

**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 9)

**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**

- *John 14:2-3; I Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:16-17; 5:5-9; Titus 2:13; James 5:8-9; Revelation 3:10; 22:17-22.*
- The **2<sup>nd</sup> Phase** of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** has the distinction of not being seen as an **imminent event!**
- What is the significance of the imminent return of Christ as it relates to the time of the Rapture of the Church?

**The Early Church was looking for a **Savior**, they weren’t looking for **signs!****

**5) The **Distinction That Exists** Between The Rapture Of The Church And The Revelation Of Christ**

- *I Thessalonians 4:14-17; Zechariah 12:2-9; 14:4-5; I Thessalonians 4:18; Revelation 19:15)*

### **Notable Distinctions Between The Two Events:**

- The **Rapture** concerns those who are “**in Christ**” (*I Thessalonians 4:14-16*); the **Revelation of Christ** concerns **Israel** and the **unbelieving** nations of the world! (*Zechariah 12:2-9*)
- The **Rapture** changes the **bodies** of **believers** (*I Corinthians 15:51-53*); the **Revelation of Christ** changes the **hearts** of **Jews**! (*Zechariah 12:10*)
- At the **Rapture** the world remains **un-judged** and continues in **sin** (*II Thessalonians 2:1-12*); at the **Revelation of Christ** the world will be **judged** and **righteousness** will be established on the earth! (*Revelation 19:11-20:10*)
- At the **Rapture** Satan is unrestrained in his **evil** (*II Thessalonians 2:1-12*); at the **Revelation of Christ** Satan is **bound** and cast into the **abyss**! (*Revelation 20:1-10*)

***“There is no mistaking it, the Rapture of the Church and the Revelation of Christ are two distinctly different events, therefore it impossible to combine them into one event!”***

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

- ***II Thessalonians 2:3-8; Revelation 7-19***
- There are **three** very important events that I specifically want to point out to you 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*)

### **Conclusion:**

***Have you been delivered from the Wrath to Come?***