

## The Biblical Doctrine of the Future Part Two

### I. Introduction

- A. All orthodox (Bible-believing) Christians believe that Christ (Messiah) first came as a Lamb (to be sacrificed for sin) and that He will return to earth again as the victorious Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5). The consensus on the details of His second coming over 2000 years of church history, however, is non-existent. The great Creeds of Christendom only mention that Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead. For all other cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith such as: the triune God, substitutionary atonement, the authority of Scripture, the resurrection, etc. it is a safe interpretative principle to refer to what the Holy Spirit has taught the church over 2000 years of its history.
- B. Ironically, there is no sparsity of revelation about future things in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. The problem is two-fold; (1) how to see all the details in the order that they occur, (2) how to interpret the highly figurative language.
- C. I believe there is a parallel in the prophecies of Christ's first and second comings. The first Messianic prophecy occurred in Gen. 3:15. If Creation occurred 5554 B.C. (Using the numbers in the Greek translation of the OT in chapters 5 and 11) it took over 5000 years for Christ to bruise the head of the Serpent on the cross! During those 5 millenniums there were perhaps several hundred prophecies having to do with the coming Messiah, and yet those believers, and those knowledgeable of the OT, still were confused about how the exact details would play out. While great scholars today differ about the events and the chronology of Christ's second coming, we must not despair; we must still be students of the Word and pray for illumination. What we must do, and that is the purpose of the Briefing, and that is to first of all try to isolate what seems to be clearly taught.

### II. What Seems to be Clearly Taught in the NT about Christ's Second Coming?

- A. Jesus very clearly predicted in Jn. 14:3 *I will come back and receive you unto myself...* Another clear passage in Acts 1:9-11 *After he had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."* And, another clear passage in Heb. 9:28 *so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.* There are other verses, but from the above we can clearly, and without hesitation, declare that Christ will return again physically to earth.
- B. In the light of the clear teaching of His return what can we conclude about the reason for His return?
  1. To Raise all the dead and those alive for Judgement (Matt. 25: 32;46)
  2. To Reign. The Father will make *his enemies the footstool of his feet* (Ps. 110:1).
  3. To fulfil prophecies of His power and Glory
  4. His return will be physical. Every eye will see Him. He will plant his feet on the Mount of Olives.

### III. Disputed Future Events.

- A. The Rapture

B.  
A. A list of last-day events proposed by scholars consists of: The rapture, the antichrist, the tribulation, the future of physical Israel, the battle of Armageddon, the second coming of Christ, the final judgement, the Millennium, The eternal state,

B. An important interpretative principle that should be applied

II. Some Presuppositions

A. God is sovereign over Human history

B. Predictive prophecy is miraculous

III.