

# THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

AUTHOR:- MIKE FORFAR

**Heb 9:27-28** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”



The bible says that Christ will return to this earth a second time to bring salvation to His waiting followers. The Second Advent of Christ is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament an average of one verse in twenty. To find out about the Second Advent we should read what Christ Himself said concerning it.

**John 13:36 - 14:1-4.** “Simon Peter said to Him. ‘Lord where are You going?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward. Peter said to Him. ‘Lord why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake’ Jesus answered him... Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Peter asks the question ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare places for them in His Father’s house in Heaven. This is because God’s people will live in Heaven. One day Christ will return to this earth to gather His people together to take them to His Father’s house. Christ says that where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you shall follow me afterwards. And where I am going there you will be also. The context of this passage is clear, that when Christ said that His disciples would be where He is, He meant that they would be in Heaven where He is going. No Christian is in Heaven yet. It is not possible to go to Heaven until Christ returns to take us there.

**Jude 14-15** “Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”

Jesus will return with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment upon all. These saints cannot be God’s people because they are not in heaven yet. So who are these saints?

**Matt 25:31** “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”

The ten thousands of His saints spoken of by Jude are the angels of heaven. They will accompany Jesus on His return to the earth to execute judgment on all.

**Luke 24:36-43** “Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘peace be to you’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate it in their presence.”

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples. He was not a spirit as they mistakenly assumed but a physical flesh and blood person. To prove this to them He eats some food in front of them. It was the physical body of Jesus that rose from the dead not a disembodied spirit.

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**Acts 1:9-11** “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by then in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”

This physical Jesus departed from this earth on a cloud. This same Jesus is to return to this earth in the same manner that he left it. On a cloud in a physical form and visible so that His disciples can see Him.

**Matt 24:2-5** “Now as He sat 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, (Parousia) and of the end of the age? And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many.’”



When asked about His return at the end of the age Jesus first warned His disciples about deception. Many will be deceived by false Christs coming in Jesus name. Therefore it is important that we have a clear understanding of the manner of the Second Advent of Christ to avoid being deceived. The Greek word translated ‘coming’ in this verse is ‘Parousia’ it means *physical presence*. The Latin translation of this word is “adventum” This is why the return of Christ is called the ‘Second Advent’. Whenever the word ‘parousia’ is used it will be underlined.

**Matt 24:23-27; 30-31.** “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming (Parousia) of the Son of Man be.”.... Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Jesus warns against deceptions that will deceive many. These deceptions will be so delusive that we are warned not to even go and look at them. They include the seance chamber (the inner rooms) as well as these near death experiences where people have claimed to have seen Christ. The return of Christ will be an event as visible as lightning flashing across the heavens. The son of man, Jesus, will be seen in the heavens and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because they will be in rebellion against Him. Jesus will return on the clouds in power and great glory with the great sound of a trumpet that will be heard all the way around the world. This takes place at His Parousia. His return in physical form.

**Matt 26:62-64** “And the high priest arose and said to Him, ‘Do you answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?’ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, ‘I put you under oath by the living God: tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you said. Nevertheless I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.’”

During His mock trial by the Jewish Sanhedrin Jesus tells His murderers that He is the Son of God, and they will see Him return to the earth sitting on the clouds of heaven. They must be raised to life to see Him return.

**Rev 1:7** “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen

He is coming with clouds, just like the Angels told the men of Galilee that He would. Every eye will see Him; even those who pierced Him by putting Him to death on the cross will be raised to life to see

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Him return. The entire population of the earth will see Him return and mourn because they will be in rebellion against God.

### THE DAY OF THE LORD IS LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT.

**Matt 24:42-44.** *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

The day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. This coming refers to the Second Coming of Christ. Speaking about His return, Christ says that it will be unexpected like a thief in the night. At a time when you do not expect it to happen it will take place. Jesus returns like a thief but He does not act like a thief. (See also Luke 12:39-40)



**1Thess 4:13-18; 5:1-4** *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, [died] lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming (Parousia) of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 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 will rise first. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words. But concerning the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”*

“God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus”. This does not mean that the dead are already in heaven and are brought back to the earth with Christ, because in John 14:1-4 we are told that Christ’s followers are not in heaven until Christ returns to this earth to collect them. Paul explains what he means by the statement ‘God will bring with Him’ by describing the great resurrection day when at (*Parousia*) the return of Christ, Christ Himself will shout with the voice of the archangel and the dead in Christ will be raised from their graves. This is definitely no quiet secret event. God brings them back to life to transport them to heaven in physical form just as Jesus Himself was raised from His grave in physical form. The noise of the trumpet will be so loud that it wakes the dead. This trumpet is the same one mentioned in Matt 24:30-31

**Matt 24:30-31** *“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

The great gathering takes place after the great sound of a trumpet at the second advent. Jesus taught that the great gathering consists of the angels traveling from one end of the earth to the other to gather all of his people to himself. Paul says that God’s people at this time consist of the living and the dead. Those of us who are alive and remain at this time will be caught up with the resurrected dead to meet the Lord in the air. The Latin word for ‘caught up’ is *“Rapiemur”*. This is where the English word ‘*rapture*’ comes from. The ‘*rapture*’ or being ‘*caught up*’ takes place here at the ‘*parousia*’, the second advent of Christ. The resurrection of the dead takes place first then the rapture or catching up of the living occurs after that. This day just described is also called the Day of the Lord and comes completely unexpected on the world like a

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thief in the night and brings *sudden destruction* for the wicked. But Christ's followers will not be in ignorance concerning the day of the Lord so it will not come upon them *unexpectedly* like a thief.

**1Corinth 15:51-55** *“Behold I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

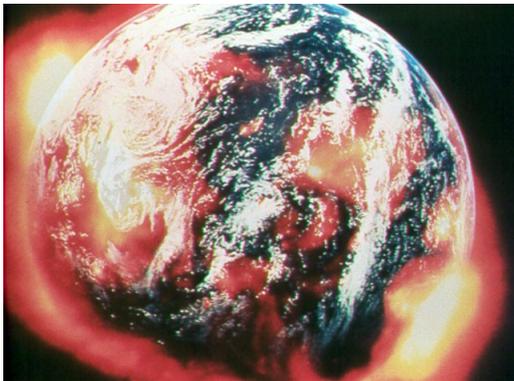
We shall not all sleep, that is, not all of us shall die. *The last trumpet.* This is the trumpet that sounds at second advent of Christ [matt 24:31] the righteous dead will be raised immortal and incorruptible, and the living righteous we be glorified, made immortal and incorruptible in a split second in the twinkling of an eye. This verse does not say that we will disappear through the clouds in the twinkling of an eye. But that we will be changed physically and biologically in the twinkling of an eye. After this transfiguration Christ's angels will gather God's people from one end of the heaven to the other to transport them to the clouds to meet Christ in the air.

### The order of events are these:

- (1) Christ descends from heaven
- (2) All the tribes of the earth mourn because they know that they are lost
- (3) There is a shout from Christ that goes around the world
- (4) The great sound of a trumpet
- (5) The Great Gathering when the resurrection of the dead and the rapturing of the living saints takes place.
- (6) Sudden destruction for the wicked.

### The Apostle Peter describes the second advent of Christ.

**2Peter 3:3-4, 10-13** *“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming (Parousia)? For since the fathers fell asleep [died], all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming (Parousia) of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*



In this passage the apostle Peter is describing the second advent of Christ. We can be certain of this because of the expressions that he uses. In the last days scoffers will not believe in the second advent of Christ. This expression 'last days' is used in the New Testament to describe the days in which we live before the second advent (Acts 2:17; 2 Tim 3:1; Heb 1:2; Jas 5:3). People will say that all things continue as they have always done from the beginning of creation. So the second advent of Christ, the resurrection of the righteous from Abel onwards, and the rapture could not have taken place. If those events had taken place the scoffers could not say that '*since the fathers fell asleep [died] all things continue as they have always done from the beginning of creation*'. A clear statement that the resurrection at the second advent has not taken place. Like Jesus and Paul, Peter teaches that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly like a '*thief in the night*' – an expression that is constantly used all through the New Testament to describe the second advent. Peter is describing the day of God, the day that brings destruction for the world but salvation for the children of God, just like in the days of Noah and Lot. At His coming (Gk. *Parousia*, a word in scripture that constantly refers to the second advent) the heavens ie, the atmosphere, will disappear with a roar and the elements will melt in the heat. Fire and earthquake will destroy the entire planet and everyone and everything in it.

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## JESUS LIKENS HIS SECOND ADVENT TO THE FLOOD IN THE DAYS OF NOAH.

**Matt 24:36-44** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the **coming (Parousia)** of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and did not know until **the flood came and took** (Gk:airo 142) **them all** away, so also will the **coming (Parousia)** of the Son of Man be. (40) Then two men will be in the field: one **will be taken** (Gk:paralambano 3880) and the other **left** (Gk: aphemi 863). Two women will be grinding at the mill: one **will be taken and the other left**. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Christ describes His Second Advent as an event that comes unexpectedly like a thief. He tells us to watch because no one knows the time of the Lords return. At this time all humanity will be divided into two groups. One group will be taken and the other group will be left. The second advent of Christ will be the same as in the days of Noah, one group will be destroyed and one group will remain alive. In the days of Noah the wicked were completely destroyed by the waters of the flood and only God's people were left alive. So at the second advent of Christ the righteous will remain alive and the wicked will be totally destroyed. Luke also records the words of Jesus on the subject.



**Luke 17:26-27; 30; 34-37** “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and **the flood came and destroyed them all...** Even so will it be in the day when the son of man is **revealed (apokalupsis)**.... I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one **will be taken** and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one **will be taken** and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one **will be taken** and the other left. And they answered and said to Him, ‘Where Lord?’ So He said to them, ‘Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.’”

Both passages of the bible describe two classes of people, one saved and the other totally destroyed. One group are taken away and the other group are left. By comparing Matthew with Luke we discover that the ones left are the ones left alive while the ones taken are taken away by the waters of the flood and destroyed.

Matt 24:39: the flood came and **took them** all...

Luke 17:27: the flood came and **destroyed them** all.



The ones “left” are left alive. But the disciples want to know where the “taken” ones are taken too. The disciples ask ‘where Lord?’ ie, where will they be taken too? Jesus answers “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.” In other words the ones taken away (the wicked) are taken away and destroyed as they were in the flood. They will be as refuse on the ground. The Righteous whom Jesus has come to gather to himself are the ones that are left, left alive like Noah and his family.

By comparing Luke 17:26,30 with Matthew 24:37 we see two greek words that are used interchangeably. They are Parousia translated ‘coming’ and Apokalupsis translated ‘revealed’. These two words describe the same event. ie the second advent of Christ

The expression “**will be taken**” is a translation of the Greek word “**paralambano**”. “In Matt 24:40,41; Luke 17:34,35, “**paralambano**” in the passive, form is used as the opposite of *aphemi* (863), to let be. In

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these verses, those who are taken are not to be misconstrued as those whom the Lord favors, as if they were the same saints spoken of in 1 Thess 4:17 who will be raptured (*harpazo* [726], to seize, catch away, as if by force) to meet the Lord in the clouds. The verb *paralambano* in most cases indicates a demonstration in favor of the one taken but not always. In Matt 4:4,8, it is used of Satan taking Jesus up to tempt Him. In John 19:16 it is used of taking Jesus to lead Him to the cross. The verb *paralambano* is to be contrasted in Matt 24:40,41 to *airo* (142), to take up and away. It is used to refer to those in the days of Noah who were taken away, not being favored but being punished, while Noah and his family were left intact. Therefore, in this passage in Matt, and the parallel passage in Luke, *paralambano* must not be equated to the believers who are to be raptured at the coming of the Lord for His saints. It refers rather to those who, as in the days of Noah, are taken to destruction. The others are left alone (*aphiemi*) for the purpose of entering into the blessings of Christ's kingdom (identified by some as the Millennium) and the righteous rule of Christ....” *“The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament” Spiros Zodhiates Th.D. AMG International, Inc 1992, p1108*

### **Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians describes the second advent of Christ.**

***2 Thess 1:6-9*** “*Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed (apokalupsis) from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*”

When Jesus returns He will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire with His mighty angels to destroy the ungodly with everlasting destruction. The word revealed is ‘apokulupsis’, as shown before a comparison of this word with the word ‘parousia’ indicates they describe the same event.

Jesus also likened the time of His return to the days of Lot. ‘As it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded’ - those common routine things of every day life that people have been doing for centuries. ‘But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus it shall be in the day when the son of man is revealed’ Luke 17:28-30. Lot the believer was spared. The unbelievers were destroyed. So when Christ returns, believers will be spared (caught up to meet the Lord in the air!) while that same day fiery destruction shall fall upon the world. This verse indicates that Christians will suffer trouble right up to the time of the return of Christ. Continuing on in the same letter Paul describes the return of Christ as “our gathering together to Him”; and that before that day certain events must take place first.

***2Thess 2:1-5; 7-8.*** “*Now brethren, concerning the coming (Parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; that day will not come unless the falling away (apostasia) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?...For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming (Parousia). The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders”.*

Like Jesus the Apostle Paul also warns us against deception regarding the Parousia i.e. the Second Coming of Christ, which is our gathering together to Him. ‘Let no one deceive you!’ either through evil spirits, or word of mouth, or letters pretending to have come from him. False prophets and false teachers will attempt to deceive Christians into believing that the rapture and the resurrection at the parousia or coming of Christ, will take place before the appearance of Antichrist. Let us beware, then, of a teaching that says that Christ will rapture the church to heaven before the man of sin is revealed. According to Paul, the order of events will be:

- (1) A falling away. ‘*Apostasia*’, which means a departure from the truth.
- (2) The man of sin, the Antichrist, will be revealed.
- (3) The great gathering (Rapture and Resurrection) at the second coming of Christ.
- (4) The destruction of the Antichrist by the brightness of the return (Parousia) of the Lord.

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Paul explains that the appearance of the Antichrist must take place *before* the Parousia when Christ returns for *his* people. The Antichrist in this passage is not Satan because the Antichrist appears according to the working of Satan. Satan and the Antichrist are distinguished from each other. Jesus will destroy the Antichrist with the brightness of His (Parousia) physical presence at His return, and then gather His people to Himself and take them to Heaven to be where He Himself had gone.

But **before** this great day comes the seven last plagues must be poured out on the earth. Christ returns after the end of the seventh plague as indicated by the book of Revelation in the following verses.

**Revelation 16: 12-21.** *“Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the Kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs [miracles], which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. **Behold, I am coming as a thief.** Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

*Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, it is done! ” And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was an earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as not had occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and **the cities of the nations fell.** And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then **every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.** And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.”*



And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.  
Revelation 16:18, 20 KJV

It is between the outpouring of the sixth and seventh last plagues by the seven angels, leading up to the battle of Armageddon-the seventh plague, that Jesus reminds His followers that He is still coming as a thief. The seven last plagues must be poured out on the world before Jesus Christ returns like a thief in the night. As with the plagues of Egypt God's people will be in the land when they are poured out. The land of Egypt had ten plagues poured out on it. The first three plagues tormented both Egypt and Israel but the seven last plagues tormented the Egyptians only. Likewise during the tribulation just before the second advent God's people will be in the land but the 'seven last plagues' will torment the enemies of God only.

**Revelation Chapter 16** is devoted entirely to describing the seven last plagues as follows:

- (1) Loathsome sores appear on them who have the mark of the beast and worship his image.
- (2) The sea turns to blood and *every* living thing in the sea dies.
- (3) The rivers and springs of water turn to blood.
- (4) The sun scorches men with fire.
- (5) The kingdom of the beast becomes full of darkness.
- (6) The Euphrates River dries up preparing the kings of the east for the battle of Armageddon.

(Jesus reminds His people that He is about to return like a thief. Rev 16:15.)

(7) A voice from heaven says 'It is done' There are massive storms and a great earthquake bigger than any earthquake that has ever happened in human history. Every Island and mountain on the earth disappears and the cities of the nations fall. A great hail storm takes place, each hailstone is about the weight of a talent ie, approximately 30 Kg.

The day of the Lord when Christ returns as a thief is during the outpouring of the Seventh plague which is the battle of Armageddon. That day brings total destruction to the earth, the annihilation if the

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wicked, the resurrection of the righteous, and the translation (Rapture) of the living saints. Any being who claims to be Christ before the out pouring of these plagues and before the destruction of every city on the planet is an impostor.

## SUMMARY

1. The second coming is called the 'Day of the Lord' and is unexpected like a thief in the night.
2. Jesus will return on a cloud in flaming fire with all the Holy angels with Him.
3. They who put Christ on the cross are raised to see Him return.
4. His return for the gathering of His people is after the appearance of the Antichrist.
5. Antichrist is destroyed by the brightness of Christ's return. The Parousia.
6. The second coming and the rapture (being caught up) take place on the same day.
7. The return of Christ like a thief is after the outpouring of the seven last plagues.
8. The world is completely depopulated and everything in it are destroyed as in the flood of Noah.
9. Jesus saves His people and takes them back to heaven with him. (John 14:1-4)
10. The 'coming (parousia) of Christ' to destroy the man of sin and resurrect the dead. And the 'revealing (apokalupsis) of Christ' with His mighty angels in flaming fire, describe the same event.

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When Jesus spoke of his return the first thing he mentioned was a warning about deception. If men arise pretending to be Christ they can be shown to be frauds. But what if Satan himself pretended to be Christ in the days just prior to the real second advent? Would most Christians have enough bible knowledge to detect the deceiver? The following is a prophecy about Satan's attempt to counterfeit the return of Christ. It's put here as food for thought.

## SATAN COUNTERFEITS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

"Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects alike will be deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures. As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation (Rev 1:13-15). The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is "the great power of God." Acts 8:10.

But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false Christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshippers of the beast and his image,- the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

And furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned his people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of his second coming. "There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ...Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the

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lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be.” This coming, there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known - witnessed by the whole world.

Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come.”

*The Great Controversy. E.G.White., Pacific Press Publishing Association. pp 624 - 625. ( AD 1888 ).*