

# The Two Comings of Christ Contrasted

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## Secret Coming of Rapture ("his appearing" – 2 Tim. 4:1)

Unrevealed and not predicted in O.T. Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:51) since it was a "mystery" or sacred secret only revealed in the epistles (compare Eph. 3:9)

New Testament saints are involved that are in Christ (1 Thess. 4:16) and who are part of the Dispensation of Grace (Eph. 3:2-10)

Judgment Seat of Christ follows (2 Cor. 5:10)

The saved are taken to Heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18;) and the unsaved are left on earth to pass through the judgment of the Tribulation (1 Thess. 5:1-3; Rev. 3:10)

Geographically, Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

Christ comes *for* His saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-56) and returns to Heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:14)

Christ claims His bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27)

A wedding ceremony in Heaven will occur following this coming (Rev. 19:7; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27)

Only His children see Him (1 Thess. 4:17-18; Phil. 3:20; Titus 2:13)

Christ coming as the bright and morning star (2 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 22:16)

A time of blessing and comfort for God's children (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11)

Earth not judged by the returning Savior (John 14:3; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 2 Thess. 2:1; Phil. 3:20)

Imminent (any moment) - sign-less (Phil. 3:20; 4:5; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 3:11; 22:12, 20)

Occurs before God's wrath (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:4, 9; Rev. 3:10 – "keep thee from the hour")

Marks the coming of God's day of wrath on earth (1 Thess. 5:1-9)

Tribulation begins following this coming (1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Thess. 2:1-3; Rev. 3:10; Rev. 6-19)

No mention of Satan (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

## Second Coming to Earth ("his kingdom" – 2 Tim. 4:1)

Revealed and predicted often in O.T. Scriptures (Isa. 9:7; 11:4; 26:19-21; 63:1-4; Dan. 2:44-45; 7:9-12; Zech. 14:1-9; Ma. 4:2-3)

Israel and Gentile nations are involved (Matt. 24:1-25:46) – salvation of Jews and Gentiles confirmed (Rom. 11:26).

Judgment of Living Nations follows (Matt. 25:31-46)

The unsaved are taken to judgment (Hades) and the saved are left on earth to enter the Millennium as in Noah's day (Matt. 24:37-41; 25:31-46; 13:41-42; 3:11-12) – A reversal of the Rapture!

Geographically, Christ comes back to earth (Zech. 14:4)

Christ comes *with* His saints (Zech. 14:5; 1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14) and returns to earth as the King (Rev. 19:11-14)

Christ comes with His bride (Rev. 19:7-9; 11-14)

A wedding feast will occur on earth following this coming (Rev. 19:9; Matt. 22:1-14; Isa 25:6)

Every eye shall see Him – visible to entire world (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7)

Christ comes as the sun of righteousness (Malachi 4:2)

A time of God's wrath for the unsaved (2 Thess. 2:8-12; Matt. 24:51; 25:46)

Earth is judged by the returning King (Rev. 16:14-20; 19:15; Isa. 11:4)

Follows predicted signs (signs occurring during & after the Tribulation Period – Matt. 24:29-34)

Occurs "after the tribulation of those days" (Matt. 24:29-30) – after the 7 years

Marks the culmination of God's day of wrath on earth (Joel 2:31; Rev. 19:15)

Millennium begins following this coming (Rev. 20:1-3; Matt. 13:41-43; Daniel 7:13-14; 12:2-3)

Satan is bound (Rev. 20:1-3)