The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

INTRODUCTION

In this particular section we are going to discuss six basic points about Jesus’ second coming. It is important that we fix each of these basic points in our minds, so that when we proceed deeper into the study, we have some fixed reference points to look back to. We all need some basic reference points in our minds, and it is from these that we are able to examine and analyze further teaching. This is particularly true in understanding Jesus’ second coming.

We are currently in the church age. We are currently in the kingdom of Christ. Satan is currently bound – Revelation 20:3. A short time before Christ comes back, Satan will be loosed for a short time (Revelation 20:3). There will be more on this when we get to the section on Revelation 20 a little later.

(1) JESUS IS COMING SOON

Revelation 22:20
One of the central points of the Bible is that Jesus’ second coming is soon - Jesus is coming soon!

James 5:7, 8

Revelation 3:11
So again, the Bible emphasizes that Jesus is coming quickly and we are to hang on to what little faith and achievement we have in the Lord, to endure until He comes.

(2) HE IS COMING IN THE CLOUDS AND EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM

Acts 1:9-11
In these set of scriptures, Luke is telling us about the Ascension of Jesus. And in these scriptures, we get the vision of Jesus disappearing from sight on the clouds while all in view are watching. So what is going to happen when He comes back? He will come back in the same way as he went into heaven – on the clouds and will be visible to all those looking on. But this time will be a little different because not only will those folks in the area witness this event but all people on the earth will witness this event.

Revelation 1:7
Let’s notice what this verse says – it says that He is coming back on the clouds and that every eye will see Him – even those who pierced Him. That means that even the dead will see Christ when he comes back on the clouds. How is He going to do that? We have no idea but every eye is going to see Him – even those who are dead.

II Thessalonians 1:7
So when He comes back, He is coming back with his angels. This is not going to be a secret. This is going to be the main event and the culmination of all of history. But He will be with His angels in flaming fire.
The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

(3) NO ONE KNOWS THE TIME OF HIS COMING

Matthew 24:35-44
It is very clear from these verses that no one knows the day or the hour that Christ is coming back – not even Jesus Himself knew when that time was. However, what is the one question that everyone wants the answer to? Everyone always wants to know when He is going to return. However that is the one question that the Bible does not answer. No one knows the time of His coming.

I Thessalonians 5:1-3
Christ is going to come back like a thief in the night – in other words – it is going to be a time when no one is expecting Him to come. People are going to be going about their daily lives caring about themselves and then boom – there He is.

Some have given the mistaken impression that early Christians such as Paul expected the Messiah to return shortly after the church began; and when He didn’t come, they gradually changed their story. However, II Thessalonians 2:1-3
Paul makes it clear in II Thessalonians (which is one of the oldest books in the New Testament) that he knew - and wanted Christians then to understand - that the Lord would not return until there was a general falling away, or apostasy, from the original faith. You could also check out the parable of the sower in the book of Luke where it says the man was going on a “journey for a long time” (Luke 20:9). So it was not necessarily the view of the early Christians that Christ was coming back right away.

Have we seen this apostasy yet? What is it going to look like? The word apostasy means a general falling away but that is all we know. Now something I heard at one point and seems to fit with the scripture is that fact that this could be referring to the Catholic Church.

II Thessalonians 2:3-12
So who is this apostasy that was to come along and lead so many people away? Well notice that this apostasy was going to be started by someone who took his seat in the temple and displays himself as being God (Holy Father – the pope).

• I Timothy 4:1-3 – So this verse says that in later times some will fall away by deceitful schemes and the doctrines of demons. And what do these men teach? They will teach that you are to forbid marriage (the priests) and advocate abstaining from foods (no meat on Fridays). So I don’t think this can really be proven from the scripture necessarily but it certainly seems to fit.

Now a lot or Premillennial writers will often say that the man of lawlessness in II Thessalonians is The AntiChrist (and that he is probably already living over in Europe somewhere). But that does not fit with what the scripture says about the antichrist.
The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

I John 2:18
So when John was writing the book of I John, it was already the last hour and that many antichrists had already risen. That does not sound like a person that is to come along.

I John 2:22
So the antichrist is the one that denies Jesus is the Christ. The antichrist is on the one who denies that Father and the Son.

I John 4:3
Again John makes the same point – he says here that every spirit that does not confess Jesus Christ as Lord is the antichrist and that this spirit is already in the world. Again does this sound like it is a man that is to come along.

II John 7
So here we see the deceiver and the antichrist as anyone who denies that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. But John also mentions that many of these deceivers have already gone out into the world.

We have just read every scripture verse in the Bible that speaks of the antichrist. Were any of these references capitalized? Did we get the idea in here that this was one person ready to destroy all Christians? No, antichrist is a philosophy and is in no way related to the man of lawlessness we see in II Thessalonians 2.

Revelation 16:15
Jesus warns us that He is coming like a thief and He wants us to be ready.

(4) AT HIS COMING ALL THE DEAD SHALL RISE

I Thessalonians 4:15-17
Paul makes it very clear that when Jesus returns, He will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus - those Christians who have died a physical death on earth. Then we who are so fortunate as to be alive and remain at His return shall be caught up together with them in the clouds. The main point here is that the Christian dead will be resurrected at Jesus’ return.

John 5:28-29
But not only will Christians be raised at that same time but so will the non-Christians. So when Christ comes back, ALL who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth. And in fact, Jesus said this was going to take place – in an hour. So when He comes back, every person that has ever lived will stand on the earth and will be able to see Jesus on the cloud.

Other verses that refer to one resurrection from the dead – John 6:39,40,44,54; Acts 24:15; Philippians 3:10-11; Hebrews 6:2
The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

So what is going to happen when all the bodies are resurrected?

I John 3:2
When Jesus comes back, we Christians shall be changed. We don’t know what we shall be changed into for it has not appeared as yet what we shall be but we know that we shall be like Jesus when He comes.

Philippians 3:20-21
So Christ is going to transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory. Our bodies will be changed, if we are Christians, to be like His when He returns.

I Corinthians 15:51-53
Paul here does not qualify the dead as he did in writing to the church at Thessalonica; here he indicates (consistently with the teaching of Jesus in John 5:28, 29) that all the dead will be raised - Christian and non-Christian - when the last trumpet sounds. Those whom Jesus calls “good” live in a resurrection of eternal life; those whom Jesus said did “evil” live in a resurrection of eternal judgment.

So Christians will be given spiritual, glorified bodies and non-Christians will be given immortal bodies as well. An interesting question is – why do the bodies of those going into eternal punishment need to be given an immortal body? How long can you burn an immortal body? It does not take very long for fire to consume a natural body but an immortal body can burn forever.

Then the unrighteous will be taken first; then the righteous will be caught up together with the Lord in the air (this we learned in the study on the rapture). This will all happen on the day of the Lord that comes like a thief in the night.


This will all occur when Jesus returns and the earth is destroyed.

(5) THE PRESENT HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED BY FIRE AT HIS COMING

Of course we read earlier that the scripture defines the day of the Lord that comes like a thief in the night as the same day that he returns for His church. What is going to happen on that day?

II Peter 3:10
When the day of the Lord comes - and the day of the Lord of which he is speaking is the one which comes like a thief in the night - in that day the heavens and the earth will be destroyed by fire. Jesus is not coming to set up an earthly kingdom. When He comes, everything on this earth - everything in this universe - is going to go up in smoke.

II Peter 3:3-7
The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

There have always been those who have not believed God’s warnings about destruction. But this is especially true in our day of uniformitarian thought - when the great body of scientists believe that the Flood never occurred, that the face of the earth was shaped by the same gradual, continuous forces which are at work today. Notice also in these verses that Peter calls day that comes like a thief in the night as “the day of judgment.”

(6) THE JUDGMENT WILL BEGIN AT HIS COMING

Jude 1:14-15
When the Lord comes back with His many thousands of holy ones, His angels, He is coming back to execute judgment, to initiate the Day of Judgment.

II Thessalonians 1:7-10
Paul makes it very clear here that on the day when Jesus comes to be marveled at among His saints - when He is first seen by those who are Christians - at the same time He is coming to execute judgment. He is going to deal out punishment to those who do not know God or obey the gospel. On that same day He is going to be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.

Matthew 13:36-43
in the parable of the sower, when Jesus interprets it, He makes it clear that at “the end of the age,” at the end of this age, is when the harvest is going to occur.

Revelation 14:14-20
At the end of the age, the harvest of the earth will be reaped.

Revelation 20:11-15
This is a good picture of Judgment Day. God sits on the great white throne and the dead are judged according to what is written in the books. And if a person’s name is not written in the book of life, he is thrown into the lake of fire.

Acts 17:30-31
In these verses, Paul offers proof of the coming Day of Judgment. The judgment will begin at Jesus’ second coming, and that judgment will be just as sure as Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

Other verses that mention one judgment or one day of judgment – Matthew 10:15; 11:22-24; 12:36; Acts 24:25; II Peter 2:9; I John 4:17

SUMMARY

Jesus is coming soon to claim His saints, destroy the earth, and initiate judgment. The day of His coming is not known - He will come like a thief in the night - but when He
The Lord’s Second Coming – Amillennial View

does come, He will come in the clouds and every eye shall see Him. At His coming all the dead - Christian and non-Christian - shall be resurrected. And all will stand before the throne for judgment day.

ADDENDUM - THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH

I Corinthians 15:20-24
So at the end, once all Christians have met Him in the air – Christ will hand the kingdom over to God the Father and we will be with the Father forever.

So while all of this was going on, there was a major renovation program happening on the earth. And once this new heaven and earth are completed, along with the judgment and the giving of the kingdom to the Father, then,

Revelation 21:1-6
Then we, the redeemed, will be brought back down from heaven to the newly rebuilt earth where we will live with the Lord forever.