

Revelation of Jesus Christ Study 3

Back to the Future 3

Rev 1:7-8

7 "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The book of Revelation is the ultimate action thriller. Anyone who loves books filled with adventure and excitement will certainly love this book

The amazing Revelation contains drama, suspense, mystery, passion, and horror.

It tells of apostasy by the Church. It speaks of unprecedented economic collapse, and of the ultimate war of human history, the war that will truly end all wars.

It describes natural disasters rivaled in intensity only by the worldwide Flood of Noah's day, as God will pour out His wrath on the sin-cursed earth.

It speaks of the political intrigues that will lead to the ascendancy of the most evil and powerful dictator the world has ever known.

Finally, and most terrifying of all, it describes the final judgment and the sentencing of all rebels, angelic and human, to eternal torment in hell.

The book of Revelation is thus a book of astounding drama, horror, and pathos.

Yet, amazingly, it is also a book of hope and joy with a happy ending, as sin, sorrow, and death are forever banished. (21:4; 22:3)

It will take some time for the drama to unfold, so like any good writer, John gives his readers a preview of what will come later in the book

By doing so he reveals the theme of the book of Revelation: it is a book about the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verses seven and eight John presents five truths about His second coming:

1. Its Necessity,
2. Its Glory
3. Its Scope
4. Its Response,
5. Its Certainty

THE NECESSITY OF THE SECOND COMING

Behold, He is coming (1:7a)

After the introduction and greetings of vv 1-6, verse 7 begins the first great prophetic oracle in the book of Revelation.

The exclamation *idou* (**Behold**) is an arresting call to attention. It is intended to arouse the mind and heart to consider what follows.

This is the first of its twenty-five uses in Revelation, a book filled with startling truths that demand careful attention.

Fittingly the first thing John calls our attention to is the glorious truth that **He** (Jesus) **is coming**.

The present tense of *erchomai* (**is coming**) suggests that Christ is already on the way, and thus that His coming is certain.

The present tense also emphasizes the immanency of His coming.

The “coming (or expected) One” was a title for the Messiah.

John the Baptist, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, and sent word by his disciples and said to Him, “are you the Expected (from *erchomai*) One, or shall we look for someone else?” [Matt 11:2-3](#)

Erchomai is used nine times in Revelation to refer to Jesus Christ; seven time by our Lord in reference to Himself.

So the theme of the book is the coming One, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now why must He come again?

1. The promises of God require that Jesus return

[Gen 49:10](#) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

Psalms Declares:

Psa 2:6-9 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'

Isaiah also predicted Messiah's earthly rule:

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah foresaw Israel's future blessedness under Messiah's reign:

Jer 23:5-8 Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

7 "Therefore, behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,'

8 but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

Those predictions and many more speak of the need for the Messiah to come and reign on the earth.

2. The promise of Jesus requires His return.

Jesus repeatedly predicted that He would return (2:16; 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20)

John 14:2-3 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.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Jesus pictured Himself as a nobleman who would one day return to His estate and destroy those who had rejected His rule

He in this parable promises to reward those who believe in Him and judge those who reject Him,
These promises require that He return

3. The guarantee of the Holy Spirit requires that Jesus return.

The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of truth” (John 15:26: 16:13) who would teach (the inspired authors of the New Testament) all things, and bring to their remembrance all that Jesus said to them :

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Thus every New Testament promise of the Second Coming is a promise from the Spirit of Truth. Jesus must come because the veracity of the Trinity is at stake

4. God’s program for the church demands that Jesus return.

In Rev 3:10 read, Jesus promised, “because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth”

To keep that promise, He must return for His Church before the onset of “the hour of testing” that event, known as the Rapture of the church, is one aspect of Christ’s second coming.

God’s program for the Church to rescue it from the terrors of the Tribulation, reward it for faithful service, and vindicate it in exaltation in His kingdom before the whole world, requires Christ’s return.

5. Christ’s program for the unbelieving nations requires His return.

The Psalmist writes of a day when god will reign over the nations

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,

3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

Christ will rule the nations something that did not happen at His first coming so He must come again to fulfill all of this.

6. God's program for Israel demands that Christ return.

The bible teaches that God is not finished with Israel, His covenant people.

Paul, although he was an Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom 11:13; 1Tim 2:7) wrote:

Rom 11:1-2a I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

In Jeremiah God has declared in the strongest terms that He would never permanently set aside Israel:

Jer 31:35-37 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts *is* His name):

36 "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, *Then* the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the

earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.

In addition to continued existence as a nation, God promised Israel salvation, :
Peace

Prosperity
Security,
And a kingdom

(Deut 4:30-31; Isa 9:6-7; 11:11-12; 60:10-14; Jer 23:5-8; 30-33; 46:28; Ezek 36-37; 40-48; Dan 9:20-27; 12:1-3; Hos 2:14-23; 3:4-5; 14:4-7; Joel 3:18-21; Amos 9:8-15; Obad 17,21; Mic 4:8; 7:14-20; Zeph 3:14-20; Zech 13-14; Matt 19:28; Acts 1:6-7)

Since these promises were not realized at Christ's first coming, He must return to fulfill them

7. Christ's humiliation demands that He return.

At His first coming, He was:

Rejected,
Reviled,
Abused,
And executed as a common criminal.

But that cannot be the way the story ends

Phil 2:9-11 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At His sham trial: the high priest questioned Him

Matt 26:63-64 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

64 Jesus said to him, "*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven

It is inconceivable that the last view the world will have of the Son of God is that of a bleeding, dying, crucified criminal.

Jesus must return to reveal His Glory!

8. The judgment of Satan demands that Christ return.

Satan is the temporary ruler of this world.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

John 16:7-11 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

He is called **the God** of this world in **2 Cor 4:4**. Who uses the power of death to enslave men **Heb 2:14-15**

But Jesus is the rightful ruler (**Rev 5:1**) and He must return to destroy him (Satan) which began at the first coming of Christ and reclaim what is rightfully His.

9. The expectation of believers demands that Christ return.

True believers are those who are constantly “**looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**” (**Titus 2:13**)

Paul said to the Corinthians “**we are of all men most to be pitied “if we have hoped in Christ in this life only,”**

But we are those “**who have loved His appearing (2Tim 4:8)**

The hope that Christ will one day return and take believers to heaven to live forever in His presence provides hope and comfort

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 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.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.