

**Revelation 1: 7 - “Behold He is Coming with Clouds”,
Sermon # 6 in the series - “The Faithful and True Witness”,
Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on January 22nd, 2006,
and August 2nd, 2009, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

As we begin our journey through the prophecy of this book we are confronted with this verse which sets the stage for all that follows. It is the bold direct statement that Christ is coming again. He is coming personally. He is coming visibly. He is coming in great power and glory. When Jesus Christ comes again, it will be a sight never to be forgotten by both His friends and His enemies. Every eye will see Him and there will be great joy for His people, His saints. And there will be great mourning and anguish for those who are not. And so the question that should immediately come to our minds is this. How is it possible that Christ's second coming will be this wonderful or this awful for every eye that sees Him. There are reasons why each of us on that day will be filled with wonder, delight and joy; or filled with anguish, mourning and woe. Let me give you 3 reasons.

They are-

1. Because the Coming of the Lord will be Majestic
2. The Coming of the Lord will mean resurrection.
3. The Coming of the Lord will mean judgment.

Let's take them one at a time.

1st- Christ's Coming will be Majestic - “Behold He is coming with clouds.”

When Jesus was here upon the earth at His first coming, He came in a way that was related to His mission. He came with no fanfare, He came in humility and obscurity and a few shepherds and a few wise men knew that He had come. There was no great welcome for the King of glory, only the songs of the angels rang forth the great love and goodwill shown to all people. And when He had accomplished His great life's work of redeeming a people for the Father's own possession and had been raised from the dead, He appeared to His apostles and some of His disciples, but not to all the people. And 40 days after His resurrection came the time for His ascension into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. Turn to Acts 1 verses 7-11. This tells us what the Lord Jesus intended that His church do until He came again. “He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you

shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" Jesus was received up into a cloud. Jesus will come back again with clouds. This time it will be a very majestic procession.

Clouds are very much associated with the majestic power that the Lord Jesus has been given by His Father. They are the symbol of a power in Him which is great with the blessings of the salvation that He came to bring, and great with His judgments against all kingdoms and systems of evil that oppose Him. He moves to establish and advance His Name and kingdom personally, in this great and glorious way. What is spoken of God is spoken most particularly of His Christ in regard to clouds. Listen first to the description given us of God Himself. Psalm 97: 2 - "Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about." Psalm 104: 3 - "He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind." Now listen to the prophetic description of the Lord Jesus being given the right to rule over the everlasting kingdom in Daniel 7: 13. "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! he came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

And when it came to the time for our Lord to suffer, He came before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? Jesus said, 'I am. And you will see the Son of Man(the same title from Daniel 7) sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.'" (Mark 14: 61, 62) And speaking of His personal visible return at the end of the age, Jesus says in Mark 13: 26, 27, "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds,

from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.” Clouds will be the chariot in which the Lord Jesus rides when he comes again a second time. “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

And this leads me to the

The 2nd reason that Christ’s coming will be wonderful to some and awful to others; It is because it will be the day of resurrection for all men.

It says in our text, “Every eye shall see Him, even they who pierced Him.” If it is the case that every eye shall see Him and even they who pierced Him, it must mean that the resurrection of all men is taking place on the very day that he returns. And as we study the Scriptures we find that there is only one literal physical coming of Jesus Christ, His second Coming, which will make it entirely possible for “every eye to see Him”. Listen to a few pertinent verses which may help clarify things for you. Put away your Dispensational thinking and let the Scriptures speak to you. 1 Thessalonians 3: 12, 13 - “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.” Notice the words, “at the coming”. There is only one literal physical coming. Matthew 25: 13, speaking to his disciples the parable of the foolish and wise virgins, Jesus says, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” There will not be, for both those foolish and those wise, different comings of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-10 says, ...since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” Both judgment of unbelievers and the admiring wonder of true believers are talked about as taking place on the same Day. Although there are

different days of judgment upon nations that are called the day of the Lord in both Old Testament and New, there is only one day in which the dead will all rise and see the Lord Jesus.

Think with me about John 5: 28-30 where Jesus says, “Do not marvel at this ; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth- Those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. They will be two separate kinds of resurrection but both will take place on the same day... “The hour is coming,” he says.

And Finally- Christ’s coming will be delightful to some and awful to others because it will be the Day of Judgment.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-4 is very conclusive. “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you brethren are not in darkness that this Day should overtake you as a thief.” Remember that Paul has just finished talking about Christ’s coming for His own; the dead in Christ rising first and then those who are alive and remain are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then after the destruction of His hostile enemies, Christ will descend to the earth itself and the great white throne judgment of Matthew 25: 31. All this resurrection, judgment of enemies and the admiration and wonder of His friends will come at a certain hour and a certain day. The judgment could last longer than one day and yet it is possible that the resurrection may make it very apparent who has been for Christ and who has been against Him. Christ could actually judge all the wicked in a very short time. The rewards of the righteous may take longer because each of us shall give an account of ourselves to God. But the Lord will know how to handle this. He is coming and when He comes it will be the Day of Resurrection and the Day of Judgment. We who believe in the Lord Jesus are “not in the darkness” that this Day should overtake us as a thief. To the wicked and unbelieving it will come as a thief in the night, but not so those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Our text says that “all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of Him.” This is because all those who have been unbelieving and not

wanting Jesus to be their Savior shall suddenly find Him in that day, to be their Judge. “Even those who pierced Him,” of the Jews who approved of His death. But just as there will be those who rejoice in the coming of the Lord Jesus, from every tribe, tongue, people and nation, there will be those who mourn over Him from all the tribes of the earth. Sometimes people like to link this verse with Zech 12: 10 - “And I will pour on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. But I do not think that the two verses are referring to the same event. The mourning here in Zechariah is the mourning of true repentance and a real spiritual sight of the Savior. I believe that it will come many years before Christ’s second coming and it will set the stage for the greatest days of gospel blessing among the nations that the world has ever seen. But the verse here in Revelation refers to a time when gospel blessing has slowed way down and almost ceased. It is a time when many people will have rejected the glorious gospel of Christ’s grace which had conquered in so many hearts; because the nations, the tribes of the earth, have been deceived by the Devil who has been released for his little season, to go out and to once again to “do battle with the saints to try to destroy them.” You can see it in Revelation 20: 7-10. But they shall not succeed. Instead they shall mourn when they see our Christ. It will be a sight never to be forgotten when Christ comes with clouds. Each one of us will either mourn or rejoice. May each of us have the grace of readiness, that when He comes and we see Him, that we shall be able to rejoice.