , 17 ; Galatians 3:16 , 20 ; Hebrews 2:16
Kings shall bring him gifts, fall down before him	Psalm 72:10-11	Matthew 2:1-11
Be a firstborn son, sanctified	Exodus 13:2 ; Numbers 3:13 , 8:17	Luke 2:7 , 23
Be called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:13-15 , 19-21
The King comes to Jerusalem riding on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Mark 11:1-10 , Matthew 21:1-5 ; Luke 19:28-38 ; John 12:14-15

What Israel & The World Received

Messianic Role	What People Expected	What People Needed
Prophet	Someone to speak God's Truth	Someone to be God's Word and send His Spirit to lead His people into all truth (John 1:1-4 , 15:26 , 16:13)
Priest	Someone to offer sacrifices on behalf of Israel in a renewed temple	Someone to be the sacrifice who dies for His people's sins and the temple where God's presence dwells (Heb 10:10-14 ; Matthew 12:6 ; John 2:19-21)
King	Conqueror of the Romans, bringing political peace now	Conqueror of sin, bringing peace to his own people now and peace to his people later. (Matthew 21:5 , 25:31 ; John 12:15-16 , 18:36-38 , 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

What We Received Depends Upon Your View

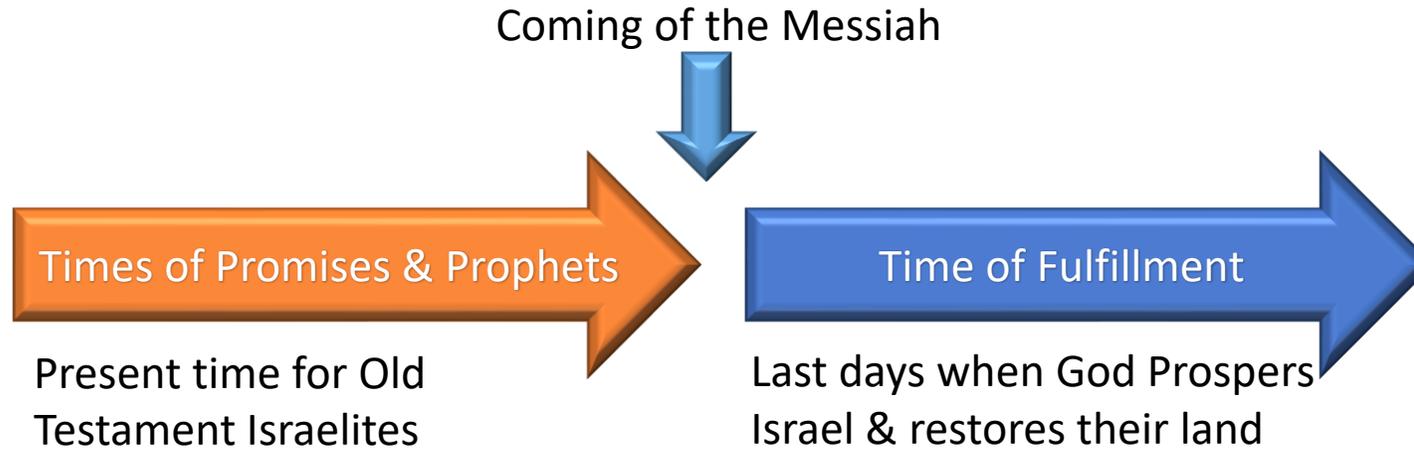
Dispensational View A Kingdom Postponed	Covenantal View A Kingdom Not Of This World	New Covenantal View A Kingdom Not Of This World
<p>If the religious leaders had recognized Jesus as the Messiah,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God would have established Jesus as an earthly King. • Jesus would have liberated Israel • Jesus would extended his reign throughout the earth 	<p>God never intended to establish his kingdom during the Jesus ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God always planned on establishing a kingdom 'not of this world' (Jn 18:36) • Jesus came to crush the Devil's power and defeat sin. (Mark 10:45; John 12:23-27) 	
<p>Jewish religious leaders rejected Jesus, so God postponed the kingdom to future</p>	<p>The Kingdom Jesus inaugurated was not a response to Israel's rejection.</p>	
<p>Jesus then proclaimed a new plan. The new plan centered on the church.</p>	<p>There is no new plan. In OT God reveals Kingdom would include Gentiles also.</p>	
<p>Although God knew about this new plan, he did not reveal this plan to the OT prophets. The church was neither predicted or expected in the OT.</p>	<p>Joel predicted outpouring of Holy Spirit on both Jews and Gentiles (Pentecost Sunday). Amos prophesied a day when Gentiles would be called by God's name</p>	
<p>When God removes the church at the Rapture, He resumes working with Israel.</p>		
<p>Jesus return to reign only after the Jews repent and accepts Jesus as the Messiah</p>		
<p>Jesus will then establish his kingdom and exalt Israel above the Gentiles</p>		

The Executed Criminal

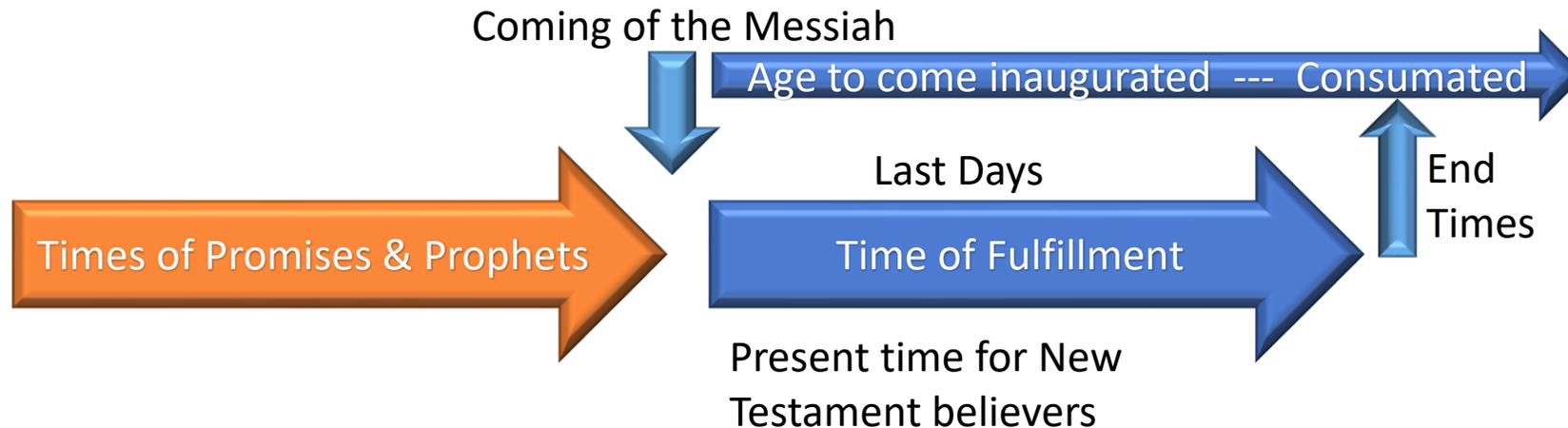
- Read [Isaiah 61:1-2](#), [Luke 4: 16-30](#)
- Read [Matthew 26](#) [27](#), [Mark 15](#), [Luke 23](#), [John 19](#)
 - What happened to Jesus?
 - Did the townspeople have evidence of his being the Son of God?
 - How would you describe Jesus' 3 ½ year ministry if he was not the Son of God?
 - Jesus' ministry was to establish his credentials as the Son of God, and to preach, exhort and spread the good news, prepare the people for the new age,
- Read [Matthew 28](#), [Mark 16](#), [Luke 24:1-12](#), [John 20](#)
 - What happened to Jesus?
- Read [John 3:13-18](#), [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#), [Hebrews 9:22](#), [Acts 2:23](#) & [36](#), [Romans 6:6](#), [Galatians 2:20](#)
 - Why was Jesus crucified?

What Kind Of Kingdom Was Jesus Bringing?

The Jewish people expected something like this ...



But what actually happened looks more like this ...



Will Christ Really Return A Second Time?

- Jesus taught He would return.
- Jesus promised to return for His own.
- Angels said He would return.
- Over 1,800 references in the Bible stating Christ (Messiah) will return.
- Scripture teaches two aspects of Christ's return
 - To receive His own
 - As a judge, a King
 - Jesus first appearance was as Messiah

What Do The Prophets' Prophecies Teach About Christ

- Isaiah
 - Messiah
 - Israel
- Jeremiah
 - Israel's return to their own land
- Ezekiel
 - Israel's restoration to their land
 - The Kingdom of God
 - The Restored Temple
 - The form of Worship in that time.
- Daniel
 - The Gentiles
 - The Antichrist
- Zephaniah
 - Events that will take place at the second coming of Christ.

Jesus Promised To Return

- **John 14:1-3**
 - “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: *if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.* And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there ye may be also.*”
- **What is Jesus doing now**
 - Preparing a place for us
- **Jesus makes two promises**
 - He will come again for us
 - Wherever Jesus is, we will be with him.

Two Angels Testify Jesus Will Return

- [Acts 1: 11-13](#)
- Jesus will return in the same manner as He Left
 - From Clouds To Land
 - Will 'touch down' on Mt. Olives
 - He comes to 'Set Up His Kingdom.'
- Is this the same return as described in ...
 - [John 14:1-3](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#)

Two Different Pictures of Christ's Return?

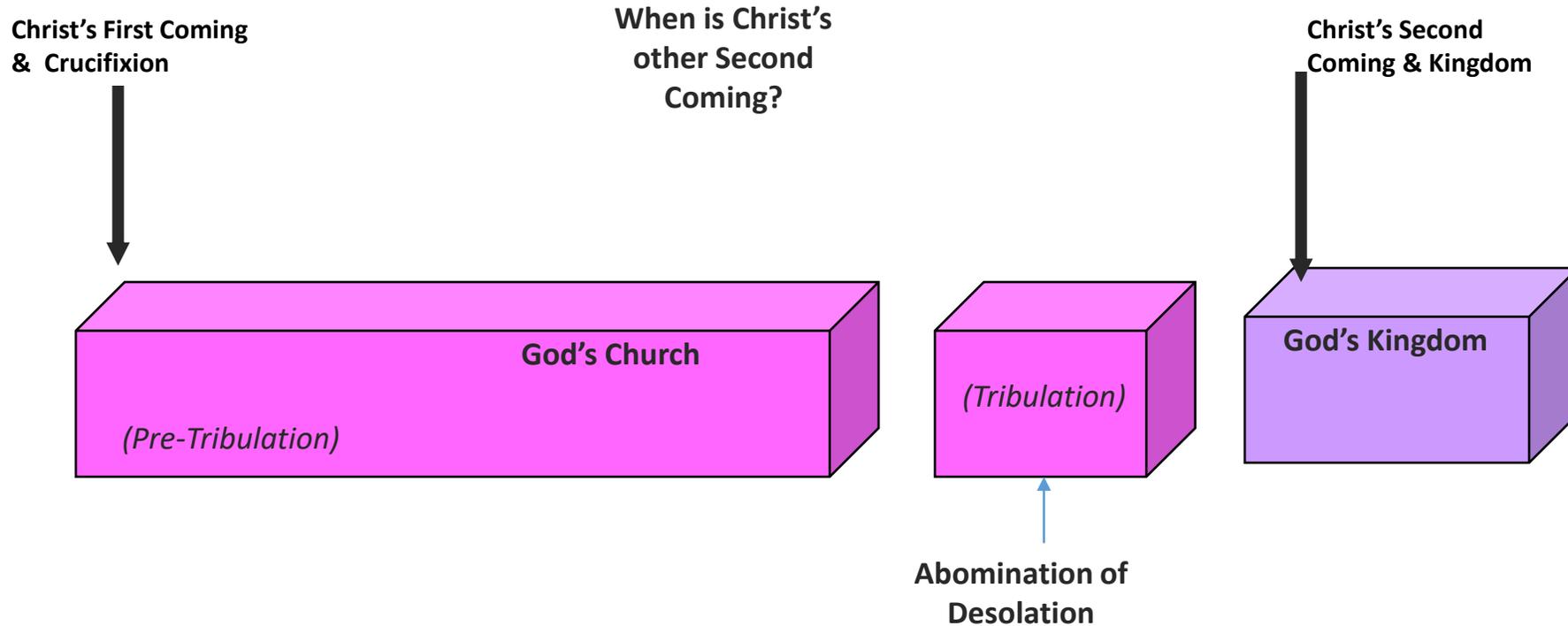
- Jesus returns ...

- [Revelation 19: 11-13](#)
- Riding a white war horse of victory
- With His army (angels & believers)
- Sword shooting forth from His mouth.
- He comes to 'Judge The People'
- The Beast & Antichrist are bound/cast into Hades
- All the Antichrist's armies are slain, judged.
- The Millennium (Kingdom of Christ) is established.

- Jesus returns ...

- [John 14:1-3, 1 Cor 15:51-57](#)
- In The Clouds
- No horse
- Big Shout
- The Last trumpet
- The Dead are resurrected and appear with Christ In The Sky
- Then We who are not asleep are transformed and meet Christ in the sky along with 'sleeping' brethren.
- Jesus takes us to His mansion.

If Christ Comes Twice, Then When?



Study Plan

- Jesus' Return is Predicted in both the Old Testament And New Testament
- What we have already covered.
 - The problem with mankind and what it means for Jesus to return.
 - God's plan for mankind.
 - Early church teachings on the return of Christ
 - Definition of terms used in the study of prophecy.
 - How to study prophecy
- Old Testament Study Plan
 - Daniel: The primary source for end time prophecies
 - Adam, Enoch, Methuselah
 - As it Was In The Days of Noah & Lot:
 - Zechariah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
- New Testament Study Plan
 - The Gospels' Teachings on Christ's return
 - Paul's Letters
 - Revelation
 - The Rapture