

The coming of Jesus is a major theme of the Bible and is central to the book of Revelation. The events that will take place just before, at the time of, and after the second coming of Jesus are revealed in Revelation. In the first chapter John wrote, "Look, he is coming with the clouds." Revelation 1:7. And, three times in the last chapter Jesus promised, "I am coming soon!" Revelation 22:7. (Compare Revelation 22:12,20.) With the opening of the sixth seal John saw the glorious appearance of the One on the throne and the Lamb. (Revelation 6:12-17.)



Q1 **What question will be asked by the desperate, panic-stricken unbelievers when they see the glorious coming of Jesus Christ?** Revelation 6:17

A

HOW WILL JESUS CHRIST RETURN?

1 Visibly



Q2 **How many will see Jesus Christ coming?** Revelation 1:7

A

This verse is too plain to be misunderstood. His coming will be *VISIBLE* to both the wicked and the people of God. The ascension of Jesus to heaven was visible. (Acts 1:9.) At that time, the disciples were told, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. He was real and visible and He ascended in a cloud. (Read Acts 1:9-11. Compare Luke 24:36-51 and Matthew 24:30.) Clouds are associated with His glory. (Read Daniel 7:13; Psalm 104:3; 68:17.) He will come back in the same *VISIBLE* way.■

2 Gloriously

In Revelation 6:12-17 we read of dramatic signs in the heavens and on the earth that introduce and accompany the coming of Jesus.



Q3 **From whom will wicked unbelievers endeavour to hide?** Revelation 6:16

A

The glory of the throne is described in chapters 4 and 5. While on this earth, Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory." Matthew 25:31. (Compare Matthew 16:27.) Jesus will come on the clouds as "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*" Revelation 19:16. All will see the power and *GLORY* of the coming of Jesus.

3 Audibly

The coming of Jesus Christ will be accompanied by tremendous physical upheavals. There will be nothing quiet or secret about His return. All will *HEAR* Him coming.



Q4 **What sounds will be heard as Jesus comes?** Revelation 6:12-17. Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52.

A The noise of
The shouts of

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS CHRIST COMES?

That which is revealed in Revelation agrees entirely with what Jesus Christ taught when He was on this earth. He declared that He will come visibly like lightning (Matthew 24:27), gloriously in the clouds (Matthew 24:29,30) and audibly "with a loud trumpet call." (Matthew 24:31.) Jesus also made it clear that believers will be taken up to be with Him when He comes. Jesus said: "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." Matthew 24:30,31.

In recent years some have come to believe that the rapture of God's people is to take place before the second coming of Jesus Christ. Some believe it will be three and a half years before, and others seven years before, the return of Christ. This theory is called the secret rapture. It suggests that the church will be secretly and silently raptured to heaven, with the wicked only becoming aware of it after it has happened. Of course, even widespread acceptance of a theory does not necessarily make it correct. Jesus clearly said that the gathering of His people would take place at the dramatic moment of His return.

The references to the return of Jesus in Revelation reveal that:

1 The saved & unsaved will see Jesus come in glory: Revelation 1:7 & 6:12-17.

Jesus "is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him." Revelation 1:7. The believer will welcome His coming while the wicked will flee from "the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb." Revelation 6:16. (See Revelation 6:12-17.)

2 The saved & unsaved will be rewarded when Jesus comes in glory: Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-19; 14:14-20; 19:11-20:6 & 22:12.



Q5 **The coming of Jesus as King is spoken of as a special time for giving rewards. Two groups will be rewarded. What will happen to them?** Revelation 11:17,18

A 1. The saints will be
2. The destroyers will be

The return of Jesus is the "harvest" of the earth. Jesus explained that the "harvest is the end of the age" and that it will be at that time when the wicked and the righteous will receive their rewards. The wicked will be destroyed and the believers will be delivered. (See Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Revelation 14:14-20 and 19:11-2:6. Also read Matthew 16:27.)



Q6 **When Jesus returns, how many will receive their rewards?** Revelation 22:12

A

All will see and hear Jesus come in glory. All will be rewarded when He comes.

3 The gathering of believers will occur when Jesus comes in glory: Revelation 6:12-7:17; 11:15-19; 14:14-20 & 19:11-20:6.

According to the Scriptures the "catching" or "gathering up," of God's people will take place at the same time as the glorious second coming of Jesus. For further insights read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. It will not be a secret rapture. In fact 1 Thessalonians 4:16 has sometimes been referred to as the noisiest verse in the Bible.



Q7 **What sounds will be heard when Jesus comes to gather His people?**
1 Thessalonians 4:16

A

Q8 **What will happen to those who have died as believers?** 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

A

Q9 **What will happen to believers who are alive when Jesus comes?** 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

A

This will not be a secret event. The wicked will see and hear all that happens as Jesus comes in glory to gather His people. (Also read 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, 2 Thessalonians 2:1,2 and Philippians 3:20,21.)

4 The unbelievers will be destroyed when Jesus comes in glory:
Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-19;
14:14-20 & 19:11-21.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS & THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE — WARNINGS!



Q12 **Suppose a glorious being who claims to be Jesus Christ suddenly appears in your town or city or in Jerusalem. Suppose he seems to fit the description of our Lord as given in Revelation 1:13-17 and that he preaches powerful and moving sermons. Suppose he is able to call fire from heaven, heal the sick, stop wars and bless children. How did Jesus Christ say you should react to such a being? Why?**
Matthew 24:26,27

On the day when Jesus comes the second time and is "revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels," (2 Thessalonians 1:8) "his holy people" (2 Thessalonians 1:10) will be "gathered to him." (2 Thessalonians 2:1,2.)



Q10 **What will happen to the wicked on the day when Jesus comes for "his holy people"?** 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10.)

A

Q11 **Who else will Jesus destroy at His glorious coming?** 2 Thessalonians 2:8

A

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Paul makes it very clear that the coming of the Lord Jesus will not take place until the "lawless one" or the antichrist has been revealed. The tribulation he causes will end with the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ. (Also read 2 Thessalonians 1:6,7.) Antichrist operates before the coming of Jesus to gather His people - and, will be destroyed at that time. (Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3,9,10.)

A How?

Why?

Jesus Christ warned concerning the deceptions of wicked men, false apostles and Satan. (Revelation 2:2,9,14,20; 3:9.) He had warned concerning false Christs and false prophets. (Matthew 24:4,5,10,11,23,24; Mark 13:5,6,21-23; Luke 21:8.) Most accounts of deception in the Bible deal with counterfeit religion. Satan wants to distort the true gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. He would also like to distort the truth concerning the return of Jesus for that will be the time when Satan is bound. (See Revelation 19:11-20:6.) We need to be on guard for Satan can appear as an angel of light, (2 Corinthians 11:14) perform miracles, (2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 16:14) and call fire down from the sky. (Revelation 13:13.) He

will work within the church (2 Corinthians 11:15; Acts 20:29,30; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1,2,21) and misuse Scripture. (Matthew 4:5,6.)

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS & THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE — COUNSEL!



Q13 **Is it possible to know the exact time of Jesus Christ's return?** Matthew 24:36

A

Q14 **What Old Testament event was used by Jesus Christ to illustrate that when He comes the second time the wicked will "be taken" in destruction and the believers delivered?** Matthew 24:37-41 (Compare Luke 17:26-36.)

A

There is no indication of a secret rapture in these verses. Jesus Christ emphasized that those who are not ready to be caught up when He comes will be destroyed. As the door of the ark was closed

before the flood swept over the earth, so the door of mercy and salvation will close and then Jesus will come. (See Genesis 7:6-10,13-17.) Those outside the closed door had no second chance. So it will be when Jesus Christ returns. Life will not continue as usual, with the wicked making a few adjustments because all the believers have gone. All life on this planet will come to a sudden and violent end as believers in Jesus Christ are caught up to be with Him. All unbelievers will be suddenly destroyed. Peter wrote, "But 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." 2 Peter 3:10. (Compare Revelation 3:3.)



Q15 **Jesus will not come secretly. However, He will come suddenly. What counsel does Jesus have for His people?**

A Matthew 24:42-44

Revelation 2:10

Revelation 2:25; 3:11

my

response...

When we consider what Revelation, and the whole of Scripture, reveals concerning the visible, glorious, audible and sudden second coming of Jesus, the terrified cry of the wicked takes on greater significance. With wickedness being destroyed by the glory of the coming of Jesus, unbelievers will cry, "Who can stand?" Revelation 6:17.

Are you ready to stand before the coming of Jesus Christ? Are you ready to be caught up to meet Him? Can you say with John the Revelator, "Come, Lord Jesus"? (Revelation 22:20.) Are you ready for Jesus to come?



If Jesus Christ were to come today, would you be ready to look up and welcome Him? How do you think you could help your family and friends to be ready for this great event?

