



Jim Rickard Bible Ministries
Sunday, July 7, 2024

Luke Chapter 24

VII. The Ascension of the Lord, Luke 24:50-53, paralleled in Acts 1:9-11.

In Acts 1:10-11, the two angels remind the disciples that the Savior, “Jesus,” who ascended, will return in the same way that He left, vs. 9, **“In the clouds of the air.”** This statement leads us to two specific events referred to in Scripture: 1) The Rapture of the Church, 2) His Second Advent.

The Second Advent and the Millennium.

1. The Second Advent introduces the Millennium and perfect environment on the earth, **Rev 20:2b, 3b, 4b, 5a, 6b, 7a.**
2. Satan and demons are removed, **Rev 20:1-3.**
3. There will be maximum spirituality, **Isa 65:24.** Evangelism continues on the earth.
4. Israel is restored as a client nation to God and will be a priest nation at the Second Advent. This will continue throughout the millennium, **Isa 11:12; 27:12; 49:5-8; 61:6; Zech 10:8-12.**
5. All the unconditional covenants to Israel are fulfilled, **Dan 9:24.**
6. The nations of the world enjoy perfect environment, including:
 - a. Universal peace, **Psa 46:9; Isa 2:4; Hosea 2:18; Micah 4:3.**
 - b. Universal prosperity, **Psa 72:7, 16.**
 - c. Perfect world government under Jesus Christ and the royal family, **Isa 11:1-2; Zech 14:9.**
 - d. Perfect objectivity in the administration of justice, **Isa 11:3-5; Psa 72:12-14.**
 - e. Nature changes radically. Creation shares the bondage of sin, **Rom 8:19-22**, and is released from this bondage, cf. **Isa 11:6-9; 35:1-2; 65:25.** **Isa 35** says that flowers will abound.
 - f. There is a population explosion, no death except for capital punishment.
 - g. The Gog revolution is started by Satan after his release from prison because there are unbelievers on the earth, **Rev 20:7-10.**

“The kingdoms of this world” are yet to become “the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15), and the kingly Son will yet ask of His Father and He will give Him the nations for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession (Ps. 2:8). However, Scripture clearly indicates too that He is not now establishing that kingdom rule in the earth (Matt. 25:31-46), but that rather He is calling out from both Jews and Gentiles a heavenly people who are related to Him as His Body and Bride. After the present purpose is accomplished, He will return and “build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down” (Acts 15:13-18). Though He is a King- Priest according to the Melchizedek type (Heb. 5:10; 7:1-3), He is now serving as Priest and not as King. He who is coming again and will then be King of kings is now ascended on high to be “head over all things to the church, which is his body” (Eph. 1:22-23).” (L.S. Chafer, Systematic Theology)

Therefore, the event of the Second Advent of Jesus Christ, with all its world-transforming results, is to be distinguished from His “meeting us in the clouds of the air” to gather the Church to Himself both by resurrection and translation, i.e., the Rapture / Resurrection of the Church made up of Jews and Gentiles alike, yet not effecting

angelic creatures. Yet, His Second Advent concerns the Jews, the Gentiles, and angelic hosts including Satan and his angels, and is related to the Church only as she is seen returning with Him in glory to reign with Him.

Even though the long-promised earthly Davidic kingdom of Christ was offered to Israel at His First Advent, it was outright rejected by that generation and therefore postponed in the counsels of God until He comes again. Therefore, at His 2nd Advent, all the promises regarding the earthly Kingdom will be fulfilled.

Unfortunately, one of the basic theological misconceptions is the attempt to relate Christ's kingdom on earth to His First Advent. Since no earthly kingdom came into view at that time, it is claimed by theologians that His kingdom must be spiritual and that all expectation based on covenants and promises of the OT were misunderstood by the apostles and prophets. Nevertheless, according to every word of Scripture, Messiah will come again and do literally what has been predicted He will do for the Kingdom.

Psa 96:11-13, "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, and all it contains; ¹²Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy ¹³before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness."

Psa 98:7-9, "Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, Let the mountains sing together for joy ⁹Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity."

Isa 13:9, "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it."

Joel 2:1, "Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; surely it is near."

Zeph 1:14, "Near is the great day of the LORD, near and coming very quickly; listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly."

Zech 2:10, "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD."

Zech 14:1, "Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you."

Mal 4:1, "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

Mal 4:5, "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD."

Matthew 24:42, "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."

1 Thes 2:19, "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?"

1 Thes 3:13, "So that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints."

1 Thes 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Thes 5:23, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thes 2:1, “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.”

2 Thes 2:8, “Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming.”

James 5:7, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.”

James 5:8, “You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.”

2 Peter 1:16, “For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”

Rev 22:20, “He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”