

JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR US

John 13:36-14:3

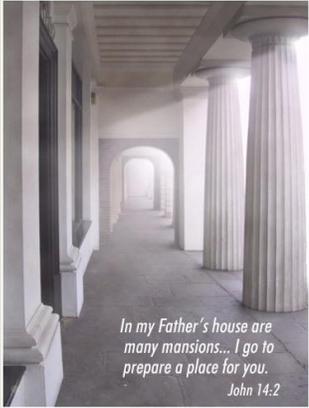
Peter's Devotion (John 13:36-38)



- The disciples may have had little faith, they nevertheless were a **dedicated group**, especially Peter.
- Peter was not lying here. He just did not know himself.
- Even though Peter was about to deny Jesus, we can see the mercy of God clearly demonstrated in this case. Jesus' **love** for Peter is always the same.
- Jesus must **leave** them (and us) physically for a while, and he was about to give one of the greatest promises in the New Testament.

Jesus was Leaving Them

- At John 14:1-3, Jesus first revealed to them that He would come again to take them to heaven—to His father's house.
- The disciples were totally **surprised** by this revelation as it was not what they had anticipated. They had not even understood the difference between the first and second coming of Christ. (i.e. Isa. 9:6-7) (i.e. mystery of the church Eph. 3:3-6)
- Christ indicated plainly that He would be in heaven for a period of time, **preparing a place** for us, and will return to take us to be with Him.
- In 1 Thes. 4, Paul was focusing on the **hope** (v.13) and **comfort** (v.18) of the believers that do not know God's plan.



The Rapture of the Church

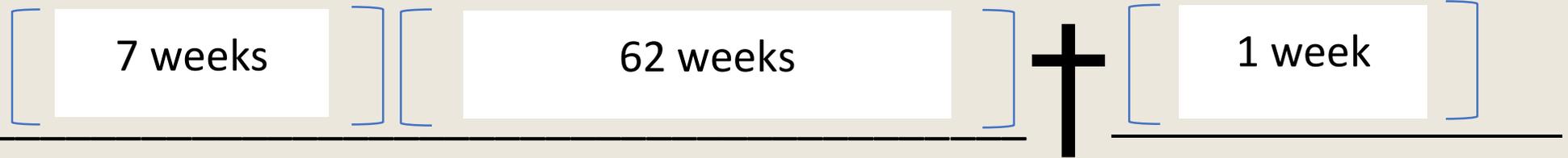


- (1 Thes. 4:17) Jesus will one day descend from heaven to raise all that are “dead in Christ”, plus all that are alive and remain on earth, to meet Jesus in the **clouds** (air).
- (1 Cor. 15:51-53) All this will happen in a short **moment**—twinkling of an eye. This is the Rapture of the church.
- And there will be a **physical transformation** (v.53) (see v.50)
- Note: this event is a mystery (v.51) It is not known in the OT
- The day is a mystery to the church (1 Thes. 5:1-3), and we are encouraged to **wait** for that day continually (e.g. Titus 2:11-13; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 4:8)

Before the Mystery was Revealed...

- (Daniel 9:24-27) God has given Daniel the end-time calendar. These are week-years, as in one week is equal to 7 years.
- At 445 B.C. the Persians decreed that Nehemiah may rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. (v.25) This was the starting point for the 70 weeks of Daniel.
- By the time of 397 B.C., at the time of Malachi and the close of Old Testament prophecy, the wall and street of Jerusalem was finished. Thereafter, there was a 62 weeks (434 years) gap.
- Altogether, the 69 weeks equal to 483 years of a 360-day calendar year (Jewish), which is 476 years of our calendar, ending on 30 A.D., when **Jesus was crucified**. (9:26)

The Gap of Time



- But what happened to **the last 1 week** (7 years)? Clearly “everlasting righteousness” was not brought forth 7 years after Jesus was crucified...
- Since all 69 weeks are fulfilled and only 1 week has not yet been fulfilled, there must be a **gap** of time that was a mystery to Daniel (OT).

The Gap of Time

- Note: These 7 years are clearly outlined in Revelation chapter 6 to 19, after the church (ch. 2-3) and the rapture (4:1 “trumpet”), and described in the OT as the “**Jacob’s trouble**” (Jer. 30:7; also 1 Thes. 5:3 birth pang)
- (Read Eph. 3:1-6) This gap is the **Church**—the Bride of Christ, which was a mystery in OT, that God was preparing a bride for Jesus from both Jews and Gentiles. This gap of time started at the day of **Pentecost**. (Acts 2)

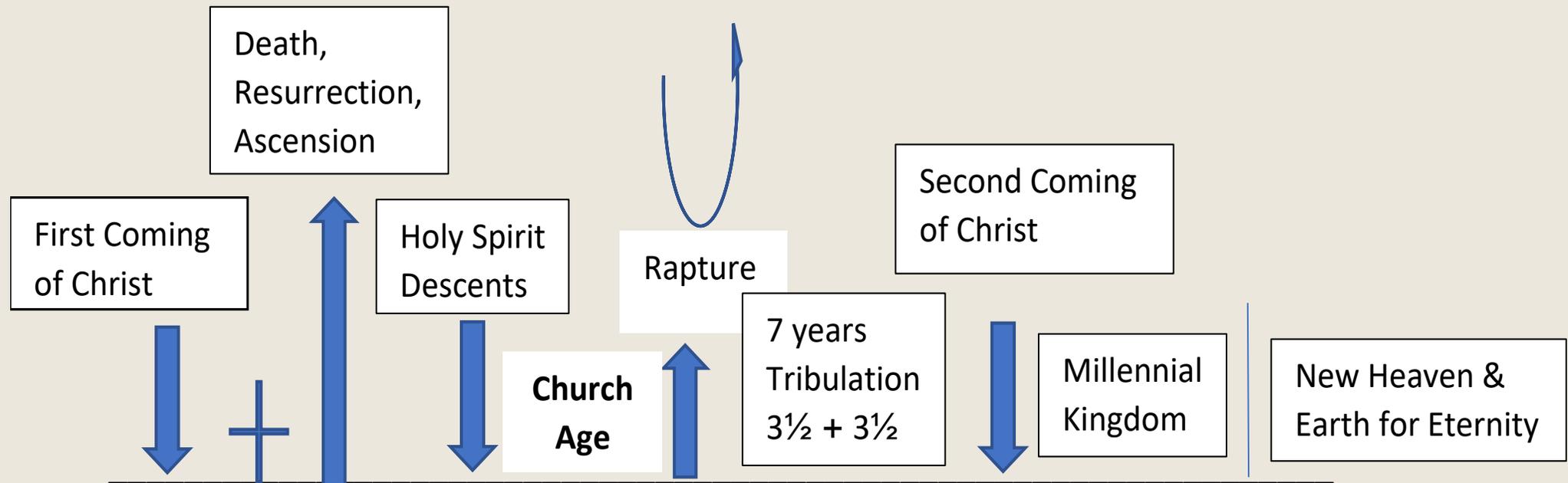


The Church is a Mystery



- Since the church is a mystery, no one can know when it will end. (Luke 12:40) All we know with the timing of the Rapture is that the church shall escape the wrath that is to come (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Rom. 5:9) also see Rom. 13:11 “nearer”
- Therefore, the **imminency** of Christ (1 Thes. 5:1-3; Matt. 25:13; Mark 13:32-36) does not contradict any prophecies of Christ’s second coming (at the end of the 7 years of tribulation), since the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ are 2 different events. (e.g. Matt. 24:14)

- The pre-tribulational rapture is the **only view** that allows for the rapture to be imminent in its timing. All the other views require several prophetic occurrences to take place before the rapture can be declared imminent. (e.g. mid-tribulation)



Are You Ready?

- Do you feel like Peter some days, no desire to identify yourself with Jesus?
- The **imminent return** of Jesus should be both a **comfort** and a **reminder** to us all.
- It is a comfort because Jesus is coming back no matter how many times we have failed Him.
- It is a reminder because He may come back at **anytime**, I mean ANYTIME. Are you ready? (Mark 13:33-37)

