

Christ's Return Is Soon and Near

(Revelation 1.1-20) March 12, 2023

- I. While the book of Revelation is an unveiling of Christ in all His glory, it is primarily a revealing of all the events that surround and include His Second Coming—events that precede, accompany, and follow.
 - A. Precede: Church Age, Rapture, 7-Year Tribulation
 - B. Accompany: Battle of Armageddon
 - C. Follow: Millennial Reign, Great White Throne Judgment, New Heaven and Earth
- II. Revelation 1:7 is a great summary of the book:
 - A. “Behold” - I.e. “Pay attention! This is important.”
 - B. “he is coming with the clouds” - Not the _____, but Christ’s return to earth to reign. Unlike His first coming which was relatively quiet and subdued—His second arrival will be with great power and glory.
 - C. “and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him” - Christ’s return will be witnessed by the whole world—Gentiles as well as those who formerly rejected and crucified Him, i.e. the _____.
 - D. “and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him” - The reaction of the world to Christ’s return will be intense:
 1. Repentant Gentiles will _____ realizing that their persecution has ended.
 2. Unrepentant Gentiles will grieve that the One _____ is going to triumph and judge them.
 3. _____ will mourn their original rejection and crucifixion of Christ and will genuinely reach out to Him for salvation and deliverance from Satan’s attacks at the end of the 7-Year Tribulation.
 - E. “Even so. Amen” - The author, John’s, personal response—“As cataclysmic as this is—let it happen just as You have said!”
- I. A glimpse of the unveiled Christ (1:13-16):
 - A. “and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man” - Local churches, like lampstands, are to be shining the light of the Truth. Christ is walking among them—empowering them, teaching them, protecting them, inspecting them, and correcting them.
 - B. “clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest” - The clothing of both a King and a Priest.
 - C. “The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow” - Signifies Christ’s absolute purity, His wisdom, and His eternity.
 - D. “His eyes were like a flame of fire” - Christ has the ability to see everything as it really is—nothing is hidden from Him.
 - E. “his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace” - This speaks of how He walks in perfect judgment of the world—all must bow at His feet.
 - F. “and his voice was like the roar of many waters” - The authority with which Christ speaks drowns out all other voices.
 - G. “In his right hand he held seven stars” - Christ exercises absolute authority over the pastors and the local churches they lead.
 - H. “from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword” - All Christ has to do is speak the Word and either divine protection will surround the church or righteous judgment will fall on it.
 - I. “and his face was like the sun shining in full strength” - Christ’s glory and holiness are overwhelmingly radiant.
- II. Conclusions:
 - A. God wants believers living now to know the future (v.1).
 - B. Believers are blessed if they “keep what is written in” this book (v.3).
 - C. The fact that the time period for these events taking place is both “soon” (v.1) and “near” (v.3)—and that Christ is in the midst of us—protecting, inspecting, and correcting—serve as motivation in the lives of believers:
 1. To be found _____.
 2. To be found _____.
 3. To be found _____.
 4. To be found _____.

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