

66-01-02.wpd --He Is Coming

Advent, Second Coming, resurrection, judgment, hope

Rev 1:7

Christ's return will be either a pleasant surprise or a dreadful shock.

### INTRODUCTION:

--Before writing this sermon, **title**, I was doing my quiet time reading in a devotional book about the character of God. The final section's theme is about God being a God of "Surprise." Let me read something from it by Harold Myra, editor of *Christianity Today*: "Surprises!.... \ Scripture is full of them. \ "Say, Noah, build an ark. I'm going to flood the world." \ Quite a surprise! \ We're told Christ will come "like a thief in the night." Watch out! \ Surprises good and bad are coming. Which do we get? Depends. \ Jesus tells a story about a boss away and the people play. They do selfish things; then the boss comes back. \ Surprise! Payday! \ is your lamp trimmed? Watch out! The bridegroom's back!" **Scripture is filled with surprises, but the biggest one comes at the end suddenly and quickly: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ. Rev 1:7, Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.**

**HOM.idea.** The Apostle John, who wrote Revelation, did not say, "He will be coming..." He said, as translated in the NKJV, "Behold, He is coming..." In John's vision, he saw it happening as a future reality

### **I. The Certainty of Christ's Return** (*It's really no surprise at all...*)

#### A. *because of His character* (Why might we expect it of God?)

1. We see God coming back to the Garden of Eden to deal with the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience.
2. We see Christ coming to earth incarnated as a man to deal with the penalty of the disobedience of the whole human race.
3. We see the Holy Spirit coming to earth to do a special work that has to do with human disobedience-- John 16:8, When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (The whole Trinity is involved)

#### B. *His Coming is no surprise, because of its prediction*

1. The earliest OT prophet was Enoch, and although not part of the OT canon, Jude quoted from a book that recorded Enoch's prophecies-- Jude 1:14-15, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the

ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

2. We hear about it in the Psalms-- Psa 2, Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter ; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
3. We hear about it in the Prophets-- Dan 7:13-14, In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.
4. We hear about it from Christ's own lips-- Mat 24:30, "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

**TRANS:** "*Behold, He is coming...*" You can be certain of it. **Christ's return will be either a pleasant surprise or a dreadful shock**, depending on your relationship with Him. But let's look at....

### **II. The Nature of His Second Coming**

- A. He will come the way He left... "*with clouds*"-- Acts 1:9-11, After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Why are there clouds in these descriptions?
  1. They stand for majesty: almost nothing in nature is as majestic.
  2. They symbolize mystery: the time of Christ's return is unknown

3. They display *might*: the gathering of dark clouds portends a storm... the clouds gathering at Christ's return will portend the most powerful storm of judgment this world has ever seen.
- B. Christ's return will be visible to everyone-- "*every eye will see him*"
1. False cults have convinced many into believing that He's already returned in a *silent or hidden way*. (Jesus warned us against such deception-- Mat 24:26, "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.")
  2. For "*every eye*" to "*see him, even those who pierced him*," a resurrection will have to take place, the resurrection of all who ever lived....

**TRANS:** [at curtain call in a play, all the actors and actresses come out for a final bow... well, human history is like a drama in that way... at the end everyone will come out at curtain call, but it will be an audience of One, the Judge, and "*every eye will see him*"] **It will be a pleasant surprise or a dreadful shock.**

### III. The Response to His Coming

- A. From one part of humanity, from every race, language, and people group, will come a bitter cry of despair-- (ESV, "*all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him*") Why this hopeless wailing?
1. Because when Jesus first came, John said people already knew Him-- John 1:9, The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.
  2. This wailing is the utter shock of lifelong resistance to the light, when the light resisted shows up in person-- John 3:19 (NRSV) And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
- B. Another part of humanity, also "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev 5:9), will be looking forward to that day, and their response is the last words of this verse: "*So shall it be! Amen.*" (a double affirmative, using both a Greek and a Hebrew "*so be it*")

### **CONCLUSION:**

-- In the last chapter of this book (Rev 22:12, NKJV), Jesus assures us, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." The heart that is properly prepared for that event will say "*So be it! Amen!*" And the practice that will keep us prepared for that event is to keep praying the last prayer of the Bible in that same last chapter: "Even so, come Lord Jesus!"