

Kingdom Report

Week 25th August 2018

The Mystery of the Coming of the Lord

Let me share with you some radical gospel of the mystery of the coming of the Lord. Like I shared with you on the Rapture, I think there is more here than what you are being told. Here are some thoughts for you to research further....

This is actually a fascinating topic of which an endless number of books have been written so all I can do in this short blog is give you some guidelines that you need to be aware of that are not really presented I think properly in popular preaching and books on what we call the "Second Coming of Christ".

Some of the issues I think that you need to consider in your studies are:

- Where does Christ return to when we say "Jesus is coming again"?
- How does He come?
- What do we expect to see when He comes again?
- What does He do when He comes again?

Here is my first radical idea for you to consider: Where does He come?

The common idea that you will hear in sermons and read in books is that Jesus is returning to Jerusalem in the state of Israel to set up His Kingdom. The American church is heavily invested in this idea and this has permeated throughout the evangelical movement. 'Stand with Israel!' Bomb Iran and Libya, and Iraq and Syria, and now soon Russia and Turkey turn them all to a wasteland to help God protect Israel so that Jesus can return to Jerusalem as His Kingdom capital.

This is all wrong interpretation of scripture and deep deception. This is not what Jesus said or what Paul said or what John wrote in Revelation.

Read what Paul taught about the coming destruction of earthly Jerusalem in Galatians 4. Prophecy books won't touch it. The Bible says earthly Jerusalem is Hagar the bondwoman who is to be cast out..."but the Jerusalem which is above is free which is the mother of us all" (Gal. 4:26). Paul was looking for the New Jerusalem from above, not the old Jerusalem which is to be destroyed.

Jesus told the Jews the Kingdom is taken away from you and given to another. He cursed the fig tree for not bearing any fruit, just leaves and said you will never again bear fruit. Jesus told the Samaritan woman the time is coming when people will not worship God either in the mountain of Samaria or the temple in Jerusalem but in spirit and truth.

John wrote in Revelation what God thinks of Jerusalem (Rev. 11:8) as ***"the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt where our Lord was crucified."*** The Holy City? No God looks at Jerusalem in Israel today and calls it Sodom and Egypt.

Where then will the Lord find a place to make His presence known in the earth" Rev. 21: 2-3 gives us the answer:

"And I John saw the holy city new Jerusalem coming down from God out 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."

If you want to know where the Lord is coming when He returns to earth in power and majesty the answer is....to Jerusalem...no not the one in Palestine...the New Jerusalem. Where is that? The New Jerusalem is the temple of God, the Bride of Christ, the Church. It is Christ in us the hope of the glory to come.

The Second Coming of Christ

There is nowhere in the Bible that you can find the phrase "the second coming of Christ." This is an assumption people make in that Jesus appeared in the 1st Century in Palestine and then went to heaven and then some day in the future in the same way He is going to return to earth for the second time.

Fair enough assumption. However let's look a bit deeper.

Let's agree that Jesus is God and as such has never left earth or heaven, He is Spirit. He is everywhere. Not only that throughout the Old Testament we see Him walking in the garden of Eden, we see Him meeting with Abraham before judging Sodom. We see Him meeting with Moses in the Tabernacle and on Mount Sinai and eating and drinking with 70 elders on the mount. And we can go on with many other appearances of Christ on earth through all time.

But there is a very special way in which we need to handle the coming or return of Jesus in the way that He described it. And that introduces us to the idea of the Kingdom of God has come....but is still coming; Jesus has come...but is still coming.

In fact it is the very words of Jesus to His disciples that introduces us to this dilemma.

Here is what He says in John 14: 16,18,23...

"I will not leave you comfortless I will come to you"

"And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever."

"If a man love me he will keep my words and my father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."

Jesus tells His disciples I am going to leave you but don't worry I will give you another Comforter (the Holy Spirit) and then He adds with this coming of the Holy Spirit, I will return and live in you and in fact bring the father with me and we will live in you.

So does that sound like Jesus is saying I am going away but I am coming back? Does that qualify as "the coming of the Lord"? Yes it does but that is not the only coming

of the Lord. That is why I want you to forget the idea of "the second coming of Christ" it is not scriptural. I have already in previous blogs shared with you how Christ comes in the clouds...that is also a coming of the Lord...in judgment.

Burt what Jesus describes here we call the "parousia" of Christ:

The Parousia of the Lord

This is another coming of the Lord which we must not forget in the midst of all our studies on prophecy and signs of the times. In the New testament the Greek word "parousia" is also used for the "coming" of the Lord. This word in New Testament times was used to denote "presence" or "arrival" or "presence after absence". The "parousia" of the Lord is His promise to every believer "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." (John 14:18). Jesus promised all of His disciples through all the ages, "behold I am with you even to the end of the world." (Math. 28:20).

The coming of the Lord for us therefore is not just an apocalyptic event at the end of time but a continuous present reality that the Lord has truly come to each of us. He is with us, we are not alone. This is the coming of the Lord in His saints and not just for his saints. For Paul says that *"the Lord is coming to be glorified in his saints."* (2 Thes. 1:10) We are to walk daily in His presence, His "parousia". When two or three of us gather together He is in our midst....He has come again...and again.

This concept of the coming of the Lord in His saints and His manifested presence now with us is crucially important for us in the battles ahead. Some would tell you that we are not able to defeat Satan in this world and that we must leave it till Jesus comes with His angels. But let me show you the power of this "parousia" in 2 Thes. 2:8: *"And then shall that wicked one be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."*

I am going to give you the real Greek words for "brightness" and "coming" and then see how it reads. "Brightness" is translated from the Greek word "epiphania" which means "manifestation" and of course "coming" is translated from "parousia". So here is a better translation:

The Lord is going to destroy Satan through "the manifestation of His presence".

Where is He going to manifest His presence? In His people. Who is going to destroy Satan? The Church of Jesus Christ manifesting the presence of Christ in this world. This manifestation of God's presence is only going to increase in His people and with that will mean an increase in our ability to destroy the works of Satan. This is our calling, this is our task and when we have finished that task, then the end will come. All other signs of "the end times" are deception that Paul warned you against.

Every Eye Will See Him.

There are some strange ideas about the coming of Jesus you read and hear. One of those is that with modern satellite TV and CNN all the world will be able to see Jesus coming in the clouds as the network TV cameras record this amazing event. By the

way should you ever see on CNN someone coming out of the clouds in supernatural splendor it will probably be a UFO with a group of fallen angels in side masquerading as Christ and his angels to deceive the whole world.

Seeing Jesus? Now that is an interesting topic that needs a book on its own. But let me run some ideas on that for you to consider.

The best person in scripture to give us some guidance here is the apostle John. For a very good reason. John is unique in that he saw Jesus in all three of His manifestations. If thee ever was anybody who "saw Jesus" it was John and he has some interesting advice for us.

There are 3 manifestations of Jesus;

- Firstly was the fact that in His incarnation on earth He lived the ordinary life of a man, working, supporting His family, getting tired, needing food and sleep. This is the Jesus that John met with his brother and followed as a disciple.

- Secondly there is the Jesus that John saw on the mount of transfiguration with Peter and James, glorified, white bright garments with the glory of heaven shining through Him. This was the glorified Jesus that they also saw after the resurrection. Jesus looked like He always did but was obviously supernatural. John said "we beheld His glory".

- Thirdly was the appearance of Jesus to John recorded in the book of Revelation 1:12-17. This was so terrifying he said "when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead...and he said unto me Fear not..." This was not John's fishing buddy or his friend comforting him after the resurrection...this was who Jesus has always been...God! And it was so terrifying an experience that he fainted and fell as dead...in fear!

John wrote about the coming of the Lord and about seeing Jesus in 1 john 3:2: "Beloved now are w the sons of God and does not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like in order that we may see him as he is."

When John saw Jesus as God on the island of Patmos he said 'I was in the spirit on the Lord's day...' You can only see Jesus as He is...as God, if you are like Him, that is if you are in your spirit body. Your flesh cannot see Him. Moses talked with God for years but one day he asked a personal favour...I want to see your face. He was talking to Yahweh who is Jesus. Jesus answered him and said no man can see God and live, but I will cover you with my hand and walk by you and you can see my back as I pass...and then something strange happened. Instead of seeing God Exodus 34:5-7 says:

"The Lord descended in a cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the Lord and the Lord passed before him and proclaimed The Lord The Lord God merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

People want to see God to be bale to identify Him...who is Jesus. Christians want Jesus to come in the clouds and enter Jerusalem and say to everyone, see this is Jesus,

this is God. Moses wanted to see God. What he saw was the Lord in a cloud and a description of who God is.

If you were to see Jesus of Nazereth you would not be impressed. In fact He was so unremarkable that He disappeared in a crowd, had to be pointed out, was not recognized by even His own disciples on the road to Emmaus. God is not to be classified in human terms as to identity. You cannot see Him as a man and identify who He is. But that is what people want.

Jesus gave us the secret of how the world is going to see Him. Philip wanted to see the Father. Jesus answered him saying "If you have seen me you have seen the Father". The world is going to see Jesus when He comes to tabernacle in His church in the greater outpouring of power and presence, the great parousia of the Lord that is coming.

There is coming a time ahead when the church will come into the unity of the faith and the full stature of Christ. And we will be endued then with a greater anointing of His Spirit. We have now but the "earnest of our inheritance when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Earnest means "down payment". The greater filling is still coming. The world will see God in His tabernacle...His Church triumphant.

The Lord will once again restore His presence on earth in the new Eden. The New Jerusalem. His Bride. We were created in the image of God and the Lord is going to restore His image in us so that when the world looks at us...they see Jesus! We will have the mind of Christ and we will speak His words and do His deeds.

Who Jesus is cannot be defined by what He looks like...He is God and He is Spirit. He is defined by His character...who God is!

I am not saying that we are not going to see Jesus. In fact the same way He left is how He will return. After His resurrection He only appeared to His disciples secretly. Paul tells us more than 500 saw Him. Already all over the world we know that this return of Jesus secretly appearing to His disciples individually in personal appearance is already happening. So are too many appearances of angels to even begin to tell all the wonderful stories. The veil between this world and the next is opening. We are on the threshold of the greatest move of God the world has ever seen.

But I am writing this to you to give you some clues...Jesus has come, He is coming and He will come in greater manifestation. Discern these things in your spirit and not your flesh. Jesus is not coming to slaughter billions of people in Armageddon and He is not coming to set up a Jewish Kingdom. He is coming to be manifested in His saints and we can hasten the coming of the Lord by maturing and growing into the full stature of Christ so that He can fully manifest His presence and His power in our lives.