

What do we mean when we speak of Jesus' Second Coming? The Second Coming is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible. The disciples kept asking about it, Paul spends much of his time writing about it and John was given an entire vision regarding it.

Let's take a look at some scriptures that discuss Jesus' Second Coming ([Col 3:4](#), [Hebrews 9:28](#) and [1 Peter 5:4](#)). Notice the tone of these passages. Christ will return with Glory. Christ will return to bring salvation. WE will also receive glory when he returns. These all sound extremely positive. We can't wait for this to happen. Now let's read these verses discussing Jesus' Second Coming ([2 Thessalonians 1:6-10](#), [2 Peter 3:7, 10](#) and [Revelations 1:7](#)). Notice the tone of these verses. People will be punished with everlasting destruction. The heavens and earth are reserved for fire and will be destroyed. All the people of the earth will mourn because of his coming.

As we read through these passages, we begin to recognize that we don't really understand what it means, this Second Coming, and in fact these verses don't seem to correlate with each other. How do we make sense of this? Well, the answer isn't really that difficult: The Second Coming occurs in two phases! The first phase consists of the rapture, which we just discussed last week, and the second phase is the coming for everyone else.

Last week, we spent some time on the first phase: the Rapture. This week, we will be spending some time on the second phase: the Glorious Appearing, as Paul calls it in Titus 2:13. [Rev 19:11-16](#). Here we see the second time that heaven is opened up in Revelations. Interestingly, the first time we see heaven opened up is in Rev 4:1-2. In that passage, we see that John was on the earth with the churches, but then the door in heaven was opened and John was taken up in spirit. We never again here of the churches through all the tribulation that occurs through the book of Revelations. This was a sign of the first part of Jesus' Second Coming – the Rapture. Now we see the heavens open again for the second part of the Second Coming. We see Jesus on a white horse. The picture is significant. The first time Jesus came to earth, he rode a donkey towards his death for the purpose of dying on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. He came humbly and quietly. The suffering servant. This time, he comes on a white horse not for death but for conquest. Not humbly but boldly. Not quietly but so that every eye can see. He is just, or righteous. He will righteously judge the people of the earth and he will righteously make war. His eyes are like blazing fire means that he will see through any false, pretentious outward appearances. He will see into the heart and know what truly lies there. Outward appearance can deceive but the heart shows who someone really is.

We see he is wearing many crowns. This doesn't mean he has many heads or that he is balancing the crowns on his head. It means that he is the King of kings. The visual is like one where all the kings of all the nations have either voluntarily placed or in the near future will involuntarily place their crowns upon His head, making him the final Lord. He has a name written on him that no one knows but himself. What that is, we cannot know, but we do know that, unlike today, a name used to tell something about the person. This name is descriptive of Jesus, but in a way that we cannot know yet. Maybe it is too hard for us to understand, maybe we are not ready to hear it, maybe it has not been

fulfilled yet. Whatever the reason, only Jesus knows this name – though I am confident that when we learn this name, it is one that we will use all the time throughout eternity!

He wears a robe dripped in blood. This is probably the blood that was shed for his army, for his bride, for us! The blood he shed on the Cross. We see another name for Jesus is the Word of God. John is the only one to use that name for Jesus. The logos. In his gospel he tells us that in the beginning was the logos and the logos was with God and the logos was God. The logos, of course, is Jesus and this is the name he currently has. The armies of heaven are coming down with him. Who is this army? It is the believers – those of us who were already resurrected. It includes the people from the church age (you and I), the Old Testament saints, who were present at the Wedding supper earlier in this chapter, and the Tribulation saints – those who died during the Tribulation having given their lives to Christ, though too late so that they missed the Rapture. We all will come down with Jesus for this war and we are all dressed in white. White because we have been made pure, but also because we will not need to worry about becoming dirty because Jesus will win this war the same way that God took Jericho for the Israelites. This is Jesus' war, we only are present as witnesses. Jesus will strike down the enemy with the sword that comes from his mouth. The picture here is one where Jesus will speak and this is the weapon that will bring victory. What will he say? We are not told, but we know that it will be bloody and that Jesus will be the victor.

[Rev 19:19-21](#) The beast is who we know better as the Antichrist. The beast and the kings of his government will have gathered in several places around Palestine to destroy the Jewish people. These armies will have come from all around the world. They have come to destroy the Jewish people. This is Satan's final attempt to remove God's people from the earth and prove that God can be wrong and can be defeated. A destruction of the Jewish people would prove that God could not keep the promises He made to Abraham. However, in omniscient fashion, God saves the people at the right place and time once again. The kings have been deceived by the beast to come and destroy God's people. Jesus comes down and wins the war. The beast is captured along with his false prophet. One of the things that has happened during the Tribulation period is that the beast is not only the ruler of the world, but he has become the god of the world as well. This has happened because the false prophet was able to lead people to their false god. We see this happening even today, but in that time, everyone will believe the false prophet except those who would not take the mark of the beast and has become faithful to the True God. The false prophet and the beast are thrown into the lake of fire. All the other soldiers for Satan will be killed. This means that the only people alive will now be those who were not believers at the time of the Rapture, but over the period known as the Tribulation, have become believers and were able to live through all the God-ordained, the man-made and the Satan-inspired disasters that occurred during the Tribulation.

[Rev 20:1-3](#) Finally, the last thing to happen at this Second Coming is that Satan will be bound and thrown into the Abyss for a thousand years. He will be set free again but not until the thousand years have passed.

Now we see the reason why we desire to see this day. First, is that we will have been taken up to be with Christ. Then we will have the opportunity to go with him to battle for the world. We will see the end of unfaithfulness and lies as we know it today and Satan will be cast away so that he will not be able to affect the world for a thousand years. This is a time that we can only imagine how wonderful it will be and we look forward to the day it is a reality.

Colossians 3:4

⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Hebrews 9:28

²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1 Peter 5:4

⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

2 Peter 3:7 ,10

⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Revelations 1:7

⁷Look, he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Rev 19:11-16.

¹¹I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter."^[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:19-21 ¹⁹Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Rev 20:1-3 ¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.