

The Coming Christ



**Two Christs
are Coming—
One of Calvary,
and One of Hell.**

While One will be returning, one will be making his debut. Yes, there are two Christs; specifically they are: God's Messiah (Jesus) and Satan's imitation messiah, the Antichrist, who is called by the prophet Daniel as "The Beast." Jesus will be returning as He promised while He was on earth, but not until the times are accomplished. That is the time of testing and purification.

Satan's False Christ, THE BEAST

There is a time spoken of as the Great Tribulation, which takes place the last three and a half years¹ of this age. It is the last half of a larger block of time, which lasts for seven years, also known as Daniel's Seventieth

Week and The Time of Jacob's Trouble.² Both times are definitely marked and initiated by actions of the Antichrist. The last seven years of this age begin when The Beast:

1. Signs a Covenant of Peace with Israel (known as the Time of Jacob's Trouble) and the second half of that time begins when:

2. He stands in the Holy Place and declares himself God, blasphemes God, and forbids Jewish prayers and sacrifice. This action is labeled by Daniel as "The Abomination of Desolation" and is the beginning of The Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation is Satan's grab for glory as he imitates God's Messiah in every way, and actually thinks he can rule as the most powerful entity in the world. He will purpose this time to destroy every vestige of God, including every Jew and Christian, and the tool he will use to accomplish this segregation and elimination will be to require every person to wear a sort of brand, indicating ownership, on their right hand or forehead, that which bears his likeness and number, 666. It is known as the Mark of the Beast and declares its wearer to be a worshiper of this satanic christ. This is a time that God has allowed — even planned for — as a "sieve" or a type of sorting pen where the goats are divided to the left and the sheep to the right.³ Daniel describes the actions of the Beast like this: "...shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."⁴ And again, "...and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."⁵

As Daniel said of that time of trouble, such as never was or will ever be, there is a great hope at the world's darkest hour, and that is the Coming of Christ. That hope is spoken of many times as the "Blessed Hope," and that is when "*thy people shall be delivered,*" from the testing, pain, and suffering of this life. It is the desire of all who love the Lord thy God, for Him to come and complete the days, and

also to quiet the voices who are ashamed of Him, His Word, and His Presence.⁶

Scared?

As we declared at the first of this essay, two Christs are coming, but the exact time of either one is not presently known. The order of their coming becomes obvious once we study and understand the purpose of the Great Tribulation and how both Christs will use it: The Antichrist to destroy all those who worship God and to receive all praise to himself; and God's Christ to test the souls of men by separating the goats from the sheep (believers from non-believers, and also the True Church from the Apostate "fallen away" Church). God's final purpose for Creation is observed, as Eternal Reward and Eternal Punishment is meted out to those according to whether their name has been entered in the Lamb's Book of Life. Testing is not easy, as Job found out when Satan threw everything possible at him, but God "kept" him and later rewarded him with more than he had before.⁷ Reward for overcoming sin is what will keep those who love Him, through the dark testing. It is the promise of Jesus that through trial and temptation, He will see us through, "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*"⁸ The Lord didn't remove Job from his testing, but "kept" him through it, so, for those who love the Lord sincerely, He will keep them also.

How Will We Know the Antichrist From Other False Prophets?

The world has always wanted to follow and worship a leader who is a man, rather than to worship God. The coming time will be no different. Since John wrote the Revelation of Christ given to him while on the Isle of Patmos, man has looked for and labeled many

as the Antichrist. They have all been wrong till now, so accusing or labeling one as the Antichrist must be done with caution, lest the strength of our witness is weakened. Daniel, who saw in a vision the “man of lawlessness” and the three and a half year period of Great Tribulation that brought a great blood-bath with much destruction, couldn’t put into words the things he saw. He was so troubled and vexed that he couldn’t do the king’s work for three weeks, but could only lie down.⁹ The things that are to happen elude our language to describe them, and our need to know is distracting until the time to know. That is why God told Daniel, “*Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end...and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*”¹⁰ The prophecies concerning the coming of Christ and of the end are of great purpose; so that the Children of God will, in the season of time, know what is to come. Otherwise, all the teaching concerning these times would be in vain, if it would not be a benefit to the Church, because quite possibly all Bibles will be destroyed and churches burned.

What Should I Watch For?

Deep study in Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Matt. 24, and Revelation will yield additional understanding of the Antichrist and his rule, but for now, there are specific events to watch for, some of which appear to be on our horizon:

1. Leadership at the world level, so powerful, even ecstatic or frenzied, that three hold-out kings of a ten-nation confederacy surrender their position to him by submission.¹¹
2. The signing of a seven-year covenant of peace between this man and Israel. This covenant might also be termed as a “guarantee” or “alliance,” but in whichever case, it is a huge statement of arrogance and pride so typical of Satan or his protégé.¹²
3. An assassination of a beloved world

leader, whereby his wound is declared as “mortal,” then apparently he is healed by his own strength. He may not be declared dead, but kept on life support until he is healed. Possibly, he will retain a crippling to his right eye and arm from this incident.¹³

4. He will move into the Holy Place and proclaim himself to be God, then immediately he will attempt to annihilate the Jews.¹⁴

5. A great and quite visible falling away of those who once professed Christ, but with the advent of the Mark of the Beast and shunning by the world’s population, those who have been deceived by the Antichrist will deny the Christ of Heaven.¹⁵

6. Frustrated by his failure to totally obliterate Israel, he will turn his attention to the destruction of Christians.¹⁶

7. The whole unredeemed world will worship him for three-and-one-half years.¹⁷

These things will happen that are associated with the Antichrist’s rule, but they are not necessarily in order. For example, the assassination may be the first event, giving the masses over to believe he is God’s Messiah, or certainly he is the one that the whole world is looking for. There are other things to be identified with him, but when any of these events occur, you can look hard at this man and expect his actions to align with biblical prophecy concerning the Man of Lawlessness.

How Can I Prepare?

There are five essentials to preparation for the final days, and if we don’t participate in those days, nothing is lost.

1. The most absolutely correct step we can take to prepare for any future moment is to secure right standing with the Creator God by believing upon and trusting in His sacrificial Lamb—Jesus Christ—and thereby having your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

2. Seek to understand God’s purpose in the Great Tribulation as it concerns all of His

Creation, no longer focusing on personal desires.

3. Prepare mentally and spiritually to be shunned by this world’s citizens because of the Name of Christ. Seek Truthfulness over popular, even pleasant, doctrine. Dwell in His Word.

4. Do not be confused by events. The Christ you look for will not be seen on television, or in public forum—the Christ we await will come in the clouds.¹⁸

5. In no circumstance ever receive a mark on your hand or forehead in order to buy or sell. Don’t bow to or worship anyone except the One Who comes in the clouds.

How Near?

When Jesus was telling His Disciples the signs of the end and of His Second Coming, they asked Him, “When?” Jesus told them of the signs and events leading to His Return, then said, “*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*”¹⁹ Prophecy and the day of His Return are sealed from us until the seven year hourglass is turned over to count time.

When the Antichrist signs the Covenant of Peace with Israel, seven years will pass before Christ returns. Three and a half years past that signing, the Antichrist comes to Israel and declares himself to be God. The Great Tribulation begins then and lasts for 3½ years, 42 months or 1260 days.

Then Jesus returns in the clouds with a shout. The dead in Christ rise to meet Him, including His two witnesses who have been prophesying against the Antichrist, for 3½ yrs. Then immediately, those yet alive whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life join them in the air. The age of mercy is ended as the windows of Heaven are closed. Then all hell breaks loose as the Wrath of God is poured out (otherwise known as “The Day of The Lord”). That time when the Seven Bowl Judgment commences upon the ungodly and the Battle of Armageddon occurs, the Saints of Redemption are participating in The Mar-

riage Supper of the Lamb. God’s Wrath lasts for seventy-five days, first expressed as 30, then another 45, (1260, 1290, 1335) as God seems to extend His Wrath as He shares with the prophets. After that, the Redeemed live out the “Millennial Sabbath,” which is the thousand year rule on earth where Christ is Ruler and King—in Israel; then, every soul who has ever lived will be present at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the damned receive eternal death as their reward, as the Righteous observe the New Heaven and the New Earth descend from Heaven.²⁰ You see, unlike the idea we have of St. Peter, or Jesus Himself, judging our heart or deeds at Heaven’s gate, then allowing us to enter in or turning us away, the judging is actually done beforehand by our own choice to follow Christ or deny Him.

Oh yes, there is a Judgment Seat of Christ, also known as The Great White Throne, which is instituted at the end of the age, but guilt or innocence is determined before that dreadful day, and the purpose of the Judgment Seat is likened unto the sentencing phase of a trial. Those who have overcome sin by receiving the pardon of Grace and are faithful to His “Word of Patience,”²¹ are seated behind the Throne and are excused from accusation and condemnation, because their sins are forgiven and forgotten. Those standing in front of the Throne of Judgment are those who are overcome by sin and are rebellious to the offer of Redemption. There is both reward and punishment at the Judgment Seat. Another purpose for this time is to quiet forever those who might call God unjust. When the end comes, no heart will question whether he “made it” or not. Each will know to whom he belongs, simply by standing before Christ, with their head bowed in shame or raised in adoration. When all Creation is presented before the King, they will kneel and confess that He is Lord,²² it will be done in either anguish and regret, or joy and worship.

Jesus' Return

No man can predict the time, however, Jesus said that *"when the branch is tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh."*²³ History tells us that whenever there is war or a despot for a king, people expect the end and start naming antichrists. Today, all the signs Jesus spoke of seem to populate our daily headlines. There seems to be a social, political, financial, and physical world meltdown, of which any one event could thrust chaos upon us, thus paving the way for a pseudo-messiah to lead the people down a dark path. We only need to watch closely the events concerning the peace of Israel and as never before, bury the Word of God in our heart.

Tom Buttram
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¹Daniel 7:25.

²Daniel 9:27.

³Matthew 25:33.

⁴Daniel 7:23.

⁵Daniel 12:1.

⁶Titus 2:13, Revelation 11:15.

⁷Job 42:10-17.

⁸Revelation 3:10.

⁹Daniel 8:27, 10:2-3.

¹⁰Daniel 12:9-13.

¹¹Daniel 7:24.

¹²Daniel 9:27, Isaiah 14:14.

¹³Revelation 13:3, Zechariah 11:17.

¹⁴II Thessalonians 2:4, Daniel 12:11, Matthew 24:15.

¹⁵II Thessalonians 2:3.

¹⁶Revelation 12:17.

¹⁷Revelation 13:4, 5.

¹⁸Matthew 24:26, 27.

¹⁹Matthew 24:36.

²⁰Revelation 20, 21.

²¹Revelation 3:10.

²²Philippians 2:9-11.

²³Matthew 24:32.

Gospel Tract Society, Inc.

PO Box 1118 Independence MO 64051

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