

07 ET – The Second Coming – Matthew 24-25

[SLIDE 1]

The most incredible and spectacular of all events in the history of our planet, is yet to come. I refer to the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ when He comes in power and Glory to set up a kingdom which will last for a thousand years upon the earth. **[SLIDE 2]**

Some refer to this event as the REVELATION OF CHRIST or the GLORIOUS APPEARING.

This morning, we want to share something of the details of the Lord's return and what it might mean to us

Previously we have talked of the TRIBULATION period when the whole world will face the judgment of God and Israel will face the "TIME of JACOB'S TROUBLE".

There will be upon the earth in those days a GLOBAL system of governance where ONE MAN, referred to as the BEAST or **[SLIDE 3]** the ANTICHRIST will rule all the nations.

Eventually he will even demand that every person on earth the WORSHIP him as God.

In those days, people will not be able to **BUY** or **SELL** without the **NAME** of the Beast or his **NUMBER** on their hands or foreheads.

Many will follow his wicked ways at that time and continually refuse to bow to God, instead defiantly shaking their fists at Him.

At the same time, however, there will also be a great number of people from every tribe and nation and language group who will come to faith in Christ, not the least being some 144,000 **JEWS** who will go out to witness for Him in those last days.

Now, we do not know the exact chronology of the concluding events of the TRIBULATION.

- However, it would seem that, in the **2nd half of this 7-year period of TRIBULATION** on earth, although this **WORLD LEADER** exercises incredible power, **unrest develops against him and some individual nations and their armies, particularly from the East, rise up to challenge his authority.** [SLIDE 4]

- **Dan 11:40-45** – tells of a series of Campaigns to the **NORTH AND SOUTH** of Israel with Antichrist eventually setting up his HQ between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Zech 13:8** – As the war continues, Zechariah tells us that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the people in **ISRAEL** will be “cut off and die”
- **Zech 14:2** – then he chronicles the gathering of nations around **JERUSALEM** and its **FALL** [SLIDE 5]
- **Rev 16:14 & 16** tell us that under the influence of demonic spirits, **GREAT armies from all over the world** will gather in Israel. Many battles will take place culminating in a gathering at a place known as **Armageddon**, understood probably to refer to the plains of Esdraelon/Jezreel around the hill/s of MEGIDDO. This is not ‘the battle of Armageddon’ (a mis-nomer) but a place of gathering in advance of the last great battle of the kingdoms.

[SLIDE 6]



Valley of JEZREEEL



Joel 3:2, 12-14 – places the armies at the end of the campaign in the **VALLEY OF JEHOSOPHAT**

While there has been some difference of opinion, most commentators believe this is the **KIDRON VALLEY** [SLIDE 7] on the eastern side of The Old City of Jerusalem. It runs along the eastern wall separating the Temple Mount from the

Mount of Olives, then continues east through the Judean Desert, towards the Dead Sea.



- ***[Joel 3:2] I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.***
- ***[Joel 3:9-16] Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. 10. Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.'"***

11. Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. 12. "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow; For their wickedness is great." 14. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. 15. The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. 16. The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

It is at this point as armies are gathered all over Israel and specifically at the Valley of JEHOSAPHAT, that Christ and His armies will return. [SLIDE 8]



CHRIST & HIS ARMIES

READ: Rev 19:11-14

All the enemies of God who have defied his authority and opposed His people Israel will face destruction. As they gather in the land as described above, they will be alerted to the 2nd Coming of Christ by phenomena in the skies... [SLIDE 9]



COSMIC SIGNS (Lightning, Sun, Moon and stars)

Jesus said of His 2nd Coming...

READ: Matt 24:27-29

READ: Luke 21:25-26

By these SIGNS, people across the world will realise something of monumental importance is about to happen... **[SLIDE 10]**



SIGN and MOURNING

READ: v 30

As they see “the sign of the Son of man”, they begin to grieve as they know the time of judgment has come!

At that time, the Jewish people in particular will be facing terrible destruction and they cry out to MESSIAH to come and save them.

As Jesus hears their cry, for the JEW there will be a different type of mourning...

ISRAEL'S REDEMPTION

READ: Luke 21:27-28

READ: Zech 12:9-10

And for the gathered armies, representing a world deep in bondage to sin and wickedness, the recognition that Jesus is coming causes them now to put aside their differences and unite to fight against the coming King...

CHRIST'S TOUCHDOWN

READ: Zech 14:3-5

[SLIDE 11]



WAR AGAINST CHRIST

READ: Rev 19:15-16, 19-21

[SLIDE 12]



SATAN BOUND

READ: Rev 20:1-3

RESURRECTION (OT and TRIB Saints)

READ: Dan 12:13 & Rev 20:4

[SLIDE 13]



JUDGEMENT of NATIONS

READ: Matt 25:31-34, 41

Those who are alive and come through this time of JUDGMENT, now go into the Millennial Kingdom – both JEW and GENTILE.

For your interest, following His revelation of these details, Jesus spoke in a series of illustrations:

- Matt 24:32-35, the parable of the **FIG TREE**
- Matt 24:36-44, example of the **DAYS OF NOAH**
- Parable of the **CAREFUL HOUSEHOLDER**
- Matt 24:45-51, the parable of the **FAITHFUL and WISE SERVANT**
- Matt 25:1-13, the parable of the **WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS**
- Matt 25:14-30 and the parable of the **TALENTS.**

Combined, their basic message can be summed up in the words of [Luke 21:34-36](#).

Many have been unclear as to their exact application and it is true that different commentators hold some varying ideas.

However, the context plainly shows these things are said to ISRAEL of the time, warning them to be ready for Jesus' soon coming in power and glory. Now, the Church too should be challenged by the basic message behind these illustrations for they encourage us also to be watching, but most of this is specific to the time. **[SLIDE 14]**

SO, WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN TO US?

- **Good will** ultimately triumph – evil will be defeated and punished!
- **Injustice** will pass when Jesus returns.
- **There** is a time of Judgment and reckoning coming for this world.

- **God is** working to a plan He has already revealed to us.

- **Be** READY!