

Series Title: **“The Kingdom Of Heaven Is At Hand”**
(A Study of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ)

Sermon Title: **“Are You Ready For The Lord’s Return?”**
(Part 10)

Sermon Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction:

- I. The *Meaning* Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- II. The *Certainty* Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- III. The *Nature* Of The Second Coming Of Christ
- IV. The *Purpose* Of The Second Coming Of Christ

V. The Time Of The Second Coming Of Christ

A. When Will The Rapture Of The Church Occur?

7 Biblical Arguments For A Pretribulational Rapture:

- 1) The Scriptural Distinction Between The Church And The Nation Of Israel
- 2) The Stated Purpose Of The Tribulation Does Not Include The Church
- 3) The Church Is Exempted From The Wrath Of God
- 4) The Concept Of The Imminent Coming Of Jesus Christ
- 5) The Distinction That Exists Between The Rapture Of The Church And The Revelation Of Christ

6) Necessity Of A **Period Of Time That Must Take Place **Between** These Two Events**

- Given the specific distinctions that exist between the *Rapture of the Church* and the *Revelation of Christ*, it is clear that these two events cannot occur **simultaneously** or even in **close proximity** to each other!

Four reasons why this is true:

- There must be sufficient time between the *Rapture of the Church* and the *Revelation of Christ* in order for **some people** to be **saved!**
- There must be a sufficient amount of time between the *Rapture of the Church* and the *Revelation of Christ* in order for the **Man of Sin** to be **revealed** and **run his course!** (*II Thessalonians 2:3*)
- There must be sufficient time between the *Rapture of the Church* and the *Revelation of Christ* in order for all of the events reordered in **Revelation 6-19** to take place!

➤ Since the ***Rapture of the Church*** is an event that could happen at any moment and the ***Revelation of Christ*** is an event that must be preceded by specific events – one event must be **farther away** than the other!

▪ ***There are three critically important events that are said to take place between The Rapture of the Church and The Revelation of Christ:***

➤ ***The Judgement Seat of Christ*** (*Romans 14:10-11; I Corinthians 3:11-4:5; II Corinthians 5:9-10; I John 2:28; Revelation 3:11-12; 19:8*)

➤ ***The Marriage Supper of the Lamb*** (*Revelation 19:6-10; Ephesians 5:27*)

➤ ***The Salvation of those who will enter the Millennial Kingdom*** (*Isaiah 65:20-25*)

7) **The Lack Of Evidence For The Church's Presence In The Tribulation**

“If no Biblical evidence exists that states clearly that the church is in the Tribulation, then we are forced to conclude that there is a very strong probability that it's not there!

▪ ***Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 6-19; Matthew 24:31***

Conclusion:

▪ **Three things need to be highlighted by way the application of these truths:**

1) ***The writers of the N.T. always discussed the Rapture within the context of Godly living!***

2) ***The Rapture is a signless event, therefore, we are not to be looking for signs, we are to be looking for the Savior!***

3) ***The any-moment return of Christ should energize us to serve faithfully and enthusiastically, because we understand that the Judge is right now standing at the door!***

