

The Seven Comings of the Lord

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There is a lot of confusion in the Church about the coming of the Lord. This is a very large topic that needs lots of study. I am going to give you some helpful suggestions in your own Bible study on the coming of the Lord. So consider what follows here a useful roadmap for your studies with some new ideas and some new ways of looking at the coming of our Lord.

The Problem:

There are numerous scriptures that refer to the coming of the Lord. But from these scriptures He seems to be coming at various places and in various manners.

Is He coming in the clouds?

Is He coming to be glorified in His saints?

Is He coming on the Mount of Olives?

Is He coming to Jerusalem or is He coming in the New Jerusalem?

Is He coming in the air?

Is He coming into His temple?

Is He coming with His saints or for His saints...and which saints?

Is He coming to take us out of the world?

I can cite scriptures for all of the above!

The Solution:

As I study from Genesis to Revelation I see a clear pattern of the Lord's appearances on earth and this is my conclusion...I will identify seven different manifestations of the coming of the Lord from heaven to earth in various ways starting with the first as a babe in Bethlehem all the way to the seventh ***“and then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God even the Father;”*** (1 Cor. 15:24)

A further truth that you need to understand to unlock the mystery of the return of the Lord is this....how do we see the Lord? I want to discuss the very important issue of “seeing the Lord”. We speak of “when we see Jesus”....but there are at least three different ways you can see Jesus...and John the Apostle saw Jesus in all three different ways and described his experience of these appearances of our Lord.

Gaining an insight in these truths will help you to understand what scripture means when it refers to “we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye” and “every eye shall see him” and why did Jesus say 2000 years ago “behold I come quickly” and what does it mean when it says He is coming in the clouds and why John the apostle said “we shall be like Him in order that we may see Him as He is”....and other mysteries of His appearance will be uncovered.

There is much more than I write here to explore but hopefully this gives you enough clues to start your own discoveries in scripture.

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Seeing Jesus

To do a proper study of the coming of the Lord we need to have a proper understanding of the problem of “seeing Jesus”. I want to explain this to you because it is a real issue. In fact it is the reason why I titled this chapter The Seven Comings of the Lord and not The Second Coming of the Lord.

Consider the problem of Moses wanting to see the Lord. In Exodus 33:9-23 there is this amazing discussion between Moses and the Lord. I will relate a portion to illustrate my point.

Please understand that when in Exodus it speaks of ‘The Lord’ this is speaking of the pre-existing Jesus Christ. It is this same Jesus who visited Abraham in human form with two angels before Sodom was destroyed. It is this same Jesus who in His glorified form walked in the garden of Eden with Adam.

But here Exodus tells us that the Lord comes into the Tabernacle tent in a cloud to talk to Moses. And Exodus 33:11 gives this wonderful testimony of the close friendship between the Lord and Moses by saying “*And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaks unto a friend.*” However this was not good enough for Moses because it was not “face to face” as we would think, the Lord was hidden in a cloud and Moses asked the Lord if He could see Him.

The Lord’s answer was emphatic in verse 20: “You cannot see my face for there shall no man see me and live...however I will hide you in a cleft of the rock and put my hand over you to protect you and pass by you so you can see my back but my face will not be seen.”

Here is the problem with Moses’ request. He not only wanted to see God but he had said “Show me your glory.” (vrs 38.) It is one thing to see Jesus in human form as He visited Abraham or when He came as a man born of Mary and growing up in Nazareth. It is quite another issue to “see Him as He is”...as God. No man can see Him “as He is in His glory” and live. So when talk of the coming of the Lord...in what way does he come?

John the apostle and friend of Jesus knew what was at stake in the whole issue of “seeing Jesus” because he saw Jesus in all three ways that He appears.

- 1) John saw Jesus as a man, God in flesh when he walked with Him for years as a disciple.
- 2) John along with his brother James and Peter saw Jesus on the mount of transfiguration when Jesus switched “in the twinkling of an eye” into His glorified man/God body.
- 3) And lastly John saw Jesus when he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos. But this was nothing like before...this was Jesus as God and this sighting was so frightening that he said he fell as dead.

What saved John when he saw Jesus as God as described by him in the first chapter of Revelation is that he says right from the start ‘I was in the spirit....’ That is God took him into the spirit realm out of his human body and only there in his spirit body could he see Jesus as he really is....and it was such a frightening sight that he fell as dead.

Can you see now why Jesus told Moses, you cannot see me in my glory,,,it will kill you.

Now you can understand the very important statement by the apostle John in 1 Jn 3:2 “*Beloved now are we the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him in order that we may see him as he is.*”

It is critical that you see what John is saying here and what he is not saying. He has seen Jesus in all three ways. He is talking from personal experience. He is talking about the return of the Lord. He is saying we will see Jesus when He returns. But he says the only reason we will see Him is because we will be like Him....in a spirit body, which at this time we don’t know what that body is like but it will be like Jesus. And that also means that if someone told you Jesus is coming back to Jerusalem in some kind of body that every person in the world can see then you are not really understanding the coming of the Lord as John saw it.

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To clear up the confusion around the coming of the Lord and how we see Him I want to give you seven ways the New Testament describes the various ways in which the Lord God of heaven came down to earth in His three different manifestations as:

- As man in human form.
- As man/God in His resurrection form
- In Spirit as God in man.

I think you will find this revelation of great importance for you to understand what does scripture mean when it speaks of “the coming of the Lord and I want to reveal to you the next great coming of the Lord in the earth, how it will be manifested and how we can hasten that coming of the Lord. In doing so I will show you how this next great coming of the Lord will be the 6th coming with the 7th one being the last coming at the end when he will deliver the Kingdom to the Father. But before “the end” there are great things ahead and greater outpourings of His power and glory in the earth to come.

So let’s go through all 7 comings of the Lord in all His different manifestations. Please note that I am not covering here the many times that the Lord made His presence on earth in whatever form known to people in the Old Testament. That alone is a fascinating study. This study is about the manifestation of God on earth since His incarnation as a man through His birth in Bethlehem. So let’s start there.....

Coming 1: As The Son of Man

This presented a huge problem to the Pharisee theologians of the time of Jesus on earth as a man. Luke wrote his gospel addressed to a man called Theophilus. Luke also addressed his “Acts of the Apostles” to Theophilus. Why? Because this was a very important man with two serious theological problems. I will tell you who this man was and what his two problems were. Problem one I will cover here in Coming 1 and problem two I will cover in Coming 3.

We actually know a lot about Theophilus from the writings of the 1st century Jewish writer Josephus. And it also explains to us what his theological problems were.

Luke addresses his gospel to Theophilus in Luke 1:3 calling him “most excellent Theophilus” which was a title of honour like “your honour” and rightly so because this man was the High Priest in the Temple from 37-41 AD. His father was Ananus (Annas in the Bible) who served as High Priest from 6-15 AD. Which was the time that Jesus at age 12 was confounding the priests in the Temple. Ananus had 5 sons all who served terms as High Priest which is why Josephus recorded this. Caiphias was a son-in-law of Ananus and also a High Priest from 18-37 AD presiding over the trial of Jesus.

Theophilus was therefore well read and well studied in the scriptures and the theological issues of the day as an ex-High Priest. But as such there would have been two mysteries and debates that needed an answer:

- 1) Who was “the Son of Man” referred to in Daniel and the book of Enoch (which he would have read) This was also known as the Second God in Heaven controversy.
- 2) What happened to the Shekinah glory of God that was supposed to be in the Holy of Holies and was not there anymore...a fact which only the High Priest would know who alone of all people and priests was allowed in that sacred space.

Luke wrote his gospel to answer the first question and he wrote his follow up treatise ‘The Acts’ to answer the second question.

The gospel of Luke is known as “the Son of Man” revelation as Jesus referred to Himself so often within that gospel by this title. It does not have the same impact to us today as it did to His hearers in 30AD.

That phrase came from two of the most popular prophecy books of that time, the book of Daniel and the book of Enoch. The great debate of the time was "who is the Son of man referred to in these two books of prophecy/"

I am going to give you some quotes from these two books which will show you why this was such a mystery and you will also see why Jesus

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used this phrase to refer to Himself and why it had such a controversial impact. But just by way of explanation about these two books: The book of Daniel we all know is in our Bible. But the book of Enoch was widely read at that time, it was quoted in the book of Jude in our Bible and was considered scripture by the early Christian fathers. And then it was lost for about 1500 years and then found again and translated in the 1800's. Parts of it was also found in the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947.

Ok, here is what Daniel 7:13-14 says about the Son of Man...

"I saw in the night visions and behold one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion and glory and a kingdom that all people nations and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

The book of Enoch is divided in 5 parts but the Book of Parables (chapters 37-71) gave the scholars the most trouble as they were about "the messiah"; "the righteous one"; "the chosen one"; and "the son of man". They just don't know what to do with this enigmatic person. What is further intriguing is that Enoch at the beginning of his book says that his visions are for a generation far in the future still to come. This is what he says in the beginning...

(Enoch 1:1-3) ***"The words of the blessing of Enoch wherewith he blessed the elect and righteous who will be living in the day of tribulation when all the wicked and the godless are to be removed....I saw visions of the Holy One in the heavens which the angels showed me and from them I heard everything and from them I understood as I saw but not for this generation but for a remote one which for to come."***

And this is what Enoch saw and heard about the Son of Man...

"There I beheld the ancient of days whose head was like white wool and with him another whose

countenance resembled that of a man. His countenance was full of grace...then I inquired of one of the angels who went with me and showed me every secret thing concerning this Son of man; who he was; whence he was; and why he accompanied the Ancient of days. He answered and said unto me. This is the Son of man to whom righteousness belongs; with whom righteousness has dwelt and who will reveal all the treasures of that which is concealed; for the Lord of spirits has chosen him and his portion has surpassed all before the Lord of spirits in everlasting uprightness. (Chapter 46)

And at that place I saw the fountain of righteousness...and at that hour that the Son of man was named in the presence of the Lord of spirits, before the sun and the signs were created, before the stars of heaven were made, his name was named before the Lord of spirits...he shall be the light to the gentiles and the hope of those who are troubled of heart and all who dwell on the earth shall fall down and worship before him. Therefore the elect and concealed one existed in His presence before the world was created even for ever " (Chapter 48)

Can you see why this would cause such theological turmoil among the Rabbi's of Jesus day? There is someone in heaven who is both God and man. This God/man will be worshipped by all the earth, and His kingdom will be everlasting....and then Jesus comes on the scene and says, "I am that Son of man you have been reading about in Daniel and Enoch"!

Which is why Jesus said:

"Henceforth you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Mat. 26:64)

The crowd asked Jesus ***"Who is this Son of man?"*** (John 12:34) and Jesus asked His disciples ***"Who do men say that the Son of man is?"*** (Mat. 16:13) Everyone wanted to know. Jesus answered the issue with this declaration in John 3;13:

"No man has ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven, even the son of man which is in heaven" And that is Him!

This was the first coming of Jesus from heaven to earth as the Son of Man in a human body.

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Coming 2: Coming After the Resurrection

This is the coming of Jesus out of heaven after His resurrection to the Father when He returned to earth in a glorified body to greet His disciples that Sunday night after His resurrection.

Previously He had warned them in John 16:16:
A little while and you shall not see me; and again a little while you shall see me because I go to the Father."

The little while that they did not see him was the 3 days in the grave. After coming out of the grave He told Mary Magdalene at the grave, *'Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father but go to my brethren and say to them I ascend unto my father and to your Father and to my God and your God.'*" (John 20:17)

And then came the *"...and a little while you shall see me."* The time between not seeing Him and when they will see Him again was when coming out of Sheol He ascended to the Father.

And then that night He returned from His time before the throne of God where He presented His blood as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind and received all power in heaven and on earth and came back to earth to meet with His disciples. This is what we can actually call the "Second Coming of Christ" from heaven in a glorified body to greet His disciples that Sunday night.

He spent 40 days on earth meeting with, according to Paul, over 500 disciples privately teaching them about the Kingdom of God. And then it was time to go back up into heaven to the throne of God.

Not only is Jesus now king and reigning...He is reigning from His throne now in heaven. That means we do not have to wait for him to "come back one day" and establish a physical presence in Jerusalem on earth and then supposedly reign from there to establish His kingdom on earth.

That is what the disciples wanted. That is what Christians want today. They want Jesus to return from heaven like He did then in resurrected man/God body and march on Jerusalem.

Jesus did not do that. His throne is in heaven and from there He rules over all.

Psalm 115:3 says *"For our God is in the heavens and he has done whatever he pleases"*. And Peter agrees with this...

1Pe. 3:22 *"Who is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."*

Here Peter is quoting Psalm 110:1 *"The Lord said unto my Lord sit thou at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."*

Please note what happened next: Even though He told them He is leaving them again He said *'I will not leave your comfortless, I will come back again'*" (John 14:18)...that will be the third time coming back to earth. He said the Holy Spirit will come to live in us and He and the Father will come.

Then He took them to the Mount of Olives for His ascension to heaven. And this is very important that He chose that place to ascend because it has great prophetic significance about the next coming of Jesus.

And that was what Luke had to tell Theophilus about what happened to the glory of God and that explanation is found in the book of Acts.

Coming 3: The Coming of the Glory of Christ in Us

The High Priest of Israel had the right and privilege alone to enter the Holy of Holies where the awesome presence of the Lord God was manifested. A rope was tied to his waist in case he died from the terrifying experience and needed to be pulled out.

Except for Theophilus there was no presence of God. It had departed. And any High priest would be studying scripture to find out when last was the glory of God in the Temple, when last was His glory and presence in Jerusalem.

A search of scripture would reveal that the Lord

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said to Moses in Deuteronomy 26:1-2 that when Israel possessed their promised land the Lord would choose a place “to establish His name”.

The first place where God established His name was in Shiloh (Joshua 18:1; Jeremiah 7:12). When the priesthood in that place corrupted itself in the days of Eli, God moved His name or presence from Shiloh (Psalm 78:60) and moved it to Jerusalem (Psalm 78:67,68). After about three centuries later the priesthood in Jerusalem became corrupted and Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord depart from that place as well. The glory first lifted from the Holy of Holies to the threshold (Ezekiel 10:18) and then it moved outside the city to the top of the Mount of Olives (Ezekiel 11:22,23).

There it remained until Jesus Christ in whom is the glory of God ascended to heaven from the top of Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12). Then ten days later on the day of the feast of Pentecost something happened. 120 of the disciples were obedient to the instructions of Jesus to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, the coming of the Holy Spirit! When He came there appeared tongues of fire over the heads of the disciples as they spoke in other tongues.

Theophilus would know what those flames of fire meant that manifested that day. The glory fire of the Shekinah presence of God used to be manifested between the Cherubim guarding over the Ark of the Covenant. That fire had been missing for hundred of years. John the Baptist had prophesied that Jesus would baptize in Holy Spirit and fire!

The missing glory of God was back on earth, but it was not in the temple in Jerusalem. It was now resident in people! Common people. Not priests.

Jesus had said this would come:

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him nor know Him. But you know Him, for He dwells with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you” (John 14:16-18)

Paul recognized the incredible significance of what it means for us to have God dwelling in us. He declared that both we as individuals are the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:15) and we as His church are His temple (Ephesians 2:19-22).

In Colossians 1:24-27 Paul says there is a great mystery of the ages that has been hidden from the world but has now been revealed by His Church:

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for His Body, which is the Church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from generations, but now was revealed to His saints. To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

This is the great mystery: Christ in us!

That means with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, then Christ came as well, and so did the Father. John 14:20...

“In that day you shall know that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you”

This is the third coming of Christ that scripture describes. Jesus coming now in His God form for God is Spirit. And Jesus said it was far better for the disciples if He goes away to the Father because if He does not then the Spirit cannot come. What He means is that He does not want to be in body form here on earth. He wants to be in His Spirit form so that He can dwell in all His disciples, so that His presence can be wherever His disciples are, not just in a temple building in Jerusalem.

In His first coming He came from heaven as Son of Man born in a human body.

In His second coming out of heaven He came in His glorified resurrection body and God/man.

In His third coming out of heaven He came in His Spirit as eternal God with His glory to live in man

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Coming 4: Coming in the Clouds of Judgment in 70 AD to Destroy Jerusalem

At the end of the book of Revelation Jesus makes the mysterious announcement ‘Surely I come quickly’ (Rev.22:20). 2000 years later people are still waiting for Him to come and wonder what He meant by “quickly”. Others just give up and say it is a mystery and we don’t know when He is coming.

Actually if you know that a large part of Revelation was addressed to a major catastrophe that was about to come then you will understand that Jesus did come quickly....and He came in the clouds!

This was the fourth record in the New Testament of Jesus coming out of heaven to earth...this time in judgment. And He came in a “cloud”.

This is what Isaiah 19:1 says...

“The burden of Egypt. Behold the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.”

Here you can see that when scripture speaks of the Lord “coming in the clouds” this in Isaiah refers to the Lord coming upon a nation that is going to be judged. This is another case of the Lord “coming” to earth. Of course we know the Lord is omnipresent and is everywhere, but we are describing all the ways in which scripture speaks of the “coming of the Lord”. Meaning there is a lot more to the coming of the Lord than “the Second Coming”.

Let me give you the historical background to why Jesus in addressing this letter to the churches of Asia through the apostle John and why He warned them “Surely I come quickly”.

These instances of the Lord coming in the clouds refer to His judgment on a nation. That is why Jesus told the generation of Jerusalem that rejected Him that He is coming in a cloud and that meant judgment so much that Jerusalem would be destroyed and with it the temple. His references to

“Behold I come quickly” refer to this coming in the cloud judgment.

But again it also signifies the end of an age for a nation or a people. For Israel it meant the kingdom had been taken away from them and given to another (the gentiles) who is to be the new Israel of God. (and a New Jerusalem and a new Temple, which is His Church!).

The age I am speaking of was the age of national Israel when God chose to the Jews to be His people to bring forth the messiah and bring salvation to the world. That age ended in 70 AD with the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem after having destroyed the whole countryside in rivers of blood they proceeded to destroy the whole false vision of a great national revived Israel with a Davidic king that will be the head of the nations.

Here is how Jesus described that great tragedy in Luke 17 & 21.

Luke 17:30-32 ***“Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man shall be revealed. In that day he which shall be upon the housetop and his stuff in the house let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field let him likewise not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife”***

Now this is important: Jesus is directly describing the day of His revelation. Do you remember how the Book of Revelation opens?

Rev. 1:1 ***“The revelation of Jesus Christ...to show unto his servants things which shortly must come to pass...”***

When is that and day what will happen? Well Jesus described it further in Luke 21: 20-21:

“And when you see Jerusalem compassed about with armies then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains and let them which are in the midst of it depart out and let not them which are in the countries enter therein.”

When was Jerusalem surrounded by armies? In 70 AD. And this is how Jesus describes it...vrs 27: ***“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”***

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That is why Revelation 1:7 picks up these words of Jesus as follows:

“Behold He comes with clouds and every eye shall see him and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.”

What this verse 7 describes is what verse 1 says must shortly come to pass. The apostle John was taken into captivity to the island of Patmos during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Nero. This persecution lasted between 66-68 AD when Nero then died in 68 AD. In 64 AD the priest of the Temple stopped offering a daily sacrifice for Caesar which practice was started when Octavian (later Augustus) passed through Jerusalem after defeating Anthony and Cleopatra. He gave an offering from his own funds to the priests in Jerusalem and asked them to offer a daily sacrifice for him. In 64 AD the rebellion against Rome was stirring. People expected the Messiah soon to appear to deliver Israel according to the prophecies. The Jerusalem church under James were preaching to the crowds “Jesus Christ is the Messiah and He is coming back soon!” When the great fire broke out in Rome in 66 AD Nero blamed the “Nasoreans” (the Christians) for being the ring leaders of the Jewish uprising against Rome. In 67 AD the Roman armies invaded Israel. The spent 42 months at war until Jerusalem was destroyed in late 70 AD.

Remember that Jesus in Math. 24 prophesied that the Temple and Jerusalem would be destroyed and “this generation” would see it all. And they did. And those that “pierced him” as Rev.1:7 said saw Him coming in the clouds of Judgment against Jerusalem.

Josephus the great Jewish general who started the war leading a Jewish army against Rome then switched sides when he realized he had all the prophecies of Daniel wrong. He recorded in detail the course of the war. He stood below the walls of Jerusalem trying to persuade his countrymen to surrender.

Among the many fascinating details of the times and the war Josephus just drops some amazing stories that are very pertinent to the deception of

the Jerusalem church and their miscalculation of the coming of the Lord...

In section (v:vi:3) of his war accounts he recounts the great stones hurled by the catapults of Rome into the city and this is what the watchmen on the walls would shout out:

“and the watchmen that sat upon the towers gave them notice when the engine was let go and the stones came from it and cried out loud in their own country language “THE SON COMETH” so those that were in the way stood off..”

“The Son Cometh”? What was happening was that the cynical zealots in the city were mocking the Christians in the city who were prophesying “Don't worry the Messiah the Son of God is coming in the clouds to save us”.

And did Jesus come in the clouds? Well here is the second remarkable thing recorded by Josephus (section vi:v:3)....

“ on the 21st day of the month Artemisius a certain and prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it and were not the events that followed it....for before sun-setting chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds and surrounding of cities”

So remarkable was this army in the heavens and clouds seen by so many that even the Roman historian Tacitus in his Histories records this phenomenal event. He said “In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict”.

The Anti-Nicene father Hegesippus in his history of the early Jerusalem Church said of James the Lord's brother who was the head of the Jerusalem Church that he would cry in the Temple “The Messiah the Son of God is coming in the clouds”. And the Jerusalem Church grew to many thousands meeting in the Temple grounds and they were what we would today call Messianic Jews. They were all highly Torah observant. They were one of the prime reasons for the incredible rise of the expectation that the time had come for God to

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restore the Kingdom to the Jews.

The Messianic fervour was so great that by 62 AD the High Priest had James assassinated by throwing him off the Temple top. An incredible riot ensued in the city and the Roman procurator had to get rid of the High Priest.

If you go through all the writings of the New Testament epistles you will see the repeated phrases "the last days", "in these last days", "you know in the last days perilous times will come", hereby we know that it is the last days". The entire early Church was convinced they were living in the last days.

And they were living in the last days. The last days of the era of God working through national Israel, the Temple, the sacrifices, the Old Covenant. Jesus was coming in the clouds. And He did come in the clouds and all eyes saw Him just like He said they would and two great Roman historians Josephus and Tacitus recorded Him coming in the clouds....but He came to destroy the old regime and usher in a new era...the time of the New Covenant, the New Israel, the New Jerusalem, the New Temple.

Jesus warned His disciples He was going to destroy the Temple and Jerusalem. He told them when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies then flee. He met with John in Patmos and showed him revelations of the coming war and the coming destruction of Jerusalem to warn the churches and He warned right at the end of Revelation...."behold I come quickly". John right at the beginning of Revelation warned the readers the Lord showed me things which are "shortly coming to pass".

The vast majority of the early church ignored all these warnings. A million people died in Jerusalem in 70 AD. Many were Messianic Jews of the Jerusalem Church. They were deceived by false prophets promising that now is the time for Israel to be restored. The Messiah is coming to rescue us. He is coming in the clouds with a great army to destroy the Romans and set up His kingdom in Jerusalem and restore Israel.

And in the midst of this decades long struggle in the early church as to the nature of the Kingdom of God, how it was to appear etc....there was Paul, the outside Apostle saying no, the brethren from Jerusalem church have this all wrong. They are wrong on who is Israel, they are wrong on the what is the Temple of God, they are wrong on the laws, they are wrong on Jerusalem. Paul lost the end times debate in the church. In his last letter to Timothy he sadly says "All the churches of Asia have left me...". Those were the churches like Galatia and Ephesus that he spent so much time and effort to persuade against the Judaizers....those same churches that Jesus addressed through the vision of John on Patmos...warning them, they are in error...war is coming and Jerusalem is finished. They did not listen.

Jesus warned in Luke and Revelation...

Luke 21:24..."***Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled.***"

Rev. 11: 2 "...***for it is given unto the gentiles and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.***"

Rev. 11:2 is describing Luke 21:24! the invasion of the Roman armies which started in the Spring of 67 AD and ended with the fall and slaughter of Jerusalem in August of 70 AD. Exactly 42 months. In Rev. 16:21 it describes great stones falling on Jerusalem each weighing a talent. Amazingly Joseph describes the great artillery barrage of the Tenth Legion hurling stones weighing a talent for a distance of 2 furlongs. (1320 ft)

We also know John was writing this before the death of Nero (who died on 8 June 68 AD) because in the Rev. 17:1-7 John sees a vision of a woman riding a 7 headed beast. The angel tells John the interpretation. He says she sits on 7 hills (which we know Rome was built on 7 hills) and the angel says the 7 heads also represent 7 kings (or in Rome's case 7 emperors.) He says 5 are fallen, one is and one is to come and when he comes he will only rule a little while. We know who these are from history.

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The dead emperors were Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Caius, Claudius, and the “one now the sixth” was Nero and the 7th which ruled for a very short time after Nero was Galba who only lasted 6 months. We also know that when Rev. 13:18 tells us that the number of the Beast is the number of a man, 666, then the man making war on the saints was Nero Caesar whose name in Hebrew was “NRWN QSR” which are not just letters in Hebrew but numbers as well that add up to 666. And Rev. 13 further says that this Beast would make war on the saints for 42 months which is exactly how many months the war of Rome against a rebellious Israel was from the start of the war to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

From all of these scriptures and historical confirmations we can be very confident that the very much quoted declaration of Jesus in Rev. 22: 12 and 20...”behold I come quickly” and “surely I come quickly” has been fulfilled as are the prophecies that He will come in the clouds as are His prophecies that “this generation” (33 AD to 70 AD) would see the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem but also that all those who pierced Him would see His coming in the cloud of judgment over Jerusalem.

There is no need to pretend that when Jesus said “I come quickly” that from God’s perspective 2000 years later and He has still not come is somehow ok, because can take His own time to do what He wants. He means what He says and He warned that generation what would happen. And it did happen exactly as prophesied!

Coming 5: When He comes for His Saints

Every child of God experiences the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. First when we are born again and Christ comes to live in us, the second coming of Christ when we die and He comes to take us home.

Before His crucifixion Jesus told His disciples that He was going away but that He would return, *“I go to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am you may be also”* (John 14:3).

Paul makes this wonderful statement to the believers in Corinth (2 Cor. 5:6,8):

“Therefore we are always confident knowing that whilst we are home in the body we are absent from the Lord...we are confident I say and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

Jesus has prepared a place for us. I don’t know what it looks like. But this much I know the moment I arrive I will be home. With all that means of family and security and love and surrounded by my heavenly family.

I also know that when I put off this limited inadequate body I will be clothed with a new spirit body of His substance and able to “see Him as He is” and able to stand in the glorious presence of my Father and able to fully flow in the power of God and enjoy endless growth and creative activities with the Lord and His family.

Now let me make a sensible suggestion to correct some bizarre ideas about where we will spend eternity.

This three dimensional cosmos limited by time and space and energy is made for humans in human bodies. All our senses and powers are extremely limited. Einstein proved in this cosmos nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. Our eyes can only detect a very small spectrum of light radiation between 400-700 nm. Meaning we can only see about 7 primary colours. Your energy capacity is about 3,000 calories of about 70 watts of power flow.

Your spirit body is made to travel far faster than the speed of light. Your colour spectrum is in thousands of colours, your strength is beyond comprehension and you are able to handle power densities beyond that of galactic scale power output.

Your destination after death is not to return to this poor cosmos with your superpowers. You are not made for this world. You are made for infinite vistas of heavens beyond number and creative powers beyond comprehension. One day this cosmos is finished...but His eternal Kingdom is never ending. That is the place He has prepared for you.

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Coming 6: The Coming of the Lord to His Tabernacle on Earth

Have you ever had a witness in your spirit or heard a sermon along the following line....there is coming a greater move of God in the earth; there is a greater anointing coming; we are about to cross into the promised land of our inheritance; there is coming a greater manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit; A great wealth transfer is coming; a greater manifestation of the glory of God; Joel's army is rising,....etc.

If you have been in any Holy Spirit anointed meeting for any of the last 20 years you have heard this, you have felt it, there is an anticipation of something about to break forth out of heaven onto this earth. Call it a great revival or the great harvest of souls or whatever. But you feel it in your spirit!

This is the next coming of the Lord!

Here is the problem: Most Spirit anointed preachers know this message, feel it in their spirit, preach it when they can. But they have a problem. Their theology tells them:

- The Antichrist is coming
- The One World government is coming
- The church is going to be taken out of the world. It's the "end times".
- This is not the time for the kingdom of God
- We are not going to bring in world revival that is the job of 144,000 Jews.

Etc etc. You know the story and the sermons.

So let me give you the scriptures that relate to this amazing coming event and I will interpret them for you and what you can expect if this is true.

To get more background to this coming great power of God on earth I encourage you to read my article on the website "The Restoration of All things" There I make this observation....

There are three major feasts of Israel that were to be kept:

The Feast of Passover

The Feast of Pentecost
The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Passover was literally fulfilled on the day of Passover when Christ was sacrificed as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The Feast of Pentecost was literally fulfilled when on the Day of Pentecost the Spirit of God was outpoured on the 120 waiting in the upper room for the promise of the Spirit.

Does it not seem logical that the greatest feast of them all, the Feast of Tabernacles would be also fulfilled?

But the Old testament saints had only a vague idea of what those feasts meant and how they were to be fulfilled. And now we know how two were fulfilled...but what does the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles look like?

Here is my interpretation. See if it witnesses in your spirit: Rev. 21:2-3...

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God."

What this says is that the Lord at some time is going to build Himself a tabernacle or dwelling place on earth that He can come down and inhabit. What could this be and when will it be and what will happen when He does this?

Does it seem right to you that if we are to celebrate the feast of Tabernacles then we must look for a Tabernacle in scripture to guide us as to what is going on here?

Let me give you two other times in scripture that the Lord asked for a tabernacle to be built so He could dwell in it.

The one is the Tabernacle of Moses.
The other is the Temple of Solomon.

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The Lord tells Moses in Exodus 25:8 and 29:45:
“And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them” “And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God”.

God told Moses to build the Tabernacle in the wilderness according to the pattern that He showed him in the heavens. When the Tabernacle was finished and built according to the heavenly pattern something happened at the dedication of the Tabernacle....

"And Moses was not able to enter the tent of the congregation because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Ex.40:35)

The Tabernacle of Solomon

God told Solomon to build a Temple in Jerusalem. David his father gave him the pattern design and the money and building materials he would need. When Solomon was finished building the Temple at the dedication again something happened...

"So the priests could not stand to minister (in the Temple) because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord" (1 Ki.8:11)

Have you heard it preached that Jesus is coming back in a cloud? Can you see from these scriptures what that means?

It means that Jesus is now building His new Temple which is His church. And when we come into the unity of the faith and into the maturity of Christ as His body, then the cloud of glory will descend and the glory of God will fill His new Temple on earth and the glory of God will be manifested to the people of the earth.

This is confirmed in 2 Thessalonians 1:7,10...
***“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”***

There is a coming of Christ from heaven in His Church to be glorified in all the earth. This is not a coming to the old Jerusalem like popular prophecy writers write about....Jesus marching with the army of heaven into Jerusalem and ruling the earth from national Israel.

This is the New Jerusalem because the old Jerusalem is done away with. (Read Galatians 4 carefully Paul predicts old national Jerusalem is to be cast away!). What is the New Jerusalem that allows it to be the Tabernacle of God on earth, a new dwelling place? It is the Church, the Bride of Christ, the Temple of Christ, the City of God.

This is the means for the restoration of power that the Lord wants to bring on the earth. Why?

The first is the destruction of the power of Satan on earth...

Two important scriptures will help us here:
"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; who went about doing good and healing all those that were oppressed of the devil for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

"And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the manifestation of his presence" (2 Th.2;8)

The second is because God wants to heal the nations....

Rev.22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Rev 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

This is not some distant happening in a thousand year's time. The nations are now crying out to be healed!

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There is a greater anointing of power coming on the Temple of God in this world which is the Church. That is "the coming of the Lord in the clouds". This glory will empower each member of the church to do what Jesus did...go out and do good....and heal our societies, our people, our nations of the oppression of the devil and bring deliverance to planet earth! God is not perfecting the saints and filling us with His Holy Spirit to take us out of the world...He is doing it to empower us to destroy the works of the devil and liberate planet earth!

The purpose of the church as the Tabernacle of God is to be a vessel of God to manifest His presence on earth.

The church is now in the process of being restructured according to the pattern that God has determined in the heavens. That is why Jesus said, "I will build my church". And when He has it reorganized, and properly fitted together...then He can fill it with His glory.

The Lord Jesus has been working with the Holy Spirit for the last 2000 years in this great project of building His Church as a fit vessel that can carry and demonstrate the power, the character and the person of Jesus Christ to the world.

This building project is almost complete and all of creation and the nations are crying out and waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God to heal them and deliver them from bondage.

There is much more that can be said of this great coming of the Lord and how the church needs to be prepared to receive this outpouring of the power and presence of the Lord.

I will do more of this in articles on my website to explore this further.

I will also be writing more articles on the concept of the City Church as the Ekklesia of God as a new and more powerful expression of the church in our nations as the vessel that the Lord needs to be the patterns of the heavenly city of Zion built here on earth according to the pattern in heaven to house the government of God on earth.

Coming number 7: Then Comes the End

There is an end to the history of this created cosmos we call The First Heavens. This universe has a beginning and an end.

Rev. 1:8 "***I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending***"

This great cosmic plan of Jesus Christ was made by Him and for Him and when He is finished with this great work of His then He is going to present it to the Father as "It is finished".

1Cor. 15: 24 "***Then comes 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.***"

We are not in the "end times" that Paul is referring to here nor close to the Omega of Christ as to the 'Alpha and Omega". In fact we are not even at the beginning of the end. But we are at the end of the beginning. Because between the soon coming of Jesus Christ to fill the Church with His glory and heal the nations and the final completion of His plan for the cosmos with trillions of galaxies there is an unbelievably vast amount of time commensurate with the vast distances of the universe and the enormous tasks of subduing the galaxies for the endless growth of His Kingdom.

This is how Ephesians 2:7 describes this time...
'That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.'

And what is the essence of this great plan? What does He present to the Father? Hebrews 2:10...
"For it became him for whom are all things and by whom are all things to bring many sons unto glory..."

When the final end comes He will come with the angels of heaven, smelt the cosmos in a final collapse conflagration and the dead will rise and those still alive will be changed from mortal to immortal and He will present His Bride and children to the Father...for an even greater future we can't even begin to imagine.
