

I. The Second Coming Procession

- A. The return of Jesus is, biblically, the great hope of Christianity. It is to be the anchor of our souls, the truth that sustains us in seasons of trial. Sadly, for many the great hope of their faith (the second coming) is a mysterious thing shrouded in debate and speculation. I believe the Holy Spirit is breaking off confusion and ignorance in this generation regarding this event and stirring up concrete hope and expectation in His bride. (Act 24:15; Rom 5:5, 8:24-25, 15:13; 1 Cor. 1:7; Phl 3:20-21; Col. 1:5,23,27; 2 Thes. 2:16; Tim 4:8; Tit. 1:2, 3:7; Heb. 6:18-19; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2Pe 3:12-14; 1 Jhn. 3:3)

Many in my generation of evangelicals have held dispensational eschatological chart-drawing in such derision that we have been virtually paralyzed in our study of prophecy. For two generations perhaps we have failed to study prophecy with anything like the rigor that it deserves. We have been so afraid of being viewed as one of those Zionist, right-wing, antichrist-sniffing, culture-denying, alarmist left-overs from the Scofield prophecy conference era, that we give hardly any energy to putting the prophetic pieces together — at least not in public. So my prophecy is this.... Younger evangelicals who take the Bible seriously will start to feel like the paralysis of my generation was an overreaction to prophetic studies. Chris Tomlin and others will write more worship songs about the second coming, and younger scholars will not be embarrassed to write doctrinal dissertations on end time prophecy, unintimidated by the academic scorn of futuristic possibilities. —John Piper

- B. The second coming describes what Jesus does when He permanently comes back to earth. **His second coming is by definition a coming to earth to accomplish a long-term mission.** Many Christians think of Jesus' second coming as only consisting of the rapture of the Church and then we all live in heaven happily ever after. Jesus is coming back to live permanently on the earth and to rule all the nations from Jerusalem.
- C. The return of Jesus to the earth involves a 3-stage procession process occurring over a 30-day period which can be seen by comparing the 1,260-day (3½ year) time frame in Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 12:7 with the 1,290 days of Dan. 12:11.
1. His procession across the sky. (Mat. 24:30-31, Rev. 1:7)
 2. His procession across the land. (Is. 35: 1-10, 63:1-4; Hab 3:3-18; Rev. 19:11-16)
 3. His procession into Jerusalem. (Ps. 24; Zech. 12:1-13:6, 14:1-9; Rev. 19:11-21)

II. The Kings Procession Across the Sky

- A. The second coming begins in the sky when Jesus travels across the entire earth on the clouds at the last trumpet as He raptures the Church. Jesus will be seen by every eye, every person (believers and unbelievers). As He returns to the earth to set up His eternal Kingdom, I believe He makes a global procession over every inhabited place on earth, even the most remote. (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 11:15)
1. The rapture is not a secret event. The bible speaks of His return as a very public world wide event that cannot be missed. Can you imagine a scene where the sun moon and stars are darkened and then all of the sudden the sky splits open and is lit up by Jesus and millions of saints as they return to the earth? As this great host of light passes over your geographic region bodies are shooting up out of the ground and meeting the saints in the air. Then those believers who are alive are also caught up together with this great host as the King of Kings makes His way to Israel. (Zech. 9:14, Mat. 24:23-27, Rev. 1:7)
 2. The reason why your heart does not long for an eternal heaven in the clouds is because it was not created to find its hope there. You were made for the eternal Kingdom of God on the earth. Your hopes and dreams are rooted here and this is exactly in accordance with the scriptures. Those that have gone before us are in a temporary place and will be returning to this earth to dwell permanently. (1 Thes. 2:19, 3:13, 4:14; Jude 1:14)

III. The Kings Procession Across the Land

- A. It is important to understand that Jesus returns to a planet that is dominated by an evil empire that has influence over every nation on the earth. The environment is hostile and war torn. There will be a great host of antichrist allies surrounding Israel. Jesus will descend upon this hostile region with all the saints and march His way up to the city of Jerusalem that is currently on the verge of hopelessness.
1. At this point in our study of the return of Jesus, I realize we will move beyond where most have gone in details of the progression of His return. It is critical that we understand this progression and begin to grow in true hope. Jesus longs for a partnering bride who knows Him and loves Him and who's hope is fully set upon His return. Even though this military procession may be a new idea for many of you it is not a new idea in the prophetic scriptures.

Book of Revelation Study (Session 21)
The Return of the King (7th Trumpet)

Sunday March 11th 2018
(Rev. 11:15-19)

- B. Jesus will descend to the earth somewhere south of the city of Jerusalem. He will then march north up through modern day Jordan (OT Edom) destroying the wicked and freeing prisoners of war and slaves on His way up to the great battle with the antichrist. (Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Isa. 10:16-19, 32-34, 14:22-25, 19:1-2, 30:30-33, 34:5-10; Hab. 3:3-18; Zech. 9:14, 10:1-12; Rev. 19:11-16)

Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress...for I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.” (Isa. 63:1-4)

- C. The Battle of Armageddon - The vast majority of wicked Kings and nations of the earth will be gathered outside the city of Jerusalem to meet Him as He comes up from the south and will wage war against Him. This great last days battle is biblically referred to as the “Battle for Jerusalem” or the “Battle of Armageddon”. (Rev. 16:16)
1. Jesus will show up at this great battle field just when all seems lost and He will split the Mount of Olives in two. This will make a way of escape for His trapped people to flee out of the valley. The splitting of the red sea in order that the Israelites could escape the pharaoh and His army was a foreshadowing of this.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming... For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity... Then the LORD will go forth and Fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two... making a very large valley... Then you shall flee through My mountain valley... Yes, you shall flee... Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:1-5)

2. Jesus will then engage the antichrist and his army in the greatest battle the world has ever known. The number of the wicked slain will be so great it will take 7 months to bury all the bodies and the blood from the slain will form a river that is four feet deep and 160 miles long. (Ps. 110:5-6; Eze. 39:1-29; Zep. 1:1-18; Joel 3:9-17; Rev. 14:18-20, 19:11-21)

The Lord stands at your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head. (Ps. 110:5-7)

3. I believe these prophetic scenes seem difficult to take in mostly because of deception and numbness concerning injustice. There is a day coming however when this violent eradication of wickedness will be longed for by the church. In that day these passages will be a great hope to your soul.

IV. The Kings Procession into Jerusalem

- A. The final stage of the return of Jesus to the earth is the pinnacle high point of world history. Jesus makes a triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem to establish His righteous government over the entire earth. This will be a great day of rejoicing as the eternal King of the earth takes up His seat on the governing throne in the temple.

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up you everlasting doors! And the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty. The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you 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. (Ps. 24:7-10)

1. Just as in the day 2000 years ago when Jesus rode into the city on a donkey and the people cried out “Hosanna to the Son of David” and sang (Ps. 118) they will do it again, only this time they will be fully fulfilling the prophetic psalm. Jesus prophesied this would happen upon His return. (Mat. 23:29)
2. All the saints throughout history will be gathered in the city with Him, and Jesus will lay out His governmental plans for the earth. Part of this plan will involve rewarding the saints with various governmental and marketplace roles. We will enter a 1000 year period where underneath the leadership of Jesus we will cultivate a renewed earth, where every sphere of life is brought under His perfect leadership and righteousness. (Dan. 7:27; Rev. 11:15, 20:4)
3. There will be a great feast of celebration called the marriage supper of the lamb in Jerusalem. The realization will begin to set in of what our eternal existence will look like. We sit with our family and friends and look into His eyes and hear Him talk of His plans to renew the earth. Slowly, we begin to grasp the great magnitude of what has just happened. He is with us and we will forever be with Him. Never again will we fear, never again will we despair, our future only holds great joy, hope, and blessing. The long awaited King has come in His Glory and we will rejoice! (Ps. 16:11; Is. 25:6-9; Lk 22:15-18; Rev. 19:9)