

QUESTION: What does the Bible say about the Second Coming of Christ? (Part 3)

The word of God tells us that several things will occur when Jesus returns. However, not once do they teach that He will establish an earthly kingdom for thousand years. The doctrine of premillennialism is a mishmash of out-of-context, often unrelated passages strung together into a fantasy. I will address this doctrine in more detail very soon; but for now, here is an Old Testament prophecy that prevents the possibility of Jesus returning to this earth to reign on David's literal throne for a thousand years.

- ◆ **Jeremiah 22:28-30** -- Jehovah said "*Coniah*" (also called Jeconiah or Jehoichin, see 2Kgs 24:8-9) is "*a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David....*" Jesus was in the lineage of this man, (*Mt 1:11*) therefore could not, by God's decree, rule His kingdom from this earth.

Consider what the Bible does teach about the Second Coming of Christ:

- ◆ **God will raise the dead.** Death does not end our existence. "*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it*" (*Ecc 12:7*). There will be one resurrection of all the dead (*Ac 24:15; Jn 5:28-29*), not one for the righteous and another for the wicked.
- ◆ **God will give the living and the dead new bodies.** Paul says, "*We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*" Both the living and the dead whether righteous or wicked are granted a body prepared for their final abode.
- ◆ **God will destroy this world.** Peter warns that "*the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat*" (*2Pe 3:10-12*)?
- ◆ **God will judge every soul by Jesus Christ.** Paul told the men at Athens that "*God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead*" (*Ac 17:31; Mt 25:31-46*).
- ◆ **The saints will be glorified.** Paul told the saints in Colosse that "*when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory*" (*Co 3:4*). He told the church of the Thessalonians that "*when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven...He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe...*" (*2Th 1:7-10*)
- ◆ **The disobedient will be punished.** In the same passage Paul warns of the Lord's return "*with His mighty angels, in flaming fire*" to punish the unbelieving and unfaithful "*with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...*"
- ◆ **Jesus will deliver His kingdom to the Father.** The reign of Christ will not begin; it will end at His Second Coming. God now delivers sinners from darkness "*into the kingdom of the Son of His love*" (*Co 1:13*). When Jesus returns, "*Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death*" (*1Co 15:24-26*). Christ will reign until death is destroyed. Death will be destroyed at His Second Coming; therefore Christ is reigning and will continue to reign until He returns.

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