

THE SECOND COMING

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

A Wonderful Sign

Revelation 12:1-17

- I. Introduction to Hebrew Apocalyptic Literature
 - A. The Jewish Idea of the End Times
 - 1. This Present Age – a time of sin and suffering
 - 2. The Age to Come – a time of peace, prosperity, and righteousness
 - 3. The Day of the Lord – a time of judgment
 - a. Preceded by the return of Elijah – *Malachi 4:5-6*
 - b. People will cry bitterly – *Zephaniah 1:14*
 - c. Cosmic upheaval and disorder – *Joel 2:30-31; 3:15*
 - d. Hatred and anger will reign upon the earth – *Zechariah 14:13*
 - e. God will judge the earth – *Isaiah 66:15-16*
 - f. A New Jerusalem will appear in glory – *Haggai 2:7-9*
 - B. The Role of the Gentiles in Jewish Thought – 3 Choices
 - 1. Total Destruction and Annihilation – *Isaiah 13; 45; 63*
 - 2. One Great Battle Against Israel – *Ezekiel 38:14-39*
 - 3. Gentile Conversion – *Isaiah 49:6; 51:5*
- II. Introduction to the Book of Revelation
 - A. Authored by John the Apostle – different style than the 4th Gospel and Epistles
 - 1. Exiled on the Island of Patmos around 95 AD
 - 2. Received prophetic visions on the coming of Christ
 - B. Written during a time of severe persecution
 - 1. Rome Emperors: Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otto, Vitellius, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Nerva.
 - 2. Revelation – GK *apokalupsis* which means disclosure or unveiling
 - C. How to Study the Book of Revelation
 - 1. Chronos Study – the order of events in a succession of time.
 - 2. Kairos Study – events as moments, periods or seasons of time.
 - * Is the book of Revelation written in chronological order?
- III. A Wondrous Sign – *Revelation 12:1-17*
 - A. The Woman Giving Birth to the Messiah v. 1-2
 - 1. Virgin Mary – specific person with a specific event – slight possibility
 - 2. The Church – did not actually birth the Messiah – maybe
 - 3. The Jewish People – community of God’s people – most likely
 - a. The Messiah came forth from this community of faith.
 - b. The Dragon wants to destroy this community of faith.
 - c. God delivers this community of faith.
 - B. The Dragon Wanting to Devour – v. 3-4; 7-9; 13-17
 - 1. Satan wants to destroy the Messiah – God’s Son
 - 2. Satan wants to destroy the Heavens – God’s Home
 - 3. Satan wants to destroy the Church – God’s People
 - C. The Child Who Will Rule – v. 5 (*Psalm 2:9*)
 - 1. A Mystery – why only record the Birth and The Ascension?
 - 2. A Theological Statement – Jesus Christ on the throne in heaven.

THE SECOND COMING

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

- D. The Flight into the Desert – *v. 6*
 - 1. The righteous have always fled into the desert – Elijah; Mary, Joseph, and Jesus; the persecuted Church.
 - 2. Jesus commanded his followers to flee to the mountains. *Mark 13:14*
 - 3. Jerusalem had fled into the desert following its destruction – Masada.
 - 4. Timing – time, times and half a time – *Daniel 7:25; 12:7*
 - a. Jewish Meaning – 3 1/2 years
 - b. Jewish History - June 168 BC to December 165 BC – Hannukah
- E. The War in Heaven and on Earth - *Isaiah 14:2*
 - 1. Two opposing forces – Michael and Satan.
 - 2. Satan and his angels lost their place in heaven.
 - 3. Satan knows his time is short and is filled with fury.
 - 4. Satan pursues the community of faith – Israel
 - 5. Satan wages war against the Church – offspring of The Woman

IV. Understanding the Sign

- A. Salvation has come – Jesus is Lord
 - 1. First to the house of Israel – the birth of Mother of the Church.
 - 2. Second to the Gentiles – the bride of Christ.
- B. Satan is defeated – faith is the Victory.
 - 1. Satan has been hurled down – *Psalms 91*
 - 2. The Saints can overcome – by blood and testimony
- C. Some Thoughts of the Second Coming of Christ – *v. 11*
 - 1. Do not forget the Jewish roots of the Church.
 - 2. Do not neglect the role of the supernatural.
 - 3. Do not overlook the role of nature.
 - 4. Remember that we are in a spiritual battle.

The Parables of Christ

I. Introduction to the Parables

- A. Jesus often taught using parables – subversive
 - 1. Casual stories that exploded with meaning.
 - 2. Life events that connect heaven and earth.
- B. Jesus taught about His return using parables during His Passion.

II. The Wedding Banquet – *Matthew 22:1-14*

- A. A Jewish Wedding Banquet – Invitation and Summons
- B. Invitation to the Feast of the Ages – a joyous occasion
 - 1. Joy is a part of the Christian faith – laughter and life
 - 2. People will refuse the invitation – many are invited; few choose.
- C. Summons – the time to come home to God.
 - 1. The tragedy is that some will miss the invitation and the summons – miss God.
 - 2. Grace abounds until the time of the seating.

III. The Ten Virgins – *Matthew 25:1-13*

- A. The Married Couple – week long celebration where they are treated like royalty.
 - 1. The young women would be a part of the wedding party.
 - 2. A terrible disappointment to miss the celebration.
- B. Certain things cannot be obtained at the last moment – spiritual life with Jesus Christ.
- C. Certain things cannot be borrowed – anointing of the Holy Spirit.

IV. The Talents – *Matthew 25:14-30*

- A. God gives different people different gifts – not the gift; the service.
- B. God rewards work well done with more work to do.
- C. God punishes those who will not try to live life.
- D. God will return and each person will be judged for their actions.

V. The Sheep and the Goats – *Matthew 26:31-46*

- A. The Second Coming as a fact of life.
 - 1. The Son of Man coming in glory with the angels of heaven.
 - 2. The Son of Man will sit on his throne.
 - 3. Everyone will be gathered together for judgment.
- B. The Sheep and the Goats.
 - 1. Judgment based on the simple things in life.
 - 2. Judgment based on the obedience of the person.
 - 3. Judgment based on the expressions of love in a person's life.

THE SECOND COMING

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

The Teachings of Jesus

- I. The Destruction of the Temple – *Luke 21:5-6; 20-4*
 - A. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman army.
 - 1. Titus commanded the siege against the city – 1,100,000 died.
 - 2. The Temple was the last part of the city to surrender.
 - 3. The Temple was set on fire on August 10, 70; the same day as the Babylonians.
 - 4. The city of Jerusalem burned until September 8, 70.
 - B. Jesus prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem at a sign of the Gentiles times.
- II. The Coming of a False Messiah – *Luke 21:8-9*
 - A. Watch out for deception – false prophets, false teachers, false leaders.
 - B. Dates, times, seasons – no one knows when the end will come.
 - C. Wars and revolutions – not an easy time - great suffering and hardship.
- III. The Coming of Tribulation – *Luke 21:10-19*
 - A. Tribulation in various forms – social, political, natural.
 - B. Persecution – national and local – a witness for the Gospel of Jesus.
 - 1. Jesus will give you peace – guard our hearts and minds in His grace.
 - 2. Jesus will give you wisdom – give words for us to speak to our persecutors.
 - C. Betrayal – parents, brothers, relatives and friends.
 - 1. The world will hate us because we believe in Jesus.
 - 2. The world will kill us because we believe in Jesus.
 - 3. The world will lose its life, while as believers, we will gain life.
- IV. The Coming of Christ – *Luke 21:25-28*
 - A. Signs to watch for:
 - 1. In the heavens – sun, moon and stars.
 - 2. On the earth – nations and nature.
 - 3. With the people – terror and apprehension.
 - B. The Cloud in the Sky – with power and great glory.

“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:28

- V. Our Part in the Second Coming
 - A. History is going somewhere – that means our history is going somewhere.
 - 1. There was a beginning and there will be an end – the question is when?
 - 2. God has a plan and we are a part of that plan.
 - B. Be careful – we must learn to guard our hearts against dissipation, drunkenness, and anxiety.
 - 1. We must live holy lives – holy hearts, holy hands, holy attitudes, holy words.
 - 2. We know the end is coming – therefore we need to be ready.
 - C. Be watchful and pray
 - 1. That we will survive the tribulation, persecution, and betrayal.
 - 2. That we would be able to stand before a Son of Man in righteousness and faithfulness.

THE SECOND COMING

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

The Words of Peter and Paul

- I. The Apostle Peter and The Second Coming – *2 Peter 3:3-13*
 - A. The Dual Destruction – *verses 3-7*
 1. First Destruction by Water – The Flood – *Genesis 6-8:22*
 2. Second Destruction by Fire – The Second Coming – *Matthew 10:15*
 - B. The Chronology of God – *verses 8-9*
 1. Time is not the same to God as it is to humanity.
 2. Time is an opportunity to come to God by faith and repentance.
 3. Time gives humanity hope.
 - C. The Day of the Lord – *verse 10*
 1. The Day will come like a thief – unexpected
 2. The Heavens will disappear with a roar – sun, moon, stars.
 3. The Elements will be destroyed by fire – basic nature.
 4. The Earth and Everything will be laid bare – empty.
 - D. The Responsibility of the People of God – *verses 11-13*
 1. To live holy and godly lives – looking forward.
 2. To expect a new heaven and a new earth – looking home.
- II. The Apostle Paul and The Second Coming – *1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11*
 - A. The Death of the Saints – *verses 13-15*
 1. A person who lives and dies in Christ still lives – faith in the word of God.
 2. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again – early Church creed.
 - B. The Order of Last Things – *verses 16-18*
 1. The Lord will come down from heaven – shout, archangel, trumpet.
 2. The dead in Christ will rise first – resurrection of the dead.
 3. The alive and left waiting will meet them in the air – together.
 4. The faithful will be with God forever – encouragement.
 - C. The Thief in the Night – *verses 1-3*
 1. No one knows the times or dates – *Matthew 24:36-37*
 2. The Day will come suddenly – like a woman in labor.
 - D. The Prepared Believer – *verses 4-11*
 1. We are Sons of Light and Sons of the Day – revelation.
 2. We are self controlled and alert – responsible.
 3. We are spiritual – faith, love, hope.
 4. We are saved – redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 5. We are with Christ – here, there, or in the air: encouragement.
- III. A Study of the End Times
 - A. Historic Premillennialism – early Church
 - B. Dispensationalism – fundamentalists and conservative evangelicals
 - C. Amillennialism – Augustine and mainline denomination
 - D. Postmillennialism – Reformed and 19th century evangelicals

THE SECOND COMING

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

A Marvelous Sign

- I. A Review of the Book of Revelation
 - A. The Revelation to the Seven Churches – *Revelation 1:1-3:22*
 - B. The Visions of Heaven
 - 1. An Open Door in Heaven – *Revelation 4:1*
 - * The Vision of the Seven Seals – *Revelation 4:2-8:5*
 - * The Vision of the Seven Trumpets – *Revelation 8:6-11:19*
 - 2. A Great and Wondrous Sign in Heaven – *Revelation 12:1*
 - * The Heavenly War – *Revelation 12:2-14:20*
 - 3. A Great and Marvelous Sign in Heaven – *Revelation 15:2*
 - * The Vision of the Seven Bowls – *Revelation 15:2-19:10*
 - 4. Heaven Standing Open – *Revelation 19:11*
 - * The Heavenly Victory – *Revelation 19:12-20:15*
 - 5. A New Heaven and a New Earth – *Revelation 21:1*
 - * The Heavenly Home – *Revelation 21:2-22:21*
- II. Introduction to the Marvelous Sign
 - A. Seven Angels with the Seven Last Plagues – *Revelation 15:1*
 - 1. The completion of God's wrath – Judgment upon evil.
 - 2. The completion of God's testimony – Song of Moses/ Song of the Lamb.
 - B. Before the Second Coming – *Revelation 16:15*
 - 1. A warning from Jesus Himself about His return – to be awake and pure.
 - 2. The fulfillment of the words of Jesus, Paul and Peter about the elements.
- III. The Wrath of God upon the Earth – *Revelation 16:1-21*
 - A. The Ten Plagues Against Egypt – *Exodus 7:20-12:30*
 - 1. The Water into Blood.
 - 2. The Frogs.
 - 3. The Lice.
 - 4. The Flies.
 - 5. The Plague on Cattle.
 - 6. The Boils and Sores.
 - 7. The Thunder and Hail.
 - 8. The Locusts.
 - 9. The Darkness.
 - 10. The Death of the Firstborn.
 - B. The Seven Last Plagues
 - 1. Sores – ugly and painful on those who do evil.
 - 2. The Sea into Blood – everything dies.
 - 3. The River and Springs into Blood – true and just judgments.
 - 4. The Sun on Fire – scorches the unrepentant people.
 - 5. Darkness – rage, anger and cursing.
 - 6. Euphrates Dries Up – to prepare for the end – Armageddon.
 - 7. Terrors in Nature – lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and earthquakes.
 - C. Limited Destruction Versus Complete Destruction – The Last Battle
 - D. The Punishment of Babylon – *Revelation 17 & 18*
- IV. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ – *Revelation 19:1-21*
 - A. The First Hallelujah – The Judgments of God are true and just.
 - B. The Second Hallelujah – Good has overcome evil.
 - C. The Third Hallelujah – The Lord Almighty Reigns.
 - D. The Rider on the White Horse – Redemption Draweth Nigh!

The New Jerusalem

- I. Between the Old and the New: Judgment Day – *Revelation 20:11-15*
 - A. The Second Coming marks the return of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The Final Judgment follows the Second Coming.
 - 2. The Great White Throne signifies the judgment seat of God.
 - 3. The old order of things has passed away – New humanity in a new creation.
 - B. The Final Judgment marks the end of all things.
 - 1. Earth and sky flee from the presence of God – *Mark 13:31*
 - 2. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire – *Ephesians 4:7-10*
 - 3. Every one is judged according to what they did and did not do – *Matthew 25:31-*

46

- a. The Book of Deeds – records the actions of humanity.
 - b. The Book of Life – records the redemption of humanity.

- II. The Blessed New Creation – *Revelation 21:1-4*
 - A. The Newness of Life – New Heavens, New Earth, New City – vv. 1-2
 - B. The Promise of God – A New Relationship with Humanity – vv. 3-4
 - C. The Word from the Throne – Final Word – vv. 5-8
 - D. The Glory of the Bride – vv. 9-26
 - a. There are 12 Gates with 12 Angels for the 12 Tribes built upon the 12 Apostles.
 - b. The City is designed in a “Four - Square” pattern.
 - c. There is no Temple of Tabernacle – God is there – God dwells with humanity.
 - d. The Nations will bring their honor and glory there. – *Genesis 11*

- III. The River of Life – *Revelation 22:1-6*
 - A. The River of Life flows from the Throne of God – v. 1
 - B. The Tree of Life bears fruit and brings healing – v. 3

- IV. The Great Invitation of Grace – *Revelation 22:7-21*
 - A. The Coming of Jesus Christ is soon - over and over again – v. 7
 - B. The prophecy should be proclaimed – an effort to understand it – vv. 8-11
 - 1. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong – actions
 - 2. Let him who is continue to be vile – character
 - 3. Let him who does right continue to do right – actions
 - 4. Let him who is holy continue to be holy – character
 - C. The Final Invitation – vv. 12-17
 - 1. A Summary of events – Coming and Judgment
 - 2. A Division of Humanity – The Righteous and the Wicked
 - 3. A Testimony of God – from the Jews to Jesus
 - 4. An Agreement of Witnesses – the Spirit and the Bride
 - D. Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*