

The Future Work of the Lord Jesus Christ

Introduction:

There are a number of things the Lord Jesus Christ will yet accomplish, and two major works being:

His Return

His Kingdom

I. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

A. In Relation to the Believer.

“Christ coming for His Saints.”

The great event which is next to occur according to God’s prophetic calendar is commonly referred to as the “Rapture.” It is the “first resurrection” and involves the believers in Christ — living and dead.

1. The Rapture Promised.

John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28

2. The Rapture Pictured.

I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

See also: II Thessalonians 2:1

3. The Rapture’s Purpose.

a) A Comforting Hope — I Thessalonians 4:18.

b) A Purifying Hope — I John 3:1-3.

c) A Blessed Hope — Titus 2:13.

The word “hope” means “assurance — not ‘wishful thinking.’”

Our participation in the Rapture is part of our great salvation, and rests upon the finished work of Christ.

4. The Rapture’s Position.

The Bible teaches a “Pre-Tribulation” Rapture, meaning that this event will occur before (pre) the 70th Week of Daniel’s Prophecy commonly known as the Tribulation.

Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

a) The 70th Week of Daniel is a Period of Wrath — Revelation 6:1, 17.

b) Christians are not Appointed to Wrath — I Thessalonians 5:9.

c) God Has Promised Deliverance from the Coming Tribulation — Revelation 3:10; Luke 21:25, 36.

d) Daniel’s 70th Week has its Focus on Israel — Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:24; 12:1; Joel 3:2.

e) Christians are to Expect the Rapture at any Moment.

The Rapture has always been imminent — Christ’s coming in glory is preceded by many prophesied events and signs.

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See: Matthew 24:42-46; Luke 12:35-40; I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:3; 22:12.

5. The Rapture's Postlude.

Immediately after the Rapture every Christian must appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account of his or her life and service as a believer — Romans 14:10, 12; II Corinthians 5:10.

This is not a judgment for salvation, but of SERVICE built upon the foundation which has been laid for every New Testament church — I Corinthians 3:9-15.

Rewards in the form of “crowns” will be given by the Lord for good and faithful service. These crowns will be studied in later lessons.

B. In Relation to the Nation of Israel.

“Christ’s coming with His Saints.”

This event is commonly referred to as the “Revelation” or “Second Coming of Christ”.

Every eye shall see Him — Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7.

In contrast to the Rapture, at this event the Lord Jesus Christ will set foot on the earth.

1. The Time of the Revelation.

According to a number of key prophecies, especially that of Daniel 9:25-27, the return of Christ to the earth will occur after a seven year period known as Daniel’s 70th Week or, the “Tribulation.”

Because the Rapture must occur prior to the Tribulation, we may conclude that the Revelation will occur approximately 7 years after the Rapture.

2. The Setting for the Revelation.

The Great Tribulation is a time of special testing for the nation of Israel during the reign of the false Messiah whom the Bible calls the “Antichrist.” See: Jeremiah 30:7.

At the end of this awful time, the events of which are described in Revelation 6-19, Jerusalem will be under hopeless siege — Zechariah 14:1-2. The remnant of Israel will then turn to their true Messiah, Jesus Christ.

3. The Events of the Revelation.

Christ will return in glory with the hosts of heaven — Revelation 19:11-21; Jude 14-15. He will set foot upon the Mount of Olives — Zechariah 14:3-7, having destroyed the armies of the Antichrist.

The nation of the living will be judged — Matthew 25:31-34; Joel 3:2, 11-16 — and Christ’s kingdom established on earth.

II. The Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ

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The future earthly reign of Jesus Christ is subject of much Bible prophecy, especially in the Old Testament.

See: Micah 4:1-8; Zechariah 14:8-21.

- A. It will be a Literal Reign of 1,000 years. — Revelation 20:2-6.
- B. It will be a Golden Age of Peace and Righteousness. — Isaiah 9:7.
- C. It will be an Ordered Kingdom.
 - 1. Jerusalem shall be the center of government.
Isaiah 2:2-4; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 2:10-11; 8:2-3.
 - 2. Jerusalem shall be the center of worship.
Zechariah 6:12-13; 14:16-21.

According to Ezekiel 40-46, a glorious temple will be erected in Jerusalem wherein will be the presence of God as never before.

- 3. Purged Israel will dwell in an enlarged Palestine.
Ezekiel 20:33-38
- 4. Christ shall rule with a Rod of Iron.
Psalm 2:6-9; 72:9-11; Isaiah 11:2-5; Micah 4:1-5.
- 5. Christians shall be assigned governmental duties.
Matthew 19:28; 25:14-30; Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4.