

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

In July of 1775 during the Revolutionary War, the British captured Charleston and threw their leader, Colonel Thomas, in prison. Jane Thomas visited her husband at the settlement of Ninety-Six, where he was confined. But while she was visiting she overheard several Loyalist women talking. One of them mentioned that loyalist forces were planning a surprise raid for the next night against a Patriot camp at Cedar Springs.

That startled Jane! It was the place where her son, now in command of his dad's regiment, was organizing his men. Realizing there was no time to lose, she started out early the next morning. It was 60 miles to Cedar Springs, but Jane Thomas, who was about 60 years old at the time, pushed her horse through the enemy infested backcountry! By evening she had reached her son's camp.

He wasted no time. The Patriots built up their campfires and slipped into the woods. The British forces soon arrived and rushed into the camp, expecting to find the hapless rebels asleep inside their blankets. Instead they met a sharp volley of musket balls. In the campfires, they made easy targets for the Patriot backwoodsmen.

Thanks to Jane Thomas' ride, and her horse, the Battle of Cedar Springs helped launch a resurgence of Patriot fortunes in South Carolina!

Jane Thomas' past ride to help achieve the freedom we celebrate on July 4th reminds me of a greater Independence Day coming!

The Independence Day we celebrate is pretty cool, but when Jesus Christ comes riding to earth it will be the greatest day earth has had since the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, liberating earth from the reign of Satan!

Now in the first two chapters of the Bible, Genesis 1-2, we see people who had not sinned living on a lush planet characterized by the beauty of the Garden of Eden with access to the Tree of Life and God walking among them! It was Paradise!

In Gen. 3 Satan convinced the first humans that they needed more than the holy boundaries God had set for them. Adam and Eve's sinful disobedience proved very costly, bringing sin, death, and Hell into the human experience. Paradise Lost!

In the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21-22, we will see people who no longer sin living on a lush planet characterized by the beauty of the New Jerusalem with access to the Tree of Life and God living among them! Paradise Regained!

In essence, at the fall Adam and Eve "sold the farm" to Satan!
Rev. 5 told us Jesus' Death and Resurrection got the title deed to the farm back!
Any time He can come back, evict Satan and take up residence!

The apostles tell us the only reason He has delayed is to give every chance possible for sinners in the world to repent and receive Christ!

I have told you that I believe passages like Revelation 3:10 teach that God will rapture, or pull his church out of the world, before the tribulation.

“Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is to come over the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” -Revelation 3:10

The good news is that even during the time of the Tribulation God will have acted to bring sinners to Christ! I believe Revelation seven showed us millions of Jews and Gentiles who come to Christ during the Tribulation, someone from every people group on earth! But when we get to our passage for today...

God’s three purposes for the Tribulation will have been completed:

- 1. He will have judged the satanic world system that had ruined the planet**
- 2. He will have regathered a Spiritual Israel eager for Him to reign**
- 3. He will have given everyone on earth several last chances to repent**

Having achieved His purposes for the Tribulation, Jesus will return to earth!

For those who still reject Him at the end of the Tribulation, the chances to repent will have ceased, and they will meet Him not as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world but as the Roaring Lion, the Judge of the Earth.

Read Revelation 19:11-21 **PRAY!**

Now I have told you that I think the Bible teaches the Rapture of the Church by Christ and the Second Coming of Christ to Earth are two separate events. I have also told you I think the rapture happens before the time of the Tribulation.

Ten differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming:

Rapture/Blessed Hope:

Believers raptured or “caught up”
 We meet Christ in air, go to Heaven!
 Imminent: no events before
 End of Church Age
 Promise kept to Church
 For believers only
 Only believers see Jesus
 Time of joy and eternal life
 Before the Tribulation
 After Rapture Tribulation begins

Second Coming/ Glorious Appearing:

No one raptured!
 Christ comes with us from Heaven to earth!
 Many events before, including tribulation
 End of Tribulation/ Age of Wrath
 Promise kept to Israel
 Affects all of humanity
 Entire world sees Jesus
 Time of judgment and death
 After the Tribulation
 After 2nd Coming 1,000 year reign begins

Anticipation for this Second Coming of Christ has been building throughout The Book of Revelation-

“Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him. And all the families of the earth will mourn over Him. This is certain. Amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, **“the One who is, who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.”** -Revelation 1:7-8

It took a while to get through the Tribulation chapters, but now we come to this great moment anticipated throughout Revelation and also throughout the Bible!

But let’s take this text in reverse order...

V. 17-21 The damning power of deception imbibed

In John 8:44 Jesus called Satan the father of liars. Satan is all about deception. He deceived Adam and Eve into believing that God was holding out on them.

And Satan still deceives people today, making them think they can get by without God in their life.

The truth is that without Jesus we can do nothing of eternal significance!

Satan deceives people by saying to them “a loving God wouldn’t judge anyone, wouldn’t send anyone to Hell.”

The truth is that people are bound for Hell already because of their sin, and the love of God is seen in Jesus’ death so those who turn to God won’t go to Hell.

Lies are very powerful, because lies keep people from acknowledging the truth that will free them.

Some of you are bound up in lies about the road you are headed down this morning. The way you are going seems right to you, but as Solomon said, “There’s a way that seems right to a person, but in the end it leads to death.”

Until you start by acknowledging the same thing about your sins the Bible says the lies you believe will keep you on the highway to Hell.

Charles Darwin’s lies have caused hundreds of millions of people to think of themselves as animals. Darwin’s reasoning led to people feeling justified when they act on animalistic urges.

The truth is that humans alone were created in the image of God, and have the reasoning ability to deny animalistic urges for higher purposes like fidelity in marriage.

Sigmund Freud's lies have caused hundreds of millions of people to reject the idea of sin. He taught the problem is not that you're a sinner, but that anybody would call what you want to do sin! For Freud "salvation" was learning to have no shame at doing things the Bible calls sin.

The truth is that every single thing the Bible calls sin has built in consequences that a sinner will reap if they sow disobedience to God.

Look at verse 19-20. It says that the Beast and the False Prophet, themselves deceived by Satan, will have deceived those who lived on the earth.

Turn back to Revelation 16:13-16

Late in the tribulation the unholy trinity will deceive those on earth who haven't turned to God and convince them to go to Israel and try to finally wipe out the children of Israel. They are even be so deceived that they know Jesus is coming back but think they can kill Him when he comes.

But mark it down, folks:

When we fight with God, God prevails! Jesus never fails!

Oh how deceived they are!

What a contrast between the meals in verses 7 and 17! Verse seven shows the saints ready to celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb. Verse seventeen shows the birds of the air about to feast on the rotting corpses of those who had believed Satan's lies and tried to take on God. See Zechariah 14

Oh, why wouldn't they repent and turn to God before it was too late!

Why won't you?

If you die before you repent and receive Jesus, it will be too late for you.

V. 11-16 The Power of the Word of God!

Verse twelve tells us His eyes will be like a fiery flame- He knows all about us.

And then we see He has a name written that no one knows but Himself!
Folks, there is always more to learn about Jesus!

Maybe we'll get to know that name one day! What's amazing is that Rev. 2:17 says He has a name for each of us that's going to be just between Him and us!

Verse 13 tells us His name is the Word of God!

John is the only writer that calls Jesus the Word of God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word!

There is power in the name of Jesus! When you say Jesus, you have said it all!

If we would jut stop doing things in our name and do all things for the glory of the name of Jesus, we would start experiencing new spiritual power- the power that comes when we deny self and live for God's glory alone!

Verse 16 tells us He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

You better reject the lie that says man is the measure of all things!

The truth is that God is the measure of all things!
Jesus is the King of every King, the Lord of every Lord!

If you refuse to meet Him as the Lamb of God who took away your sin, you will meet Him as the Lion who defeats Satan and sinners!

Now in verse 14 were told the armies of Heaven follow after Him on white horses wearing white linen.

Is that us, Danny? You better believe it is!

You say, Danny, do you believe those will be literal flying white horses?

YES I DO! AND I GET JACKED UP THINKING ABOUT IT!

I used to love watching the Lone Ranger and Tonto!

Well folks, we're going to get to ride with the Lone Savior!

But don't get the idea that we'll be fighting!
Believers never are part of Jihad for Jesus!

More likely we'll be holding camcorders while King Jesus does all the work!!

Verses 15 and 21 tells us it is the sharp sword from His mouth, elsewhere called the word of God, that will defeat the enemies of God!

“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.” -Hebrews 4:12-13

His Word is so powerful He spoke the universe into creation in Genesis 1.
God said, “Let there be...and it was so!”

He raised Lazarus from the dead by telling Him, “Get up, Lazarus!”

Here we see He will consign His enemies to death by telling them to drop dead!

Do you remember the E.F. Hutton commercial?
When E.F. Hutton speaks, people listen!

**Well, folks, when God speaks, what He says happens!
That's the power of the Word of God!**

So what am I supposed to do in light of this message, Danny?

Nothing, Tonto! Just ride with the Lone Savior!

To the one who does not work, but believes on Him who declares righteous the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness! -Romans 4:5

Let's Pray!