

Rev 1:1-8

“The God Who Is and Who Was and Who Is to Come”

Part 3 “The God Who Is to Come”

The very moment we entered our mother’s womb we started our journey towards our end. With each passing day we get closer to that moment where we will see God. This is fact. The truth of the matter is that moment will not be the same for everyone. For some it will be a moment of great comfort and joy, for others a moment of terror and dread. For those who will experience terror and dread, Jesus describes that moment as one of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 13:24-28 ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.”

Matt 13:38-42 ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Someone may be thinking at this very moment isn't there a more appropriate time than Advent, than the Christmas Season to talk about the end. No. The Second Coming of Christ, which we contemplate during Advent, is all about the end and the beginning. The end of mortality and the beginning immortality. The end of despair, heartache, failure, disappointment, and death all brought on by sin and the beginning of life completely free of all these things. So, there is no better time than the present to talk about the end. With this said I want to share three things about the Second Advent of Jesus the Christ, that are markedly different from his First Advent.

His first coming was lowly, his second coming will be majestic. V7 "Behold, he is coming with the clouds". Unlike his first coming, where Jesus was born a baby and placed in a manger signifying the nature of his earthly ministry, a ministry defined by grace. With his second coming there will be no grace. There will be no angels singing peace, goodwill toward man. Only trumpets blasting and his mode of entry, "coming with clouds", makes clear his authority and divinity. He comes to render judgement upon and make war with the sons and daughters of the evil one, Satan; all those who do not believe. Church, his second Advent will be majestic.

1 Thess 5:16 "¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Rev 19:11-16 "¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And

the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

John 8:44-48 “⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

Second, only a few were witness to his first coming. His second coming will be witnessed by all. V7 “and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”. There will be no question as to who Jesus is with his second coming. No mystery. No secrecy. Nothing to ponder. Everyone will see him, believer and nonbeliever alike, and everyone will be in awe. And many will be completely unprepared and caught off guard by his second coming. Pray sisters and brothers that no one under the sound of my voice this morning will be found in that number, even me! For to found in that number will bring extreme anguish. His second coming will be witnessed by all, and everyone will see him. Everyone will know exactly who he is.

Luke 21:34-36 “³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all

times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Matt 24:40-44 “⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Phil 2:9-12 “⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Third and final, his first coming was a time of rejoicing. His second coming will be filled with mourning. V7 “and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” I understand why we prefer the manger scene during Advent in lieu of images of the Second Coming of Christ, right. The manger scene is nostalgic. Smells of baby powder, and baby oil invade our senses. Images of innocence and purity, life and love versus images of destruction and distress, judgement and death. I get it. **But if I fail to preach and teach these things to us, we will be ill-prepared. And as hard as it is to hear the truths related to the Second Coming of Jesus the Christ, hearing provides each of us the opportunity not to be counted among the tribes on the earth that will wail on account of him.** Church, his second coming will be filled with mourning. Pray that will not be the case for any of us.

Matt 24:29-31 ²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

1 Thess 5:1-6 “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.”

He who has an ear, she who has an ear let him, let her hear what the Spirit says to the church. The God who is to come. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.