
The Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(A Study Prepared By Pastor Peter Dart.)

(1) The Introduction.

With the exception of the certainty of death, the one eschatological doctrine on which orthodox theologians most agree is the second coming of Christ. It is indispensable to eschatology. It is the basis of the Christian's hope, the one event which will mark the beginning of the completion of God's plan. It marks the conclusion of the church age of grace and heralds the final outpouring of God's wrath on the ungodly. **(2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. (Read).**

In examining this event, there are several areas that we must consider. Some are very clear from scripture; others need to be carefully examined to glean from the word, the most probable conclusions. As we do so there are a number of important principles to which we must adhere.

(i) God does not want us to be ignorant or uninformed, regarding His timetable. **(1 Thessalonians 5:1-9; 4:13. (Read).**

(ii) It is the desire of the Father that we should come to the knowledge of the truth, and He has made provision for us to know the truth. **(John 14:16-17; 26. (Read).**

Note at this point the designated work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

- The Comforter
- Abide with us forever.
- The Spirit of Truth.
- World cannot receive Him.
- Teach us all things.
- Bring all things taught by Jesus to our remembrance.

(iii) The Prophecies which were given in Scripture were to give a clear indication of God's purposes unless otherwise stated. **(Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10; Daniel 9:2; 2Peter1:19-21. (Read).** N.B. In some cases even exact time periods foretold.

(iv) The basic eschatological principle that scripture will generally interpret scripture. This is an extremely important fact that we must grasp and hang onto. There will be times when the application of this principle will take hours of searching to locate answers from the scriptures, but they are

there. The searching and the finding of these treasures, without doubt, draws us into a closer relationship with God, as we seek His wisdom through the Holy Spirit. The finding of these treasures also greatly increases our confidence in the anointing of the Word of God, I am constantly left speechless at the beauty of God's Word and the manner in which He has sown these confirming, proving wonders into the creation of His word.

As we proceed through the study, we will undoubtedly find it to be a great temptation to draw conclusions with respect to the time of the second coming. I suggest, that although it is our responsibility as Christian brethren today, to be studious and alert in our understanding of world events, and their relationship to the end of this age and the second coming. (Matthew 24:32-45; Luke 21:27), we must be careful to always keep in mind, the warning of Jesus, with regard to the timing of His return. (Matthew 24:36. Discuss.).