

A closer look at Christ's Second Coming



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General note:

1. We generally have used the King James Version of the Bible. One could, of course, when so desired, use any other Bible translation.
2. We have **frequently** added text between brackets in the Bible verses **to clarify the meaning of the Bible verses**.
3. In most cases where **he** or **him** is mentioned to point to **males** it also counts for **females**.
4. It is allowed to copy the study, on which way, when the source is mentioned.
5. If this study is a blessing for you, it's our wish that the message shall be passed on to others. We ask you in the first place to attend other people on our website. But you could also, as far as we are concerned, copy it (many times), and hand it out. A margin for profit is **not** allowed hereby. See note 4, above.

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Introduction:

When we talk about the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must realize that there are (in succession) an **INvisible** and a **visible** Coming.

The INVisible Second Coming is the (hidden) coming for the Bride(church); this is the so-called "wise-virgin" part of the true believers.

The VISIBLE Second Coming is the coming on the clouds, when every eye shall see Him in His full glory as King and Lord, also the eyes of those that pierced (or rejected) Him.

The VISIBLE Second Coming

In my opinion the following Bible texts all relate to the VISIBLE Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, from the context of the following Bible texts we can learn that the visible Second Coming will take place AFTER the Great Tribulation and BEFORE the beginning of Christ's Millennium of Peace.

The resurrection of all true believers who passed away (or died) in Christ in the course of the ages until the end of the Great Tribulation (see Revelation 20:4), will also take place AFTER the Great Tribulation, but BEFORE Christ's Millennium of Peace. Nowhere in the Bible do we read that there is a resurrection of the righteous BEFORE as well as AFTER the Great Tribulation.

Also one and the same event is meant by the trumpet mentioned in several texts below; viz. the trumpet of Revelation 11:15. Here again one reads that Christ's Kingdom (i.e. the Millennium of Peace) starts AFTER the sound of this trumpet (and the great voices in heaven – see also 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

1 Thessalonians 4 verse 15-17:

*"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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 (the resurrected righteous [i.e. the believers]) in the clouds, **to meet the Lord** in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* (namely 1,000 years with the returned Lord ON EARTH)

Matthew 24 verse 29-31:

*"Immediately **AFTER** the tribulation (the Great Tribulation, see verse 21) of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 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** (thus this is the visible Second Coming) coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send his angels with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

1 Corinthians 15 verse 51-52:

*"Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We** shall not all sleep (NOT all 'pass away' or 'sleep in the Lord'), 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 (AFTER the Great Tribulation), and we (that are left alive from [and thus AFTER] the Great Tribulation, because God saved them – see Revelation 12:6, 14) shall be changed."*

Revelation 1 verse 7:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

Revelation 10 verse 7:

*"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall **begin to sound** (with the seventh, and thus last, trump), the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."*

Daniel 7 verse 13-14:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom (thus His dominion starts with His [visible] Second Coming on the clouds when the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation wherein the Antichrist reigns is past!), that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Revelation 11 verse 15:

*"And the seventh angel **sounded** (with the seventh, and thus last, trump); **and there were great voices in heaven**, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and*

ever."

Where and with whom shall He reign?

Revelation 5 verse 10:

*"And (the Lamb) hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign **on the earth.**"*

Revelation 20 verse 4-6:

*"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw **the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God** (i.e. the martyrs that died for the sake of Christ down through the ages), **and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands** (these can only be the true believers which have to suffer a martyr's death in the Great Tribulation, because BEFORE the Great Tribulation the matter of this beast [i.e. the Antichrist] that must be worshiped, and the mark of the beast, are not raised); and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the **FIRST** resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years (on the earth)."*

Thus 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 clearly refers to the VISIBLE Second Coming as the coming on the clouds is the VISIBLE Return. This we could clearly read in above Bible verses.

For a correct understanding of the INvisible as well as the visible Second Coming of Christ it is important that we also see the differences (as regards the meaning as well as the time) respectively of the "taking up", "the removal" and "meeting Him in the air".

But before the so-called "taking up" and "removal" becomes a fact, preceding these is the (INvisible) Marriage **Supper** of the Lamb (see "the parable of the great supper" of Luke 14:15-24, and Revelation 19:9). For the **Supper** is the (spiritual) preparation for the Wedding. And this **Supper** will make us completely subservient to the Father. This will be necessary in order to achieve the restoration of the Church and the great worldwide revival.

Only AFTER this Supper the (INvisible) Marriage of the Lamb will take place (see "the parable of the wise and the foolish virgins", Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 19:7-8).

The INvisible Second Coming

Thus, there first is the (INvisible) (Marriage) **Supper** of the Lamb (see "the parable of the great Supper, Luke 14:15-24 and Revelation 19:9), and only thereafter the (INvisible) Marriage of the Lamb will take place (see the parable of the wise and the foolish virgins, Matthew 25:1-13 and Revelation 19:7-8). The **Supper** is the (spiritual) **preparation** for the Wedding, because when we TAKE PART in the Supper we choose for the ETERNAL (and thus PERFECT) deliverance from the power of sin and Satan based on our faith in Calvary (see Hebrews 9:12). For the **Supper** points to the death (but also the resurrection) of Jesus Christ. Those called to His Supper must have experienced (spiritual) death, just as He did. With this is meant a TOTAL dying to our old, sinful ("I") nature. In this way, TAKING PART in this Supper will make us completely subservient to the Father. And this will be necessary in order to come to restoration of the Church and to the great, worldwide revival. It is only then that we can be part of His resurrection and belong to that Bride(-church) without spot or wrinkle. Only then will we belong to that group that will be "taken up" or "removed".

And without the Marriage of the Lamb, which will also take place in the hidden place, there will be no perfect union (and thus no "fruit-bearing") between Bridegroom and Bride. This Marriage and the ensuing perfect (spiritual) union between Bride and Bridegroom will see to it that there will be a great harvest of souls during the so-called Latter-Rain-revival (see a.o. Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:23, 28; Obadiah 21). Requirements in order to belong to the Supper and the Marriage of the Lamb are found in the following bible texts:

Ephesians 5 verse 25-26 and 32:

*"...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself **a glorious (Bride)church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the (Bride)church."*

Revelation 19 verse 7-9:

*"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...**"*

For the world the so-called "taking-up" as well as the "removal" will be INvisible, but later on people will notice through the sudden disappearance of people that (dear) persons and/or relatives suddenly vanished (into thin air).

In my opinion the only text dealing with a "taking-up" (in the end-times) of believers is Revelation 12:5. It will be a "taking-up" into heaven BEFORE the start of the Great Tribulation (see verse 4 b).

Revelation 12 verse 5:

*"And she (i.e. Christ's Wife – see Note¹) brought forth a man child (these are the 144,000 – see Note², a. and b.), who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was **caught up unto God, and to his throne** (this is a taking up into heaven)."*

Revelation 14 verse 1-5 (in part):

*"...**And they (the 144,000) sung** as it were a new song **before the throne...**, and no man could learn that song but **the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth...** These were redeemed from among men, being the **FIRSTFRUITS** unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for **they are without fault before the throne of God.**"*

Revelation 7 verse 3-8 (in part):

*"Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**"*

I hope it is now clear that the "being taken up into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) is different from the "removal", with which is meant the sudden snatching away unto God and His throne (Revelation 12:5).

When Christ returns visibly on the clouds these 144,000 are the armies that will come again with Him (see Revelation 19:11-15; Jude 14) to slay the heathen, to rule them with an iron rod, as also mentioned in Revelation 12:5.

Revelation 19 verse 11-15 (in part):

"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... And the armies which were in heaven (the 144,000) followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall (with the 144,000 – see Revelation 12:5) rule them with a rod of iron..."

The second event, INvisible to the world, is the so-called "removal", by which is meant the safekeeping in the wilderness according to Revelation 12:6 and 14. This "removal" will happen immediately AFTER the beginning of the Great Tribulation. The first start of the tribulation will also be clearly there for her (the Bride), see Revelation 12:3-4, 13-16.

Revelation 12 verse 6:

"And the woman (the Wife of Christ - see Note 1) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed here there a thousand two hundred and threescore days (i.e. 3½ years)."

Revelation 12 verse 14:

*"And to the woman (the Wife of Christ) were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, **into her place** (prepared of God – see verse 6), where she is nourished for a time (= 1 year), and times (= 2 years), and half a time (= ½ year; thus in total 3½ years) from the face of the serpent (i.e. Satan)."*

There will also be a large group (viz. "innumerable" – see Revelation 7:9, 14) of all kinds of believers (among whom also many true believers) who must go through the Great Tribulation, which is a 3½ year period of the Antichrist's reign over this earth, and all its horrors/terrors. ALL true believers will die a martyr's death – at least if they hold on to their

¹ The Bride is called here the Wife of Christ, because the marriage already took place, and thus also the (spiritual) union between Bride and Bridegroom, as a result of which the Bride was "impregnated" with the male son. For, because of the (spiritual) union between Bride and Bridegroom the Bride received the same power and strength of the Spirit, and the same wisdom and insight of the Word, so that through the ministry of the Bride very many souls will be won for Him in a very short time. Out of the Bride(church) 144,000 will reach the spiritual status of **"a complete man** to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13 b).

² **Note a.:** The male son of Revelation 12:5 cannot point to Jesus, because John who received this divine Revelation around the year 90 A.D. (= after Christ), was to write: "The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to him (± 90 A.D.) to show His servants the things that (hereafter) have to happen;... Write that which you have seen (± 90 A.D.), and which is, and which is to happen AFTER this." (Revelation 1:1a, 19)

Note b.: Supplement of br. E. van den Worm:

This "male son" is not born as a baby, but is suddenly brought into existence as a spiritually mature person (viz. in male status), and is distinguished from the Bride AFTER the wedding, AFTER the divine interaction (union) of the Bridegroom on the Bride. See Isaiah 66:6-10 (in which is mentioned: "a voice out of **the temple**" and "Zion" = the Bride(church); a "servant" and "sons" = the male son).

faith in Jesus Christ and refuse participation in the worship, and the mark of the beast. These are all true believers who were not ready at the time of the "removal" of the Bride(church). See Revelation 12:17 and Song of Solomon 8:8. With these are meant all true believers who have not yet come to the perfection (or spiritual maturity) in Christ; the so-called "foolish-virgin" part.

"The rapture (to meet the Lord in the Air)"

(1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Hopefully it is now clear, after above explanation, that with 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 is meant Christ's **visible** Second Coming. Christ's first coming (as a baby) was from heaven to earth; His Second Coming will also be from heaven to earth. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 clearly states that **the Lord will descend from heaven**, and we who are left alive ("kept safe" by God on this earth) will go and meet Him, together with the resurrected righteous (from the earth, the sea, etc.). For instance, if someone from, say, Australia comes to me, and I go and meet him or her, this means that he or she is coming towards me (in this case the Netherlands). Thus, when the Lord descends from heaven, and **we go and meet Him**, this means that He goes with us towards the earth. This is confirmed in the following bible texts:

Revelation 5 verse 10:

*"...and we shall reign (as kings) **on the earth!**"*

When? The answer is in Revelation 20 verse 4:

"...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (i.e. the Millennium of Peace)."

See also Revelation 11 verse 15:

*"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever (over these kingdoms; thus on earth).**"*

Regarding the resurrection: There will be many true believers who will have to die a martyr's death in the Great Tribulation, because they will not worship the beast (i.e. the Antichrist) nor receive its mark. And this matter did not come up **before** the Great Tribulation. Hence the resurrection of all that fell asleep in Christ has to take place **AFTER** the Great Tribulation, otherwise there would be a resurrection **before** and **after** the Great Tribulation, and this is not logical neither is it biblical. The resurrection of those that passed away in Christ is called the **FIRST** resurrection in Revelation 20:4 and 6. However, according to Revelation 20:5 and 11-15, there is another resurrection of the "rest of the dead" **AFTER** the Millennium of Peace. These will be judged according to their works. And those that are not mentioned in the Book of Life, will be thrown into the pool of fire, which is called the second death (Revelation 20:14).

I should like to mention that, of course, ALL true believers throughout ALL the ages (those still alive and the resurrected ones) will be present when Christ comes again visibly in the clouds. ALL true believers will then be with Him **FOREVER**: First in the Millennium of Peace, and after that in the **NEW** heaven and the **NEW** earth. We have to realize very well, however, that this visible coming (see explanation on page 1 and 2) takes place **AFTER** the Great Tribulation. The group of Christians that are really ready and that will be "with Him" at his **INvisible**, and thus hidden, coming will clearly be (much) smaller than most people think. For from all Christians that really expect Him soon (the 10 virgins, Matthew 25:1-13), only they that are (spiritually seen) ready – and thus without spot or wrinkle – will be there: namely the **WISE** virgins. Half of these 10 virgins (namely the foolish) will have to go through the Great Tribulation, as well as all other believers who did not expect His Second Coming in the short term.

In my opinion the greatest deception of many preachers is that according to them no **COMPLETE** cleansing/purification, sanctification and **COMPLETE** dying to our old, sinful ("I")nature is necessary before Christ's (**INvisible**) coming for His own; because of this many listeners have a wrong and too easy expectation of His Second Coming. The only thing they talk about regularly is: When Christ comes (tomorrow or so), then **WE** will be with Him. In all sincerity I ask myself: Who are **WE**? Are those all believers in the church or congregation? Are those all that believe, often in their own way? Are those all believers that think or believe they will be among those that will be taken up? These preachers often speak as if they, and their listeners, are inwardly already **completely ready** to receive Him in **ALL** His **GLORY**. Isn't this a kind of spiritual pride/arrogancy? Because of this deception many believers will **NOT** be ready inwardly when the Lord comes (**INvisible**) to save His own from the terrors which will take place during the Great Tribulation. God will certainly call to account these preachers (see a.o. Ezekiel 34:1-10).

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor. 7:1) "To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." (1 Thess. 3:13) "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which NO MAN shall see the Lord." (Hebr. 12:14) "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end EVERLASTING LIFE." (Romans 6:22)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is

- ⇒ **profitable for doctrine,**
- ⇒ **for reproof,**
- ⇒ **for correction,**
- ⇒ **for instruction in righteousness;**

**That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works."**

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

By A. Klein

Added Note:

Supplement of Br. E. van den Worm:

AFTER the Wedding the Bridegroom comes to His disciples (servants, workers). We can read this in Luke 12:35-40. This proves that the Wedding of the Lamb **has to take place on EARTH**. He does this in order that they who are faithful may share in His end-time anointing for the restoration of the Church and for a worldwide revival. John 4:31-38 illustrates this end-time anointing by the Supper AFTER the Wedding, by which is meant the task to do God's work.