

Beginning Apologetics – The End Times

The Second Coming II
September 27, 2009

The Second Coming – Review

- What is *The Second Coming*?
 - Ans: Christ's return at the end of time to put an end to this world as we know it.
- Why do people get it wrong?
 - Failure to understand the prophecies in the book of Daniel
 - Lack of familiarity with the events around the time of the destruction of the Jewish Temple (AD 70)

The Second Coming – Review

What signs will precede The Second Coming?

- The Thousand-Year Reign (Rev 20)
- The Rise of the Anti-Christ (1Jn 2: 18 – 23, 2Thess 2:3-4, Rev 13)
- A Mass Apostasy (2Thess 2:3, Rev 13:3, Matt 24:11-12, Luke 18:8)
- The Conversion of the Jews (Rom 11)
- The Preaching of the Gospel to the Whole World (Matt 24:14)
- The Appearance of the Sign of Christ in the Sky (Matt 24:30)
- Frightening signs in the sky; natural and man-made calamities (Matt 24, Luke 21:25-26)

The Second Coming – Review

Why were we given the signs?

- “...You do not know on which day your Lord will come.” (Matt 24:42)
- We were given the signs to:
 - Remind us how fragile this life is
 - Remind us that we will experience our own end of the world at our death
 - Help us to understand the spiritual conflict surrounding us
 - Remind us that, no matter how powerful Satan seems, God’s power is immeasurably greater.

Can we predict the date of the Second Coming?

- What does Scripture say?
 - Matthew 24:42: “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”
 - Matthew 25:13: “Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”
 - Luke 12:40: “You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”
 - Luke 17: 24-25; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Acts 1:7
 - SO...NO. We cannot predict the date of the Second Coming

Can we predict the date of the Second Coming?

EVEN SO...there have always been those who tried to predict the Second Coming

- 2 Thess 2:1-2: “We ask you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a “spirit,” or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand. “
- Montanists (late 2d Century) – even fooled Tertullian, a bright light in the early Church! (He’s the guy who gave us the Trinity, for example).
- The end of the First Millennium
- During the Black Plague of the 14th Century
- And the list goes on...see chart at this [link](#)

Can we predict the date of the Second Coming?

- Why didn't Christ just *give us an appointment*?
 - Well...How would we live if we knew when we were going to die?
 - What is true of individuals is true of humanity as a whole
 - What does uncertainty about the exact date of Christ's return do for us?
 - It helps us to learn to be more faithful.
 - It helps us to become more hopeful.
 - It helps us to become more watchful and vigilant.
 - It (hopefully) drives us to obtain all the grace we can.

How will Christ come back?

- Matthew 24:26 – “So if they say to you, ‘He is in the desert,’ do not go out there; if they say, ‘He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”
- There are many incorrect teachings out there about how Christ will return.
- What does the Bible teach about the manner of Christ's return?
 - Christ will return once and *only once*. (More in the section on *The Rapture*)
 - Christ's return will be *public and visible*. The descriptions of Christ's return in scripture rule out *invisible comings* (*Jehovah's witnesses*) and *secret raptures* (*fundamentalists*).
 - In spite of this, Scripture also teaches that many will be fooled.

What happens at The Second Coming?

Specific Events:

- The end of the world
- The end of time (only eternity remains after the Second Coming)
- The end of Purgatory (all who are still in Purgatory will enter heaven)
- The end of death (those who are alive will not experience death)
- The General Resurrection
- The General Judgment
- The Universal Restoration
