

# Discussions about Christ's Second Coming

Sunday Night Service  
FBC Dawsonville, GA  
Jim Lay

June 28, 2009

Thanks to all of you for coming. I want to open with a prayer for our Pastor and Debbie for this final week of their vacation and a prayer for us to discuss what Christ wants us to learn about the subject today.

## What led me to do this Study tonight?

- Questions in my Bible Class
- Events Happening in the World now
- Long term interest in this subject
- New book by Dr. David Jeremiah entitled "What in the world is going on? "

A lot of things led up to us being here tonight on this subject. As most of you know I recently taught a verse by verse study on Revelation and Thessalonians. These two books have more about the second coming, the tribulation, and the rapture than all the other books in the Bible, and are easier to understand. I know many of you do not believe that Revelation can be understood at all, but I believe if you listen to the lessons on the website, you will come away with a new appreciation for it, and a promised blessing.

Even after teaching the books, there is much confusion about events and timelines.

Also, events in the world today are increasingly becoming ominous and eerily like some prophecies. I recently read a book by David Jeremiah, and re-read some others I have and it has re-kindled fresh interest.

I want to start by talking about 1973, when Vicki and I were in a Young Married's class in Calder Baptist Church in Beaumont Texas. Our son was about 3 years old and we were attending a Sunday night service with our friends listening to a speaker talk about a new book by Hal Lindsey called "The Late Great Planet Earth" and relating a subject we had never heard in Church or Bible Study...a look at the rapture of the church and the end times. This was a seminal book for us because it started our journey of discovery into the whole realm of eschatology (the study of end times).

I read many of Dr. Lindsey's books and purchased others by noted NT scholars like John Walvoord, who writes Revelation commentaries and is at Dallas Theological Seminary.

The whole subject frightened us at that time, but in today's world we have heard about Revelation, the Second coming, the End Times and the Rapture. They may not be clear but they are not totally foreign to us.

## What do I hope to do?

- Cannot do
  - Prediction of specific nature
  - Interpret every sign and happening
- Can do
  - Remove some of the mystery of the end times
  - Discuss events that are key
  - Lay out general sequence of events to come

*With these things in mind...lets start...*

This subject fills book after book and in 45 minutes, I cannot hope to cover even a small part of it. What I can do is try to remove some of the mystery of Prophecy and discuss the events on the horizon. I am no expert in them and there are many questions I would have to research to answer, but hopefully we can progress and understand more than before we came in tonight. Bear with me as we go through this since I put this presentation together yesterday.

## Let's start with a few Q's

- How many of you have heard of the second coming?
  - Have you heard many sermons in church on it?
- How many of you have heard of the Rapture?
  - Sermons on it?
- How many of you think they are the same event?

It is important to get an understanding of where you are in understanding this subject. Some of you may be far more knowledgeable than others, but we can get everyone to a safe place Biblically by the time we are finished tonight. Raise your hand and ask me any questions you have as we go. While I have prepared this lesson to last the full time, answering questions is important to me.

# Background

- If Jesus is coming for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, you know that He came the 1<sup>st</sup> time?
  - What do we call this first time?
  - What Holidays do we celebrate to mark the times
  - Was this coming an unforeseen event ?
    - No, over 100 prophecies in the OT of it

These should be simple questions. We celebrate the birth of Christ and the Resurrection at Christmas and Easter. These are key holidays for the Christians. We have Christian productions (Cantatas) where the Story of Christ's birth is told and the understanding of the prophecy and the expectation of the Messiah is played out before our eyes. The majesty of the MAGI, and the Angels, the Shepherds, the Star in the Sky and all the wonders of the time.

It was prophesied with over 100 specific items and Jesus fulfilled them all. He is the Messiah and he came to redeem us and provide a path for us to Salvation. He loves us and shows us God, as we look at Him and follow His commands.

## Can we believe it will happen again?

- Over 100 prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled exactly when Jesus came, and lived, and suffered, and died, and rose again.
- Many more NT prophecies predict He will come again, including Jesus' own words, Paul's writings, Peter's writings, and John's writings.
- OT prophecies also add to the discussion

*If you believe in Jesus, and His word, you can believe He will come again, as He said He would.*

There are 5 times as many prophecies about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming as the first. He came and perfectly fulfilled all the items for the first, and we can trust Him to do the same for the second coming. He told us in his own words.

## Second coming texts

Second Coming Passages	
Dan 2:44-45	Acts 1:9-11
Dan 7:9-14	Acts:3:19-21
Dan 12:1-3	1Thess 3:13
Zech 12:10	2Thess 1:6-10
Zech 14:1-15	2Thess 2:8
Matt 13:41	1Pet 4:12-13
✦ Matt 24:15-31	2Pet 3:1-14
Matt 26:64	Jude 1:14-15
Mark 13:14-27	Rev 1:7
Mark 14:62	Rev 19:11-20:6 ✦
Luke 21:25-18	Rev 22:7,12,20

Here is the list of Reference Scriptures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. As you can see, it is both OT and NT prophecy. We will not cover all of them, only a couple, but you can study them for yourself. The key prophecies are noted by the little star next to them.

# Signs of the times...

## ■ Matt 24: 3-25

- Many come in His name claiming to be Christ, do not be deceived
- Wars, rumors of wars...do not be alarmed since these things must be
- Nation against Nation, Kingdom against Kingdom, famines, earthquakes
- Falling away from the Faith, increase in wickedness, love grows cold
- Gospel preached to all Nations
- **Day of the Lord** will be severe, but those who stand firm will be saved

In the text below, Jesus tells us what some of the signs are of His return. This was in response to a Q from the disciples.

### Matt 24: 3-25

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, and will deceive many. 6You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8All these are the beginning of birth pains.

9"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. 18Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 19How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. 22If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24For false Christ's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. 25See, I have told you ahead of time.

# Today's Headlines – Part 1

- Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Wildfires, Floods, Record Snow and Ice, record heat, and Volcanoes
- Increased Insect and wild animal effects
- Biological and Chemical attacks or attempts
- Pandemics, Disease, Genocide
  - Bird flu, swine flu, MRSA infection, stronger resistant strains
  - Genocide in Africa, Bosnia, and Iraq and Iran
- Shortages of Food and Water
  - Starvation and Famine
- Government taking away our freedoms, one by one
  - Financial crisis, Healthcare, Oil, Jobs, futures
  - Increased helplessness and acting out in violence
- Nuclear armament by North Korea and Iran
- Christian Martyr's larger than at any other time

In recent years all the types of things have been in the news. All the natural disasters that have killed hundreds of thousands of people across the world are in the nightly news. 70-100 thousand people killed by a Hurricane that hit the Myanmar Island last year. Even though the Island government was warned, they did not take any precautions and warn the people. As a result, a senseless tragedy and loss of life occurred. Earthquakes in China and Iran. Earthquakes in Peru, and Tornadoes across America took more lives. Sometimes even with the best of precautions and warnings loss of life is unavoidable. Floods in Missouri, down the Mississippi River, hurricanes in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Florida caused immense damage.

Wildfires in California, Arizona, and other Western states caused problems

In Hurricane Katrina or the Wildfires in California, we get some warnings of events to come. We can predict the path of the storms, when they will make landfall, wind speed, and projected damage. From this work, we have emergency procedures to notify the folks, and evacuate those in the path. The same for the fires. We notify and get them out. Even in Dawson Co we have reverse 911 here. Does anyone remember getting any calls?

Key item is to evacuate to save lives and limit harm. This will be important later in our discussion.

Other items here are out of our control, for the most part.

## Today's Headlines- Part 2

- OT prophecies concerning end times coming to pass
  - Gog / Magog allies with Persia (Russia and Iran) – Ezek 38-39
  - Allies added: Ethiopia, Libya, the Arab nations, the “-stans” in the Black Sea area
  - All arrayed against Israel
- Rising prices in all areas
- Decline in Cultural Values
  - Abortion, rejection of marriage, homosexuality, cloning
- Apostasy- turning away from God
  - Churches failure to uphold God's Commands / teachings
  - Christian Nation debate
  - Hedonistic, pleasure seeking priorities
  - Pushing God out of public spaces (schools, buildings, Pledge, Money)
  - Marginalizing Christians, Values, Tradition
- European Union (revived Roman Empire predicted in Revelation)
- Anti Semitism increasing: Historic in Europe plus rising Muslim population
- Israel in Isolation – pulling back of support for Israel and it's historic claims on the land
  - Q: US seems to be Israel's strongest ally in the World and we are softening our support

On a note that rings the prophecy bell...If you have been paying attention for the last few years, all these things are also fresh in your mind.

We are seeing the alignment of countries in the OT predicted to come together to attack Israel. May of these are called by the Old names of their ancestors, but they can be tracked to people and land today and countries.

Declines in all types of moral values...what is good is said to be evil, and what is evil is said to be good. We are seeing that in today's cultural upheaval every day. Rampant sexual perversion, and rejection of traditional roles and families are reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Have we seen a time in our memory when people are as hostile to God and all things of God as we have now. We are made fun of, discriminated against, marginalized, and made to look foolish for believing in God or God's values or commands. God is being driven out of our lives, the public square, the government, the pledge of allegiance, the schools, and even off our money. The founding principles of the US are being revised, like the history didn't happen.

We see the rise of the EU and with common currency and trade laws, it is looking a lot like the revived Roman empire mentioned in the Revelation.

The world has raised the anti Semitism and disdain for the Jews and Israel to an art form. Even if they defend themselves against rocket fire, they are criticized more than the terrorists. Our own government is backing away from the staunch support we have given Israel since her existence in 1948. This does not bode well for us since those who bless Israel are blessed and those who don't aren't. We certainly have been blessed as a nation since 1948 and I am not looking for the trouble if God takes his blessing away.

## Convergence coming

- I believe it is apparent that Prophecy and Events are coming together right before our eyes ... *a perfect storm*
- Why were we told? Would it be better if we did not know?
- We cannot know the times, but the Lord says we can know the signs and Seasons
  - What does that mean?

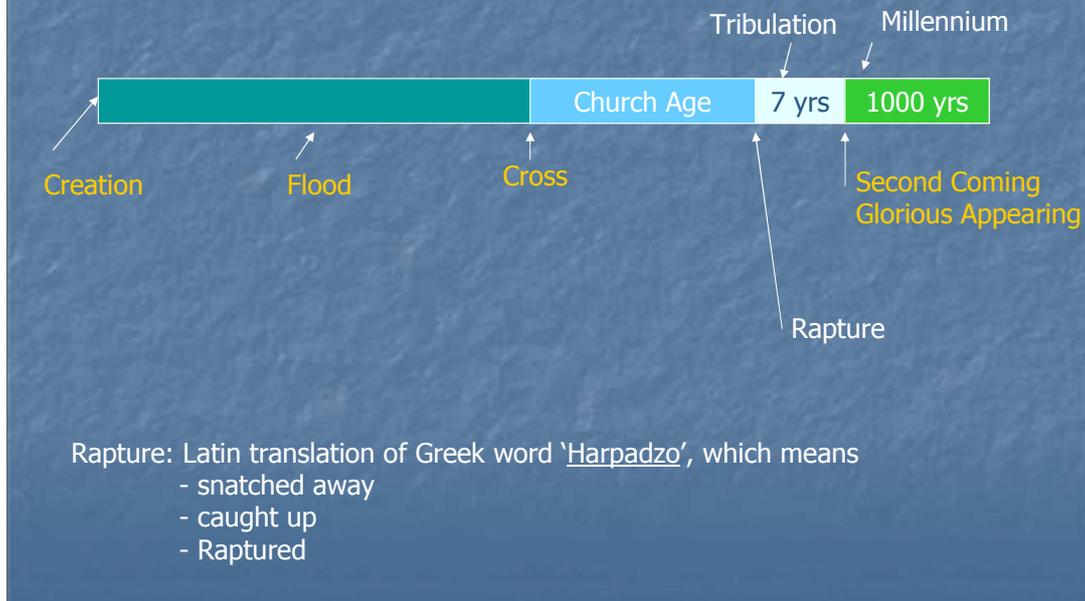
We are to be aware and awake, and know the signs of the Masters return. I believe we are in the final Season of the Church Age and the Rapture can come at any time, but we will discuss that later.

# Prophecy 101

- 30 % of the Bible relates to Prophecy
- Big Picture prophecy is not so hard
- Historically it has challenged believers:
  - To be Holy in an Unholy age
  - To added urgency to Evangelism and Discipleship
  - To focus on Missionary emphasis
- Four pivotal events in History are predicted and are the end or beginning of an Age
  - Creation – Flood – Cross – Second Coming

Many people do not want to tax their brains on Prophecy and think it is only for Theologians. So much of the scripture is related to prophetic topics, it must have been important to God for us to pay attention and be aware of the signs. Much of the prophecy relates to OT events that came to pass, and that is profitable to teach us not only the story of the Prophet, but that God's word is true and his prophets tell his truth. This is important in looking at End times prophecy as well.

# Rough timeline



This is a timeline that is not detailed, but I wanted to highlight the key events before us. We will talk about both the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and the Rapture.

Rapture adds the idea of pleasure and exultation to the “snatching away”, which is why it has become the Blessed Hope of the Church and such an interesting word for us to describe the Lord coming back for us and taking us home

## Second Coming

- Lord comes with his Saints (us) to finish Armageddon, and Judge the world (White Horse)
- Revelation lays out the bloody and complete destruction of the warring forces against Israel
- Christ takes Satan, the False Prophet, and the Anti-Christ and throws Satan in the Abyss to hold him for the 1000 years and casts The False Prophet and Anti-Christ directly into the Lake of Fire
- Judges the unbelieving World by their deeds and sends them to Hell
- Sets up New Jerusalem and 1000 year Reign in Peace, on Earth
- After 1000 years, establishes eternal reign in Heaven and casts Satan into the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment to join the False Prophet and Anti-Christ.

Most of the books written on the end times focus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming because it has many prophecies about things that must come to pass. It has been great sport over the years for people to guess the times and predict the end of the world, but this is a totally fruitless exercise since we are told that no one but the Father knows the timing of it, not Jesus, not the Angels, and certainly not some propeller headed researcher.

## Rapture? We haven't talked about it yet...

- Different than second coming
- Christ comes to clouds for believers
- Snatched away (Sleep in Christ 1<sup>st</sup>, then alive believers)
- Kicks off Tribulation ✨
- We are evacuated

Rapture Passages	
John 14:1-3	2Thess 2:1
Ro 8:19	1Tim 6:14
1Cor 1:7-8	1Tim 4:1,8
1Cor 15:51-53	Titus 2:13
1Cor 16:22	Heb 9:28
Phil 3:20-21	Jas 5:7-9
Phil 4:5	1Pet 1:7, 13
Col 3:4	1Pet 5:4
1Thess 1:10	1John 2:28- 3:2
1Thess 2:19	Jude 1:21
1Thess 4:13-18	Rev 2:25
1Thess 5:9, 23	Rev 3:10

# Key Verse

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (New International Version) The Coming of the Lord

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

# Rapture...think about it

- Upwards of **105 Million American**
  - Without a Trace – Vanish in an instant
  - % leaders, % military, % congress
  - 100% babies
- Worldwide
  - Christianity: **2.1 billion**
  - Islam: 1.5 billion
  - Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist: 1.1 billion
  - Hinduism: 900 million
  - Chinese traditional religion: 394 million
  - Buddhism: 376 million
  - Judaism: 14 million (way down the list, added for reference)
- **Holy Spirit Removed as restraining / guiding Influence**

## What are the signs for the Rapture?

- There are 7 key signs before the **2<sup>nd</sup> coming** of the Lord
  - ✓ Israel will be in the Land - Ezekiel 36:24, 37:21
  - ✓ Israel will control Jerusalem - Luke 21:24
  - Great War between Russia/ Iran and Allies against Israel - Ezek. 38:2-6
  - Revived Roman Empire shall emerge and be a force - Rev 17:9-10
  - The World Will Embrace A Single Religion - Rev 13:8
  - The World Will Accept A Single Government - Rev 13:3
  - Babylon will Re-Emerge As A Prominent City In World Affairs - Rev 18:2-3

### Other Signs along the way

*You will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.***

*"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time **many will turn away from the faith** and will betray and hate each other, and many **false prophets** will appear and deceive many people. Because of the **increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached***

**Also The temple will be rebuilt on its original site (Dome of the Rock)**

**No signs left before Rapture may occur**

# Differences

Differences between Rapture / 2nd coming			
Attribute	Rapture	Second Coming	Reference
Location	Believers meet Christ in the clouds	Christ brings believers with him to Earth	1Thess 4:13 and Rev 19:14
Purpose	Evacuation / Deliverance	Judgement of those that remain	1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, 5:9 ; Matthew 24:40-41
Visibility	Only Believers, both dead and alive - secret and Instant	All will see the Lords return	1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:29-30
Timing	Anytime	After certain events	Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54); 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Matthew 24:15-30; Revelation chapters 6-18
Sequence	Occurs before Tribulation	Occurs to close Tribulation /Armageddon and before Millenium	1Thess 5:9 Rev 3:10 Rev Ch 6-19

## What are we to do?

- Remember, we know the end of the story
- Let not your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid
- *Be awake, and watchful, and be about doing the Lord's work*
- *Anticipate* an eternity with the Lord and all our Christian friends and family
- Be a witness and a disciple... *the time is short and the fields are white unto harvest*
- *PRAY and seek the Lord's face*

# Why is America not mentioned?

- Falling away from the Lord
- Faltering support for Israel
- Rapture will hit us hard
  - Christians, babies, children, unaccountable
  - If 330 Million people is right, then US population aged 17 and below is 25.8% with
    - 6.8% being under 5
    - 25.8% => 85 Million are 17 and below
    - 6.8%=> 22.44M under 5
    - Estimated Christians 70M (accepted Christ)
    - Add 100% of under 5 = 22.44 M
    - Add 20% of 63M difference = 12.6M
    - **Total 105M are either Christians or under the age of accountability**
    - PEW research estimates 80% of US Populations self identify as Christians, so
    - 80% x Adults (74%) = 195M, obvious discrepancy with 70M

# References

- NIV Study Bible
- The Jerusalem Countdown by John Hagee
- What in the World is going on? by David Jeremiah
- Are we living in the End Times? By Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins
- Various Commentaries on Revelation, Ezekiel, and NT Gospels and Letters
- Many other books