

"The Second Coming of the Messiah"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I finished a two-part series. The first presentation was titled "The First Coming of the Messiah" and the last presentation was titled "The Second Coming of the Messiah."

Not setting dates

Many people have told me that they love the way that I talk about prophecy.

- They have told me that they respect the fact that I stay far away from setting dates about the return of the Messiah.
- They have told me that they love the fact that I focus upon Christian living.

Let me remind you why I recommend that people stay far away from setting dates.

Please read Revelation 22:18-19. The apostle John quoted extremely strong words about adding to the words of the book of Revelation and taking away from the words of the book of Revelation.

- Revelation 22:18—"If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book."
- Revelation 22:19—"If anyone takes away from the words of the book of prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life."

Yikes!

Someone could ask me: "Do you really think God will enforce those corrective words written by John?"

Here are some thoughts.

- God is very forgiving.
- Since most professing Christians violate these two verses by saying their own words, I believe that the Father and Son will show their magnanimous forgiveness to repentant people.
- Please do not be influenced by those who set dates (Jeremiah 23:16-21).

■ And please continue to personally avoid the mistake of speaking words for God—that He has not spoken.

Let's look at some events involving the second coming of the Messiah recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

Watching events

■ Mark 13:1-4—Four disciples asked the Christ for the sign of prophecy events. According to the Son of God, watching world events is part of His instruction. (We watch world events to exhibit the proper behavior toward the Father and Son.)

■ Mark 13:5-6—Do not be deceived by what you see and hear. "Many" will come in Christ's name, claiming to be Him, and will deceive many.

■ Mark 13:7-8—When you watch, you will observe: wars, rumors of wars, nations rising against nations, kingdoms rising against kingdoms, earthquakes, famines and other troubles.

Responding to bad situations

When bad things happen, what will your response be?

■ Mark 13:9—How will you respond when they deliver you up to councils? How will you respond when you are beaten in the synagogue? How will you respond when you will be brought before rulers and kings (to give a testimony) for Christ's sake?

■ Mark 13:10—The gospel will be preached.

■ Mark 13:11—When they arrest you, don't speak your own words.

■ Mark 13:12—Brother will betray brother to death. Father will betray a child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

■ Mark 13:13—People will be hated by all for Christ's sake.

Watch and pray

■ Mark 13:14—What is the "abomination of desolation"?

■ Mark 13:15-16—Specific advice for people in Judea.

■ Mark 13:17—Hard on pregnant mothers.

■ Mark 13:18—Hard in winter time.

■ Mark 13:19—Worst tribulation since the beginning of creation.

■ Mark 13:20—For the elect's sake, He shortens the days.

■ Mark 13:21—Do not believe those who claim to be Christ.

- Mark 13:22—Beware of false christs and false prophets.
- Mark 13:24-25—Astronomical events
- Mark 13:26-27—The Son of God will appear.
- Mark 13:28-29—Learn the lesson of the fig tree.
- Mark 13:31—Heaven and earth will pass away, but Christ's words will not pass away.
- Mark 13:32—Even the Son of God does not know the day or the hour.
- Mark 13:33-36—Watch and pray, because you don't know the time.
- Mark 13:37—Christ said: "I say to all: Watch!"

Death and resurrection

- Mark 15:34—Christ uttered the words: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- Mark 15:37—Christ breathed His last breath.
- Mark 16:3-4—The ladies wondered how they would roll away the huge stone, but they saw the stone had already been moved.
- Mark 16:5-6—An angel said: "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here."
- Acts 2:22-24—God raised Jesus of Nazareth.
- Acts 2:29-36—God has made Jesus (whom they crucified) both Lord and Christ.

The blood of Christ

Notice some wonderful words in Revelation 1:5-6.

- Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler over the kings of the earth.
- To Him (who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father) be glory and dominion forever and ever.

More verses in Revelation

- Revelation 1:8—Christ said: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End—who is and who was, and who is to come—the Almighty."
- Revelation 11:14-18—When the seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet, it will announce both the third woe and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

- Revelation 12:7-9—These verses remind the readers that Michael and his angels defeated the dragon and his angels.
- Revelation 12:10—The accuser of the brethren has been cast down.
- Revelation 19:9—Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- Revelation 20:1-3—The devil is bound by an angel—meaning that the Father and Son are much more powerful.
- Revelation 20:4—Some brethren will be martyred.
- Revelation 20:6—Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.
- Revelation 20:11-12—The great white throne judgment involves the Book of Life.
- Revelation 21:1-4—The tabernacle of God will be with men.
- Revelation 22:18—Adding words = receiving plagues.
- Revelation 22:19—Removing words = his part taken from the Book of Life.
- Revelation 22:20—Christ said: "Surely, I am coming quickly."
- Revelation 22:21—John wrote: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."