

The Return of the Christ

Past or Future

2 Thessalonians 2:1–13 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish,

because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

First London Baptist Confession

There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust, and everyone shall give an account of himself to God, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12. [Matt. 25; Rev. 22:11,12,13,14,15.]

Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

The Second London Baptist Confession

1._____ The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption

of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day; besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

(Genesis 3:19; Acts 13:36; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6,8; Philippians 1:23; Hebrews 12:23; Jude 6, 7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23, 24)

2._____ At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.

(1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Job 19:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 43)

3._____ The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honour, and be made conformable to his own glorious body.

(Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; Philippians 3:21)

Chapter 32: Of the Last Judgment

1._____ God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to

whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

(Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Jude 6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:10, 12; Matthew 25:32-46)

2._____ The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

(Romans 9:22, 23; Matthew 25:21, 34; 2 Timothy 4:8; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

3._____ As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will he have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.
(2 Corinthians 5:10, 11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 22:20)

There are many scriptures that deal with the Return of Christ and all the events around that time. And there are a number of views that have developed in church history regarding this topic.

For those who believe in a Literal Return of Christ in the future there are several views that are and have been held by devoted, godly students of Scripture.

All these views are in relation to timing with regard to the Literal Coming of Christ to earth.

The 2 major events that have had different views of them in relation to the coming of Christ are:

1. The Rapture
2. The Millennium

1. Rapture

- A. Pre Tribulational Rapture
- B. Mid Tribulational Rapture
- C. Post Tribulational Rapture
- D. Pre Wrath Rapture

2. The Millennium

- A. Pre-Millennialism
- B. Post-Millennialism
- C. A-Millennialism

For those who do not take the Second coming of Jesus Literally

Are called Full Preterist= preterist= past.

They would see all the events in reference to the coming of Jesus as fulfilled in 70 AD. He came spiritually

This has been rejected by the church as heresy

But the last group are those who believe that Jesus is coming back Literally

but they believe that some of the passages refer to the 70AD event.

Like Matt 24, Luke 21, Mark 13, 2 Thess 2

Some much of Revelation to refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD.

An example of this would be.

Matthew 24:2–3 (NKJV)

² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the **sign of Your coming**, and of the **end of the age?**”

Matthew 24:4–36 (NKJV)

*T*⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will **hear of wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.** ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘*abomination of desolation,*’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would

be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

²³ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶ “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; *or* ‘Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*.

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹ “**Immediately after** the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! **³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.** ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Some argue that the nearness language points to a imminent return of Jesus to Jerusalem in 70AD.

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

James 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Revelation 22:7 (NKJV)

⁷ “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Revelation 22:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

But 2 Peter 3 says otherwise

2 Peter 3:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and

a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The O.T prophets saw the first and second coming together.

2 mountain tops with the valley unseen. But from their perspective, it looked like one mountain.

This is how the disciples understood it.

Luke 19:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ¹² Therefore He said: **“A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.**

Acts 1:4–6 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit Promised

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “**which,**” *He said,* “**you have heard from Me;** ⁵ **for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Examples of what they missed are

1st Example

Malachi 4:1–6 (NKJV)

- 4** “For behold, the day is coming,
 Burning like an oven,
 And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be
 stubble.
 And the day which is coming shall burn them up,”
 Says the Lord of hosts,
 “That will leave them neither root nor branch.
- 2** But to you who fear My name
 The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
 With healing in His wings;
 And you shall go out

And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

³ You shall trample the wicked,
For they shall be ashes under the soles of your
feet

On the day that I do *this*,”
Says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,
With the statutes and judgments.

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of
the Lord.

⁶ And he will turn
The hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet

Matthew 17:10–13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, “**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** ¹² **But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they**

did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, *‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’* and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

2nd Example

Jesus quotes this passage as fulfilled in Him

Luke 4:17–21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,*

*Because He has anointed Me
 To preach the gospel to the poor;
 He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
 To proclaim liberty to the captives
 And recovery of sight to the blind,
 To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

20 Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, “**Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”

Isaiah 61:1–2 (NKJV)

61 “The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,
 Because the Lord has anointed Me
 To preach good tidings to the poor;
 He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
 To proclaim liberty to the captives,
 And the opening of the prison to *those who are*
 bound;
 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
 To comfort all who mourn,

The Coming of the Christ

The Context of the Coming

The Commitment to Condemnation The Cause for
Consolation

1. The Coming of Christ

What prompts the words of Jesus?

3 Questions

Matthew 24:1–3 (NKJV)

24 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us,

when will these things be? *And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*

1. “Tell us, when will these things be == Temple destroyed

2. *And what will be the sign of Your coming*

Physical sign in heaven to know you have arrived.

3. *and of the end of the age?* The end with all judgement

One of the major factors that contributes to the understanding of the text is whether Matthew 24:29-31 is a literal return in the future or a spiritual return in the past in 70AD

Because the language is chronological

Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will

not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the

powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,** and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:24–28 (NKJV)

²⁴ **“But in those days, after that tribulation,** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Yet in Luke it seems to be talking of Jerusalem in
70AD

Luke 21:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Luke 21:25–28 (NKJV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

But is Luke referring to 70AD or another event in the future.

Because 70AD is not the only time Jerusalem would be surrounded.

Zechariah 12-14

The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel.

Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

- 2** “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.
- 3** And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in

pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

- 4 In that day,” says the Lord, “I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.
- 5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem *are* my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.’
- 6 In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.
- 8 In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them.
- 9 It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.....
- 10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me

whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

13:1 “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.

2 “It shall be in that day,” says the Lord of hosts, “*that* I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.

14:1 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;

The city shall be taken,

The houses rifled,

And the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the Lord will go forth

And fight against those nations,

As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south.

5 Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley,

For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal.

Yes, you shall flee

As you fled from the earthquake

In the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

Thus the Lord my God will come,

And all the saints with You.

6 It shall come to pass in that day

That there will be no light;

The lights will diminish.

7 It shall be one day

Which is known to the Lord

Neither day nor night.

But at evening time it shall happen

That it will be light.

8 And in that day it shall be—

That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,

Half of them toward the eastern sea

And half of them toward the western sea;
In both summer and winter it shall occur.

9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.

In that day it shall be

“The Lord *is* one,”

And His name one.

10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem* shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and *from* the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses.

11 *The people* shall dwell in it;

And no longer shall there be utter destruction,

But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

12 And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,

Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,

And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

13 It shall come to pass in that day

That a great panic from the Lord will be among them.

Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor,

And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand.....

16 And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

[The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Zec 12:1–Mal). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

