

Second Coming of Christ

Zachariah 14:1-9; Matthew 24:26-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 19:11-21.

Intro

The Institute for Economics and Peace, an independent, non-profit think tank, published for the 10th time its Global Peace Index in 2016. Here are some of the report's findings.

- Only 10 nations in the world are currently not at war.
- Over the past 10 years, 81 countries have become more peaceful and 79 have become less peaceful.
- 101,406 deaths in battle, an increase from 19,601 since 2008.
- There are about 57 million refugees, and displaced peoples.
- Violent crimes cost \$1,876 for every person in the world, a total of \$13.6 trillion dollars. This figure represents 13.3% of the world's total economic activity.

(Source: Global Peace Index, Institute for Economics & Peace (2016); submitted by Trevor McMaken, Aurora, Illinois.)

Folks, the world is in a mess but one day, God is going to make this messy world a world of peace when Jesus comes back again – and I believe it is soon!

Jesus' first coming was to save the world and to show the love, grace and forgiveness of God. But His second coming will be the mighty conqueror to judge the nations and establish His kingdom of peace on earth.

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The Second Coming is the personal visible and physical return of Christ to earth (specifically Jerusalem) at the conclusion of the Tribulation period. The glorious coming of Christ is the most exciting event in all human history and Bible prophecy. Every believer who knows anything about the Bible looks forward to that blessed day when his and her Lord will be reigning on earth.

Jesus is going to return with great power and glory to establish His kingdom on earth.

Jesus said, *"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."*(Matt. 24:30).

Jesus is going to return most likely at the battle of Armageddon when all the armies and forces are gathered in Israel. In Revelation 16:16 we read, *"Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon**."*

Also Jesus' specific re-entry into our world will be on the Mount of Olives.

We read in Acts 1:11, *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

The prophet Zechariah prophesied this over 500 years before Christ's first coming (520 B.C.) We read in Zechariah 14:4, *On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.*

In 1967 at the Mount of Olives, "...an oil company doing seismic studies of this area in quest of petroleum discovered a gigantic fault line running east and west, precisely through the centre of the

Mount of Olives. The fault is so severe that it could split at any time.” (Source: “The Late Great Planet Earth” Hal Lindsey, Volume 3, pg. 57, 58.)

Facts about Christ’s Second Coming

1. After the Great Tribulation Christ will return (Matt. 24:29-30). It will be most likely at the battle of Armageddon before the armies destroy Israel.
2. Great disturbances in the sun, moon & stars will accompany the event (Matt. 24:29; Luke 21:25-27).
3. He will come with thousands upon thousands of His saints to judge the ungodly (Jude 14-15).
4. All nations will be gathered before Him in judgment (Matt. 25:31-32).
5. The revelation of Christ will bring relief to the saints from tribulation period (2 Thess. 1:7).
6. Christ will bring in the Kingdom, at which time He will gather His elect from the end of the heavens to the other and from the four winds – north, south, east and west (Matt. 24:31; Luke 21:27-31).
7. Creation will be free from the curse (Rom. 8:19-21; Isaiah 11:6-9).

The Manner of Christ’s Second Coming

1. In personal, visible splendor, in power and glory (Act 1:9, 11; Matt. 16:27; 26:64; Rev. 19:11-16).
2. It will be like the lightning which shines from the east to the west, not hidden from humanity. (Matt. 24:26-27; Rev. 1:7).
3. In the glory of His Father, accompanied with saints and angels (Matt. 16:27; Jude 14; 2 Thess. 1:7; Zech. 14:5; 1 Thess. 3:13, 4:14; Col. 3:4).
4. With a shout and his powerful angels (2 Thess. 1:7).
5. As a rider on a white horse, the mighty conqueror (Rev. 19:11).

The Purpose of Christ’s Second Coming

1. To judge the antichrist, the false prophet and the armies of the earth (Rev. 19:19-21; 2 Thess. 2:8).
2. To imprison Satan (Rev. 20:1-2).
3. To save Israel as a nation (Zech. 14:3-4; Joel 3:15-16; Acts 15:16).
4. To judge the nations (Matt. 24:31-32; Joel 3:1-2, 12; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Isaiah 24:21-23).
5. To deliver and free creation from the curse (Rom. 8:19-22; Isaiah 11).
6. To set up His kingdom (Rev. 11:15; 20:4; Dan. 7:13-14; 2 Tim. 4:1; Zech. 14:9; Matt. 25:31).
7. To bring about a state of peace and harmony (Micah 4:3-4; Isaiah 2:4).

Commentary on Revelation 19:11-16

Verse 11 This is the second time John saw heaven open. The first time was in Rev. 4:1 where he was invited up into heaven as a representative of the Church. Now heaven is open to let the rider on the white horse out, accompanied by his armies. The white horse depicts Christ's power and glory. His first coming was as a humble servant but His second coming will be as a mighty conqueror. "*Faithful and true*" presents our Lord as a contrast to the unfaithful deceivers of humanity, Antichrist and Satan. The Lord will come to judge this earth and finally bring justice. He will make war against all ungodly forces and consume all that stand in opposition to Him. This most likely will happen at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16).

Verse 12 "*His eyes are like blazing fire*", this indicates that He will judge according to truth. His all seeing eyes will reveal all truth about every individual and nation. Nothing will be hidden.

"*On his head are many crowns.*" This is symbolic to mean that Christ will come with much authority. He is superior to all the kings and rulers who ever lived.

"*He has a name written on him that no one but He himself knows.*" Many have speculated upon this name, but it seems unwise to do so. In the Bible there are many names that reveal facets of the nature of God and Christ. Since Christ is divine it would seem that some aspects of His nature are incomprehensible to our finite minds. Therefore this particular name will be unknown to us.

Verse 13 *"He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood"* It could mean that His garments were sprinkled with the blood of the saints who were martyred (Rev. 14:7-20) and now He will avenge their death. Also it could mean the symbol of Christ's own blood shed for humanity (Rev. 1:5; 5:6, 9; 7:14). *"And his name is the Word of God"*. "Word" comes from the Greek word *logos* which literally means the knowledge of God. As we reveal knowledge from one human mind to another through the vehicle of words, so Christ, the eternal Word of God, reveals God to humanity.

Verse 14 The armies of heaven consist of angelic hosts, Old Testament saints, the Church and the Tribulation saints. They will all be dressed in white clean fine linen which means they are pure and they will not engage in battle. Christ will lead them and fight for them.

Verse 15 The sword from Christ's mouth is symbolic to mean that He conquers by the power of His word. Christ's words are also the instruments of His judgment as well as His salvation (John 12:48). The rod of iron represents absolute, unyielding government under which people are required to conform to the righteous standards of God. The winepress is God's wrath being manifest upon the rebellious (Rev. 14:17-20).

Verse 16 Christ the mighty rider will come as King above all kings, Lord above all lords. Then truly the prophetic words of Isaiah will be fulfilled, *"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting father, The Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6).

Conclusion

People will tell you that triumph and peace will come by the development of human beings – the gradual evolution of humanity's potential. We should just give it time, just wait and see humanity solve all the problems. Everything's coming up roses. World War I and World War II did away with that theory. Vietnam laid that theory in the grave. The terrorist attacks, the Middle East wars and now the threat of North Korea with its nuclear missiles.

Will human progress stop people and nations from war and from sinning? Will human progress and achievement ever wipe away all tears from our eyes or heal our broken hearts? NO, the final victory will not come through some natural progress of human development, or through the religious forces that are operative in the world right now. The victory will come not by an improvement of the present order but through its complete overthrow. The high point of human history will be the sudden appearance on the field of battle the great conqueror of our salvation. He will come in glory, and it will be comparable to what John saw in Revelation: *"Look, I see a great white horse. And there is a rider on that horse whose name is Faithful and True, and there are many crowns upon his head."* That, ladies and gentlemen will be the **Final Victory!**

