

Hunter Whiddon

TBC – Arlington, Texas

September 27, 2020 – Sunday Night

# The Future Work of Christ

Titus 2:13

There are a number of things the Lord Jesus Christ is yet to accomplish, the two most notable being:

- His return
- His Kingdom

## **I. THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

There are two stages to the second coming of Jesus Christ — just as there were two notable events associated with His first coming, the cradle and the cross.

“Looking for that BLESSED HOPE, and the GLORIOUS APPEARING of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” — Titus 2:13.

These stages will be separated by a seven-year period of time known as “Daniel’s 70TH Week.”

- The first stage will be when Christ returns in the air FOR His saints — the “Rapture.” This is the Blessed Hope.

- The second stage will be when Christ returns to the earth WITH His saints. This is the Glorious Appearing.

## **A. THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST IN RELATION TO THE BELIEVER:**

“Christ coming for His saints.”

The next great supernatural event set to occur according to God’s prophetic calendar is commonly referred to as the “Rapture.” It is the “first resurrection,” and it involves all believers in Christ — living and dead.

### **1. The Rapture Promised.**

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again...”  
— John 14:3.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven...” — I  
Thessalonians 4:16.

“...unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time...” — Hebrews 9:28.

### **2. The Rapture Pictured.**

I Corinthians 15:51-53. “Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be

changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”

I Thessalonians 4:13-17. “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”

This glorious event will be instantaneous:

“And, behold, I come quickly” — Revelation 22:12.

It will involve the bodily resurrection of deceased saints and the glorification of living saints:

Philippians 3:20,21. “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his

glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” See also: II Thessalonians 2:1.

### **3. The Rapture’s Purpose.**

a. A Comforting Hope — I Thessalonians 4:18.

b. A Purifying Hope — I John 3:1-3.

c. A Blessed Hope — Titus 2:13.

The word “hope” means “assurance” — not ‘wishful thinking.’

Our participation in the Rapture is part of our great salvation and rests upon the finished work of Christ.

### **4. The Rapture’s Position.**

The Bible teaches a “Pre-Tribulational Rapture,” meaning that this event will occur before (pre) Daniel’s 70TH Week (which is sometimes referred to as “the Tribulation.”)

Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

a. **Daniel’s 70TH Week is a Period of Wrath** — Revelation 6:1,17.

b. **Christians are not Appointed to Wrath**

— I Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

c. **God has Promised Deliverance from the Coming Tribulation** — Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word

of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. — Luke 21:35,36.

**d. Daniel's 70TH Week has its Focus on Israel** — Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:24; 12:1; Joel 3:2.

**e. Christians are to Expect the Rapture at any Moment.**

The Rapture has always been imminent so we should always be on the lookout for His return.

## **5. The Rapture's Postlude.**

It is debated when it will happen post-rapture but we know that after the Rapture every Christian will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account of his or her life and service as a believer:

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, UNTIL THE LORD COME, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God” — I Corinthians 4:5.

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” — Romans 14:10,12.

II Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things

done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”

This is not a judgment for salvation, but for SERVICE specifically built upon the foundation which has been laid for every New Testament church — I Corinthians 3:9-15.

The Lord for good and faithful service will give rewards in the form of “crowns.”

## **B. THE RETURN OF CHRIST IN RELATION TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL:**

“Christ coming with His saints.”

This event is commonly referred to as the “Revelation” or “Second Coming of Christ,” when every eye shall see Him.

“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 24:30.

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” — Acts 1:11.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him” — Revelation 1:7.

In contrast to the Rapture, at this event the Lord Jesus Christ will actually set foot on the earth.

### **1. The Time Of The Revelation.**

According to a number of key prophecies, especially that of Daniel 9:25-27, the return of Christ to the earth will occur after a seven year period known as “Daniel’s 70TH Week.”

Because the Rapture must occur prior to this time, we conclude that Christ’s coming will occur approximately seven years after the Rapture.

### **2. The Setting For The Revelation.**

The Great Tribulation is a time of special testing for the nation of Israel during the reign of a false Messiah whom the Bible calls the “Antichrist.”

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it” — Jeremiah 30:7.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” — Daniel 12:1.

“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.**

At the end of this awful time (the events of which are described in Revelation 6–19), the city of Jerusalem will find itself under a hopeless siege — Zechariah 14:1,2. At this point of desperation the remnant of Israel will turn to their true Messiah, Jesus Christ.

### **3. The Sequence Of The Second Coming**

**a. Jesus Christ will return in glory with the hosts of heaven** — Revelation 19:11-21; Jude 14,15.

**b. Jesus Christ will set foot upon the Mount of Olives** — Zechariah 14:3-7.

**c. Jesus Christ will destroy the armies of the Antichrist** — Revelation 19:17-21.

**d. The nations of the living will be judged** — Matthew 25:31-34; Joel 3:2,11-16.

**e. Christ’s kingdom established on earth** — see below.



## II. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST

The future earthly reign of Jesus Christ is the subject of much Bible prophecy, especially in the Old Testament. e.g. Micah 4:1-8; Zechariah 14:8-21.

It will be:

### A. A LITERAL REIGN OF 1,000 YEARS:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a KING SHALL REIGN and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the EARTH. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” — Jeremiah 23:5,6.

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a THOUSAND YEARS, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the THOUSAND YEARS should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and REIGNED WITH CHRIST a

**THOUSAND YEARS.** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the THOUSAND YEARS were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall REIGN WITH HIM a THOUSAND YEARS” — Revelation 20:2-6.

### **B. A GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS:**

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever” — Isaiah 9:7.

### **C. AN ORDERED KINGDOM:**

#### **1. Jerusalem Shall Be The Center Of Government.**

See: Isaiah 2:2-4; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 2:10,11; 8:2,3.

#### **2. Jerusalem Shall Be The Center Of Worship.**

See: Zechariah 6:12,13; 14:16-21.

According to Ezekiel 40–46, a glorious temple will be erected in Jerusalem wherein the presence of God will be as never before.

#### **3. A Purged Israel Shall Dwell In An Enlarged Israel.**

— Ezekiel 20:33–28.

Ezekiel 48 describes the division of the millennial land, which will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:18).

**4. Christ Shall Rule The Earth With A Rod Of Iron.**

See: Psalm 2:6-9; 72:9-11; Isaiah 11:2-5; Micah 4:1-5.

**5. Christians Shall Be Assigned Governmental Duties.**

See: Matthew 19:28; 25:14-30; Revelation 5:9,10; 20:4.