

**“The Nature of Jesus Christ’s Return”**  
“Implications of the Gospel” — Part 7  
*Daniel 7:13*

**We believe in the personal, bodily, and  
glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God,  
demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope,  
motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial  
service, and energetic mission.**

**Three aspects of Christ’s return:**

• It will be a **personal** return.

“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. “  
John 14:2-3

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God... 1 Thessalonians 4:16

• It will be a **bodily** return.

"...This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.  
Philippians 3:20-21

• It will be a **glorious** return.

“Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”  
Matthew 24:29-30

**Three views of the kingdom/millennium:  
Revelation 20**

**A-millennial view:** A-millennialists do not believe in a literal reign of Christ on the earth. They teach that the millennium is merely a symbol of the entire church age and that Jesus will return at the end of it.

**Post-millennial view:** Postmillennialists believe that the progress of the gospel and the growth of the church will gradually increase so that a larger portion of the world’s population will be Christians. As a result, society will function according to God’s standards, and gradually a millennial age of peace and righteousness will occur.

**Pre-millennial view:** Premillennialists believe that the present church age will continue until a great time of tribulation comes on the earth. After that time of tribulation, Christ will return to

establish a millennial kingdom. Christ will be present physically on the earth in His resurrected body, and will reign as King over the entire earth.

### **Several Bible Passages suggest a future kingdom:**

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight. Psalm 72:8-14

Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. Isaiah 65:20

“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” Matthew 16:27-28

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet."... 1 Corinthians 15:24-27

To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. Revelation 2:26-27

### **Description of the millennium develops in four parts:**

#### **• The binding of Satan**

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. Revelation 20:1-3

#### **• The Saints’ reign with Christ**

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. Revelation 20:4-6

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10

- **The final defeat of Satan**

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:7-10

- **The final judgment**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

**Summary:** Revelation 20:1-15 depicts a transition between the present world order and the age to come. As a transition, it is in some ways continuous with and different from both the present age and the new heaven and new earth. The glory of the Lamb upon the throne, fully revealed only in heaven (Revelation 5) will be made known on earth. Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, will be vindicated publically.