

## *Titus 2*

“11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the **blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;”

## *Why is the 2nd coming of Christ a blessed hope?*

1. Our **hope** is not centered in this world.
2. Our sense of **fulfillment and meaning** rest in God's Kingdom, not in this fallen and evil age.
3. We must **resist the temptation** to seek fulfillment of our soul's deepest longings in this world.
4. The essence of **being fully human** is to live so as to find life in the Christ and his Kingdom.
5. **Sin** can be defined as a life of attitudes and behaviors that seek human fulfillment apart from trusting and obeying God as He is revealed in Christ and his Kingdom.

## *Biblical texts - events of the end time*

Daniel 2, 7, 9

O.T. Prophets

Matthew 24-25 (Mark 13, Luke 21)

John 14:1-3

Revelation

1 Corinthians 15

1 Thessalonians 4-5

2 Thessalonians 2

2 Peter 3

## *Considerations in interpreting Biblical Prophecy*

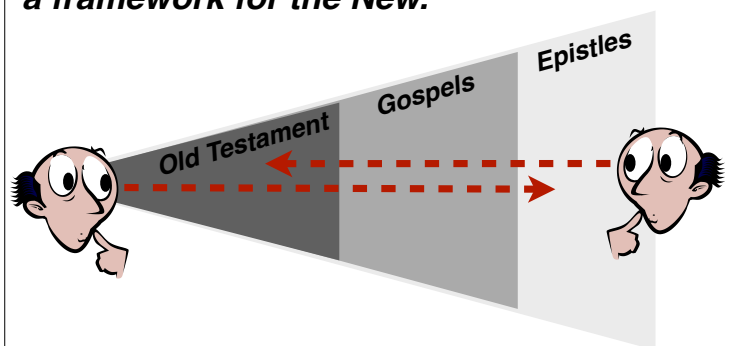
1. Historically, the proper understanding of O.T. prophecies was only after their fulfillment.
2. The track record of interpreters of as yet unfulfilled prophecy has been less than impressive.
3. The church has not been of one mind with respect to the interpretation of Biblical prophecies.
4. For these reasons, I am not dogmatic about interpretation of yet unfulfilled Biblical prophecies.
5. I have more confidence in the Apostles' reading of the prophecies than I do of my reading of them.

## *2 Peter 1:19*

“So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”

1. Prophecy is like a **lamp** giving dim light enabling limited sight.
2. The fulfillment is like the **sunrise** enabling clear sight.
3. The **morning star** (Christ - Rev.22:16) in our hearts suggests a correlation between clear sight and a faith relationship with Christ.

## *The Old Testament gives us a framework for the New.*



*The Epistles give us insight to the meaning of the rest of the Bible.*

### 1 Corinthians 15

“<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; **afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.** <sup>24</sup> Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

The **2nd Coming** of Christ will trigger:

- The **resurrection** of the dead believers.
- This will be followed by “**the end**” - the culmination of Christ’s reign and victory over death.

### 2 Peter 3

“<sup>10</sup> But **the day of the Lord will come like a thief**, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since **all these things are to be destroyed** in this way what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness dwells.”

The **2nd Coming** of Christ will:

- Be a **surprise**.
- Result in **destruction** of this world.
- Followed by a **new heavens and earth**.

### 1 Thessalonians 4

“<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until **the coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For **the Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and **the dead in Christ shall rise first.** <sup>17</sup> Then **we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

The **2nd Coming** of Christ will trigger:

- The **resurrection** of the dead believers.
- The **rapture** of the living believers.

### 1 Thessalonians 5

“<sup>1</sup> Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; . . . <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”


The **2nd Coming** of Christ:

- Will **surprise** the world in its false security.
- Should **not surprise** believers who will escape God’s judgment.

### Matthew 24

“<sup>1</sup> And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. <sup>2</sup> And He answered and said to them, “**Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down.**”

<sup>3</sup> And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “**Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**” ”

Beginning of birth pangs	Great Tribulation	2nd Coming of Christ	Parables	Final Judgment
24:4-14	24:15-28	24:29-31	24:32-25:30	25:31-46
✓ False Christs will come ✓ Wars & rumors of wars ✓ Famine & earthquakes ✓ Believers hated by all ✓ Conflict within the ch. ✓ False prophets ✓ Many are mislead ✓ Increased lawlessness ✓ Love will grow cold ✓ World evangelism	✓ Desecration ✓ Tribulation ✓ False signs	✓ Cosmic signs ✓ Christ is seen ✓ Trumpet sounds ✓ Elect gathered	✓ Fig Tree ✓ Servants ✓ Virgins ✓ Talents	 ✓ Sheep ✓ Goats
1 Thess.5:1-11	2 Thess.2:1-12	1 Thess.4:13-18 2 Pet.3:3-13		2 Pet.3:3-13
Rev. 6-7 (seals)	Rev. 8-18 (trumpets, bowls)	Rev.19	The Millennium	Rev.20

## ***The Kingdom of God is the framework***

1. The O.T. knew only a physical, Kingdom that was identified with the nation Israel. The disciples of Jesus expected the restoration of Israel as a nation.
2. The N.T. seems to view the Kingdom in spiritual (not just national) terms.

John 18:36

“My Kingdom is not of this world.”

Mark 1:15

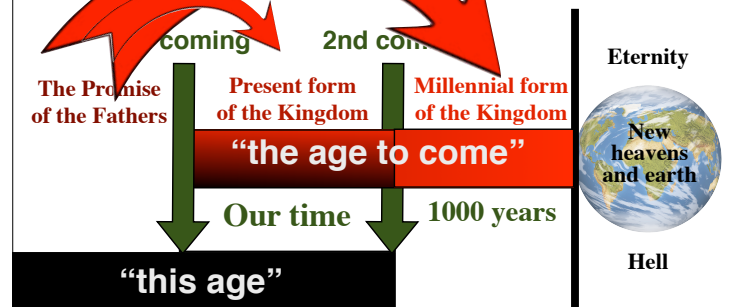
“The Kingdom is at hand.”

Galatians 3:29

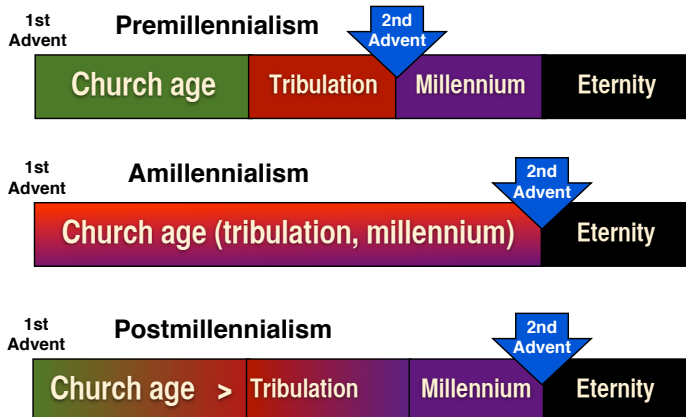
“And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.”

## ***The Kingdom of God***

1. The O.T. knew only a physical, Kingdom that was identified with the nation Israel. The disciples of Jesus expected the restoration of Israel as a nation.
2. The N.T. seems to view the Kingdom in spiritual (not just national) terms.



## ***Views of the Millennial Hope***



## ***“the most embarrassing verse in the Bible”***

*The Essential C.S. Lewis p.385*

Matthew 24

“33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.  
34 Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place.”

γενεα **GENEA** (generation, offspring)

This Greek word’s meanings depend on the context - “a lineage”, “offspring” (physical or spiritual).

Psalm 14:5

“for God is with the righteous **generation**.”

Mark 8:38

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful **generation**, . . .”

1 Peter 2:9

“But ye are a chosen **generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:”

## ***The 2nd coming of Christ - Practical considerations***

1. History is linear - **it is progressing to a planned end.**
2. It will be the time of the resurrection of the dead.  
**We cannot expect our union with Christ to be complete until then.**
3. It will be the time of the fullness of His Kingdom.  
**We cannot expect the Kingdom’s fullness until Christ comes.**
4. It will be the time of the fulfillment of God’s promise to the nation Israel. **Israel does not have special rights over the land until then.**
5. It will be the time of judgment.  
**We are to be watchful.**