

# **“Faithfull Till He Comes”**

## **Titus 2:13-15**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. Who doesn't like a thrilling conclusion to a great story?
  - 1. The Bible contains the greatest story ever told (creation, the fall, redemption)
  - 2. But the Bible also contains the greatest conclusion to this great story
  - 3. What is the thrilling conclusion?
    - a) “The blessed hope of the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).
- B. As Christians, we have a glorious future and hope
  - 1. It's based on the promises of God, found in the Bible, the Word of God
  - 2. The Second Coming of Christ is a major doctrine of both the Old and New Testaments
  - 3. History (His story) is moving to a grand climax
  - 4. How will it all unfold?
    - a) The answer is found in the Bible
- C. Why study the doctrine of the End Time events?
  - 1. Aren't many true Christians divided over this doctrine?
    - a) Yes, but we are not divided over the fact that Christ is coming back
- D. Why study Bible prophecy?
  - 1. All Scripture is “profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - 2. It encourages us to Holy Living (1 John 3:3)
  - 3. It encourages us to be steadfast in serving the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
  - 4. As we study this doctrine, we must use the plain or literal method of interpretation
- E. So, what does the future hold?
  - 1. I want to give you six future events in their chronological order:

### **II. The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

- A. It's not the Second Coming
  - 1. It's a New Testament mystery (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)
  - 2. It was promised by Jesus (John 14:1-3)
  - 3. It involves only the church “in Christ” (Matthew 24)
  - 4. It's the church's imminent hope
  - 5. The Church Age (signs for the church)
- B. Will the church go through the Tribulation? (No!) Reasons for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture:
  - 1. Daniel's 70 weeks are for Israel, not the church
  - 2. Paul's words for the problem (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
  - 3. The Doctrine of Immanency
  - 4. Christians are not appointed to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)
  - 5. The promise to the church in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:10)
  - 6. The church is not seen on earth in Revelation (Revelation 6-18)
  - 7. The restrainer removed (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)

### **III. The Emergence of the Antichrist** (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)

- A. After the church is removed, Satan will reveal the “Man of Sin” or the “Son of Perdition” (vv. 1-3)
1. We know him as the “Antichrist”
    - a) He is found in both the Old and New Testaments
      - 1) (Daniel 9:27)
      - 2) (Matthew 24:15)
      - 3) (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)
      - 4) (Revelation 13)
  2. A survey of the Antichrist
    - a) He comes into power through a revived Roman Empire (Daniel 7:3-8)
    - b) He makes a covenant with Israel for seven years (Daniel 9:27)
    - c) He breaks the covenant after 3-1/2 years (2 Thessalonians 2:4-5)
      - 1) It’s the Abomination of Desolation
      - 2) (Daniel 9:27)
      - 3) (Matthew 24:15)
      - 4) Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13)
    - d) He has great satanic power (v. 9)
    - e) He deceives many (v. 10)
    - f) He comes to his end at the Second Coming (v. 8)

### **IV. The Tribulation** (Matthew 24:21)

- A. It’s found in both the Old Testament and New Testaments
1. It’s called “The Day of the Lord”
    - a) (Isaiah 13:6-9)
    - b) (Joel 1:15)
  2. Jesus said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).
  3. It’s the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel’s 70-week prophecy
  4. Its purpose?
    - a) To punish the sinful Christ-rejecting world
    - b) To prepare Israel for the coming of the Messiah
      - 1) “The time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7)
  5. Its source?
    - a) It’s from God
      - 1) “The Lord maketh the earth empty” (Isaiah 24:1)
      - 2) It comes from the almighty (Joel 1:15)
      - 3) “The hour of His judgement” (Revelation 14:7)
      - 4) “The wine of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:10)
  6. It’s not for the church
    - a) “for God hath not...” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)
    - b) It’s found in Revelation chapters 6-19 (church in Heaven)
  7. Its end?
    - a) At the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21)
    - b) It’s the darkest just before the dawn

### **V. The Second Coming of Christ** (Revelation 19:11-16)

A. It's a major theme of the Old and New Testaments

1. Even though the exact expression "The Second Coming of Christ" is not found in the Bible
  - a) "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).
  - b) Jesus said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:29-30).
2. Contrast with Christ's first coming (Revelation 19:11-16)
3. Christ's Second Coming will be (Acts 1)
  - a) Visible ("they saw Him taken up")
  - b) Glorious ("A cloud received Him out of their sight")
  - c) Personal ("this same Jesus")
  - d) Literal ("in like manner")
    - 1) Illustration- When God shows up

## **VI. The Millennium** (Revelation 20:1-3)

A. Again, it's found in both the New and Old Testaments

1. We see that Christ's coming is Pre-Millennial
2. What happens when Jesus comes back?
  - a) He destroys the Antichrist and False Prophet, and puts an end to the war (Revelation 19:17-21)
  - b) He binds Satan for 1000 years (Revelation 20:2)
  - c) Jesus the King will sit on the throne of David
  - d) He will "reverse the curse" (Isaiah 11:6-7)
  - e) He will judge all the unsaved dead from His Great White Throne
    - 1) Satan is cast into Hell (Revelation 20:10)
    - 2) Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15)
  - f) It's the answer to our prayers ("Thy kingdom come")

## **VII. The New Heaven and Earth** (Revelation 21:1-18)

A. Are you looking for that "blessed hope?"

1. Jesus promised to come again (John 14:1-6)
2. Have you trusted Him?
3. Where will you spend eternity?