



Behold, He is Coming! (Part 2)
Revelation 1:7-8
GCSP - 07/25/2010

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but for those of you who watch television and/or listen to the radio, you are about to be deluged with political campaign commercials. Some will be truthful, some will contain bits and pieces of truth, and some will be completely based on rumor, innuendo, and bald-faced lies. There will be no easy way to determine the truth of any advertisement you see or hear.

A gentleman who made a comment on a mutual friend's Facebook page this past week stated that he couldn't believe in God without solid factual truth. Even though I do not know this person I couldn't resist so I made a few comments of my own to prove the existence of God; to which this unbeliever just brushes aside without really considering the evidence I submitted. He either did not want the truth or his idea of the truth is somewhere along the lines of requiring God to confront him face-to-face and prove that He is God before he would believe.

As a child I remember the hippies and other radicals of the 60's, who started this country down the path of disbelieving that absolute truth even exists. The rebellion against the "establishment" as they called it, the government, and any other authority that began to gain momentum in that era has grown to epic proportions today. Everyone has their own version of the truth and very few accept the Bible as true, even many who profess to be Christian doubt certain aspects of the Bible.

Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life...**" so as Henry Blackaby said in his book, *Experiencing God*, "*Truth is a Person.*" And when you add **John 1:1 (In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God)** and **John 1:14 (And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us)** to Jesus' words of "**I am the truth**" you get the undeniable fact that the Bible you hold in your lap this morning is not a truth, but the truth.

The truth we want to look at this morning is the truth of Jesus Christ coming again.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of the **Revelation**.

Revelation 1:7-8

Let's pray.

Revelation 1:7a

"**Behold, He is coming...**" Last week I got started on this passage but obviously felt led to deal with what our response should be to His coming as opposed to following the verses we have here in the Book of Revelation. We spent our time primarily in **Romans 13:11-14** dealing with the aspects of taking advantage of the time and opportunity we have right now in light of Christ's imminent return, and how we should be living our lives.

This week we will deal primarily with the event of the Lord's return as it appears in these two verses.

The Apostle John opens this verse with the word, “**Behold.**” This same word is used twenty-five times in the Book of Revelation. It is an exclamation used to arouse one’s mind and heart to sit up and pay attention to what is coming next. The sense is that you are about to hear or witness a startling or profound truth, and the nature of this truth demands your careful attention. Fittingly, the very first use of this word in the Book of Revelation is to call our careful attention to the earth-shattering truth that **He (Jesus) is coming!**

And to add certain emphasis to this truth, the Greek word for “**coming**” that the Apostle John uses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is in the present tense, not the future tense. This literally means that the coming of our Lord is so close and so imminent that Jesus is already on the way. It obviously doesn’t mean that He started to come back when John wrote this over 1,900 years ago, and it is taking that long to get here, it instead simply means that His return is certain; the prophetic events that will culminate in the return of Jesus Christ are already in motion and cannot be stopped. In that sense, Jesus is already on His way.

Revelation 1:7b

“**...with the clouds...**” This doesn’t mean Jesus will be carried on the clouds or escorted by the clouds, it simply means what it says. But, the clouds could also be symbolic. Through the Bible, clouds are frequently used in connection with the presence of God.

While the Children of Israel wandered in the desert for forty years, a cloud represented God’s presence in the camp. When Moses was giving God’s Law at Mount Sinai, a thick cloud was on the mountain where Moses met with God. When the Tabernacle was constructed and Moses met with God in the tent of meeting, a pillar of cloud descended at the entrance of the tent. Both the Tabernacle and the Temple were filled with a cloud when the glory of the Lord came down.

So when John says, “**Behold, He is coming with the clouds,**” besides the literal aspect of actual clouds being in the air with Him, it is also a symbol of God’s glory surrounding the Second Coming. It is representative of God the Father’s stamp of approval on God the Son returning to the earth in all of His glory for all to see.

Revelation 1:7c

“**...and every eye will see Him...**” When Jesus came the first time, only a few shepherds witnessed it along with Joseph and Mary. A few old prophets saw Him and recognized Him shortly thereafter, and a group of magi came a few months later to worship Him, but that was pretty much all who saw Jesus come the first time. When Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, with the clouds by the way, there were only 120 witnesses. But when He returns, all eyes will see Him; no one will miss this.

I can’t explain how this is possible for every eye on the planet to witness the return of Jesus other than to say that the glory of the Lord is so bright and so consuming that when He does appear in all of His glory there will be nobody who does not see it and understand it. People like the gentleman I spoke of earlier on Facebook will have all the proof they need, but if they waited that long to believe it will tragically be too late.

Revelation 1:7d

“**...even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him...**” The soldiers who literally pierced Jesus at the crucifixion are obviously not alive and well

during the Second Coming, and they already know the truth about Jesus at this time, so there is more to this statement than meets the eye.

Hold your place in the Book of **Revelation** and turn with me in your Bibles to the Old Testament Prophecy of **Zechariah**.

Zechariah 12:10

Zechariah is prophesying about a future event in this chapter, when the nation of Israel as a whole will look upon their Messiah, whom they pierced, or crucified. The mourning and weeping prophesied in this verse refers to their repentance; these are tears and grief over realizing their monumental mistake.

The Apostle Peter, through preaching to the Jews of his day, saw a small preview of this national repentance in Jerusalem shortly after Pentecost.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Acts**.

Acts 2:22-23; 3:14-15

Most of the Jews, who heard Peter preach this message, came to the same realization that all of Israel will come to in the not-so-distant future: Jesus is their Messiah; the One they pierced is the promised Messiah of God.

For the Jews of Peter's day (**those who pierced Him**) and for Israel in the days to come, this realization leads to repentance and salvation. For those who wait until this moment foretold in the Book of Revelation (**all the tribes of the earth**), when every eye will see Him, the result will be catastrophic and their weeping and mourning will be one of fear and doom.

I won't take the time right now, because we will study each of these as we come to the more detailed descriptions contained in the Book of Revelation, but Israel's realization is followed by repentance and salvation, and the other nation's realization is followed by defiance and destruction. Both of these events happen during the Tribulation.

We do get a hint in regards to **the tribes of the earth** realization being followed by defiance instead of repentance hidden in the meaning of the Greek word translated as **mourn** in this verse. It means to strike, to lament, or to cut, and the sense of the word is a violent grief when all hope is lost. It was primarily used in reference to funeral dirges and in pagan rituals like that described for us in **1 Kings 18:28** when the prophets of Baal cut themselves in an attempt to call down fire to consume the sacrifice set up by Elijah.

The basic sense is that every person who rejected Jesus Christ will wail and mourn when they see Him. They will cry out in anguish because they have cursed Him, rejected Him, ignored Him, neglected Him, rebelled against Him, and opposed Him. The realization that they did all of this and more, and now fully know the truth of who He is, and also fully know that they are too late and beyond any possibility of hope, will elicit these cries and self-mutilations.

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-8, says, "...the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Jude**.

Jude 14-15

That's just a small sampling of many passages that refer to the judgment on those who reject Jesus Christ, and these are the ones referred to who will be mourning with agonizing grief when the Lord returns.

Again, we will clearly see this response even more so when we get to **Revelation 9, 11, and 19**.

Flip over the page with me in your Bibles and get back to the Book of **Revelation**.

Revelation 1:7e

"...**So it is to be. Amen.**" The English rendering of the word amen is "so be it." Thus John responds to the Second Coming of the Lord with the phrase, "So it is to be, so be it." In other words, John says, "Your prophecy is true, so bring it on Lord, I'm ready!" And I say, "Your prophecy is true, so bring it on Lord, I'm ready!"

I say that as a believer but I guess I say it somewhat selfishly. I say it because I am tired of the struggle with sin and with sinners. I say it because I am sick and tired of the Lord continually being abused and maligned and ridiculed. I say it because I don't know if I can stand another day of the Lord being kicked out of our country. I say it because I am weary of Satan's constant barrage of attacks and the affects he is having on families and marriages. I say it because I am saved and I want to be rid of this eroding body and forever be with the Lord in a perfect and eternal body!

But I say it selfishly because there are billions on this earth who still need to know Jesus, so my prayer should be, "*Lord, please tarry a little while longer. Give me another opportunity to share your message of salvation. Give the lost more time to come to You. Renew my strength in You to keep pressing on to the goal of the high calling in Christ Jesus.*"

Revelation 1:8a

"**I am the Alpha and the Omega...**" God basically puts His signature on everything that has been and will be said in the Book of Revelation. He is "**the Alpha and the Omega.**" Alpha is the very first letter in the Greek alphabet and omega is the very last letter in the Greek alphabet. The implication is not just that He is the beginning of all things and the end of all things, but that He is also everything in between, and thus He is the only One who can bring all these things to pass and the only One who can offer salvation to the lost.

The exhortation is clear; we must put our trust in Jesus Christ the Lord and cast our cares and our very lives upon Him. No one else can rescue us or redeem us. No one else can forgive us and reconcile us to God the Father. No one else can snatch us out of darkness and place us in His glorious light. No one else can remove us from the power and control of Satan and free us from the bondage of sin. Only Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega and He alone has the power we cannot survive without.

Revelation 1:8b

"...**who is and who was and who is to come...**" Our Lord is eternal, meaning He not only is now and forever will be, but that He has always been. I know our miniscule fragile minds cannot grasp the concept of God never having a beginning, never having a starting point, but

that is the fact and the truth of the matter. God is not confined, constrained, or defined by space and time, and thus there is no question as to the truth of the Second Coming.

This morning Jesus is the same Person He has always been. Tomorrow Jesus will be the same Person He has always been. Next year Jesus will be the same Person He has always been. A million years from now Jesus will be the same Person He has always been. His love for us will always be the same perfect love He has loved us with from the start.

But this also means His judgment and wrath will also always be the same toward those who reject Him. He is the same perfect, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent God that has always been and always will be.

Revelation 1:8c

“...the Almighty.” The Lord of Hosts is His name; the Omnipotent One. Since He is all-powerful, absolutely nothing can stop or thwart His plan and His return.

This also means that He has the power to fulfill every promise He has made to you and me.

Romans 8:28 says, **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”**

Beloved, I know this verse is one of the most quoted verses in Scripture and I know you have probably had it quoted to you on numerous occasions when trouble and trial and tragedy strikes, and I know that it may have become so familiar to you that it has lost some of its meaning. But take a fresh look at the truth it contains; open your eyes to the promise as if it is for the first time.

The Almighty, the All-Powerful One, the Lord of Hosts, promises to take every trial, every tribulation, every trouble, every offense, every persecution, every tear you have shed, every hurt you have felt, every wrong that has ever been done to you, and every tragedy you have faced, and turn each and every one of those to your personal good. The God who has no equal and no rival, promises that He will turn the bitter water of your life into sweet wine. He guarantees that the thorns in your life will come up roses. God will rework and recreate all of your problems into blessings, if you are one of His and if you love Him.

And how do we express and prove our love to Him? Jesus said multiple times that we prove our love by obeying His Word and by loving one another.

This is the Lord Jesus, and behold, He is coming!

Let's pray.