

**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 8)

**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?**

1. **The Pre-Tribulational Rapture View**

**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**

- The *first* and most likely the greatest purpose for the Tribulation is to prepare the nation of Israel for her Messiah and for the coming Millennial Kingdom.
- The *second* major purpose is to execute judgment on the wicked and in the process to take back the earth from Satan and all of those who do his will.
- *Jeremiah 30:7; Deuteronomy 4:30; Daniel 12:1; Ezekiel 20:37; Zechariah 13:8-9; Matthew 24:15-20; Daniel 9:24; Ezekiel 36:25-36; 37:1-14; 39:21-29; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Malachi 4:4-6; Romans 11:25-28; Revelation 7:4-14*

**The primary purpose of the Tribulation simply does not involve the Church!**

- The Church will not be brought into judgment, because the Lord took our judgment on Himself! (*John 5:24; Romans 8:1*)

3) **The Church Is Exempted From The Wrath Of God**

*“The Tribulation is an absolutely unique period of time in all of human history during which the world will experience the wrath of God as never before!”*

- *Matthew 24:21; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Joel 2:2*

**Three reasons why the Tribulation is different other times in history:**

- It will be a **world-wide** reality and not simply a matter of **localized** death and destruction.
- The magnitude of the **'supernatural'** will be unprecedented.
- The sheer number of **people who will die** during this relatively short period of time will be unrivaled in human history!

- *I Thessalonians 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:9-10; Revelation 3:10*

**4) The Concept Of The Imminent Coming Of Jesus Christ**

- Once again, the word **"imminent"** comes from a Latin word which refers to that which is **"hanging over one's head and is ready to happen"**
- *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 Second Coming has the distinction of **not being seen** as an imminent event!
- What is the significance of the imminent return of Christ and time of the rapture of the church?
- *The Early Church was looking for a **Savior**, they weren't looking for **signs!***

**Conclusion:**

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