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The Two-Fold Return of Jesus Christ

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THE TWO-FOLD RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

- THE OUTLINE

- A. At the end of the church age Jesus will return *in* the air *for* His people (Jn. 14:3; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Jn. 2:28).
 - 1. At this time the bodies of departed believers will be changed from corruption to incorruption (1 Cor. 15:52a).
 - 2. At this time the bodies of living believers will be changed from mortal to immortality (1 Cor. 15:52b).
- B. At the end of the Great Tribulation Jesus will return *to* the earth *with* His people. This He will do to accomplish the following:
 - 1. To defeat the antichrist and the assembled nations at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21)
 - 2. To regather, regenerate, and restore fruitful Israel (Isa. 43:5, 6; Ezek. 36:28; Amos 9:14, 15)
 - 3. To judge and punish faithless Israel (Ezek. 11:21; 20:38; Mt. 24:44-51; 25:1, 2, 24-30)
 - 4. To separate the Gentile sheep from the goats (Mt. 25:31-33)
 - 5. To bind Satan (Rom. 16:20; Rev. 20:1-3)
 - 6. To resurrect Old Testament and tribulation saints (Job 19:25, 26; Isa. 26:19; Hosea 13:14)
 - 7. To judge fallen angels (1 Cor. 6:3)
 - 8. To reward His followers (Isa. 40:10; Mt. 5:12; 16:27; Rev. 22:12)
 - 9. To personally minister to the needs of His people (Isa. 35:5, 6; 40:11; 49:10, 11)
 - 10. To redeem fallen nature (Rom. 8:19-22)
 - 11. To usher in and rule over the glorious thousand-year earthly kingdom (Dan. 7:13, 14; Lk. 1:30-33; Isa. 2:4; 11:6-9; 40:5; Rev. 11:15; 20:4)

- THE ANALYSIS

- A. At the Rapture, where He comes *for* his people (thus introducing the Great Tribulation):

As predicted by the Savior Himself

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if

I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

As predicted by the Apostle Paul

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:51-53).

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16-17),

B. At the Second Coming, where He comes *with* His people (thus concluding the Great Tribulation)

1. As foretold:

a. By Enoch

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (Jude 14).

b. By David

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah” (Psa. 24:9-10).

c. By Isaiah

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isa. 25:8-9).

“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.... Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him” (Isa. 40:5, 10).

d. By Christ Himself

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matt. 16:27).

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30).

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64).

e. By Paul

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (2 Thess. 1:7). "And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thess. 2:8).

2. As fulfilled

a. The wedding involved

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Rev. 19:7-9).

b. The warfare involved

The warrior

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself, And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.... And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:11-13, 16).

The war

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" (Rev. 19:19-21).