

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON – The Promise of His Coming Again Part 3
The First, the next and the Second
Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-4

03/12/2006

2 Peter 3:1-4 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

The First Coming of Christ.

No Christian can deny the first coming of Christ. Every year we celebrate that wonderful event. We call it Christmas. In your handout we see that His first coming fulfilled many of the Old Testament prophecies.

His first coming was a gift of God, for God so loved the world that He gave... The prophet Isaiah say that He was despised and rejected by men.

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. NKJV

He first came as a defenseless baby. His parents had to flee to Egypt to protect His life. We all know the story. How He lived for 33.5 years, was beaten, crucified, buried and rose on the third day in victory.

He came and they knew Him not. He came as a lamb and as a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world. He also came and established His church to be His bride and He promised to return for a church/bride without spot or wrinkle.

We are approaching Easter, the time of His death.

The Jews of that day were looking for the Messiah.

The Messiah was considered to be the instrument by whom God's kingdom is to be established in Israel and in the world.

The people on that day we call Palm Sunday, received Him as a king they were willing to accept Jesus as the Messiah with the expectation that He would overthrow the Romans and restore the Jews. The shouts of Hosanna were about them more than about Christ.

HOSANNA - "Save we pray": the multitude's cry at Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matt 21:9,15; Mark 11:9-10; John 12:18). Taken from Ps 118,

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Ps 118:25-26 25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. NKJV

I imagine that some in the crowd were thinking if this is the Messiah, He will save us from the Romans.

Jesus was bringing salvation all right and from a more formable foe that the Romans, He had with Him salvation from sin.

We know how those very same people cried. “let Him be crucified”

Sometimes we can be like that. We are willing to praise God even give Him glory. But when He does not do for us what we want, or we have been taught to expect, as these people were, or in the time frame we expect, we may not cry out “let Him be crucified, but we turn away from Him.

Salvation had come, a greater salvation then they could imagine, but because it did not fit into their mental box, they rejected Him.

For most Christians there is no confusion about His first coming but there is some confusion about His coming again. Just as many, but not all, the prophecies were fulfilled at His first coming so it will be at his next coming.

The next coming of Christ is different than His Second Coming. As you can see on your pictorial outline. The next major event in the timetable is the “Rapture”

At Christ’s first coming He came to show the way and bring salvation that we may become saints. When He returns at the time of the Rapture he will return **FOR** His saints. And at the Second coming He will return **WITH** His saints.

The most significant difference is that when Christ returns FOR his saints, we will meet Him in the air. Christ will not touch the earth. So technically the time of the rapture is not the Second Coming of Christ to the earth.

Let me give you a few more distinct differences. I want to encourage you and give you comfort in knowing that you are special. God will not forget you.

RAPTURE	SECOND COMING
<p>The saints meet Christ in the air <i>1 Thess 4:16-17 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. NKJV</i></p>	<p>Christ returns to earth <i>Matt 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory NKJV</i></p> <p><i>Matt 16:27 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. NKJV</i></p>
<p>Mount of Olives is untouched</p>	<p>Mount of Olives is split <i>Zech 14:4 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, NKJV</i></p>
<p>Living saints are translated <i>1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NKJV) ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.</i> 1 Cor 15:51-53 but we shall all be changed — <i>52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. NKJV</i></p>	<p>No saints are translated</p>
<p>Our body goes to heaven We who are alive in our bodies will meet Christ</p>	<p>Our body comes back to earth <i>Jude 14-15 "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousand</i></p>

<p>in the air and go to heaven with Him. The dead bodies will be reunited with their spirit and go to heaven also. <i>Job 19:26 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, NKJV</i></p>	<p><i>of His saints (true Christians), 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them ... NKJV and (1Thes 3:13)</i></p> <p><i>Matt 16:27 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. NKJV</i></p> <p>Jesus will return with His saints and angels. “saints”- Persons who belong to God.</p>
<p>The world is not judged and sin gets worse. After the rapture Jesus returns with believers to heaven and the tribulation begins. <i>Matt 24:21-22 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; NKJV</i></p>	<p>World is judged and sin is dealt with. <i>Matt 25:31-46 and the above references</i></p>
<p>Concerns only the saved. It is quite evident that in <i>1 Thess 4:16-17</i> and in <i>1 Cor 15:51-53</i>, the “we” is referring to believers. Paul is writing to the church about the church, the saved.</p>	<p>Concerns the saved and the lost <i>2 Thess 1:7-9 when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction NKJV</i> <i>Jude 14-15, Matt 16:27, Matt 25:31-46</i></p>
<p>SAVE TO NEXT WEEK Not proceeded by detailed signs or warnings</p>	<p>Proceeded by specific detailed signs.</p>

We are talking about the “End Times”. I know the topic can be confusing, frightening and is full of mystery. As Christians we should have no fear about that time. God is for us and no one or anything can stand against us.

Our Bible tells of another time that the world was destroyed. It was the time of Noah. God preserved the story of Noah to help us.

1. Noah worshiped, believed and served God while the sun was shining. Let us serve God while the sun is still shining on us.
2. God saved Noah out of the destruction by the flood because God looked upon Noah as being righteous. Those of us that have believed and received Christ are looked upon by God through the righteousness of Christ and He will take us completely out of the destruction before the tribulation.

Message Scriptures: **2 Peter 3:1-4**, *Isa 53:3, Matt 21:9,15; Mark 11:9-10; John 12:18, Ps 118:25-26, 1 Thess 4:16-17, Matt 25:31 , 1 Corinthians 15:51–52, Matt 16:27, Zech 14:4, 1 Cor 15:51-53, Job 19:26, Jude 14-15, Matt 16:27, Matt 24:21-22, Matt 25:31-46, 1 Thess 4:16, 1 Cor 15:51-53, 2 Thess 1:7,*

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