



St Mark's and Putnoe Heights  
Church Partnership  
Advent Course 2005

The Second Advent of Jesus  
19 December 2005

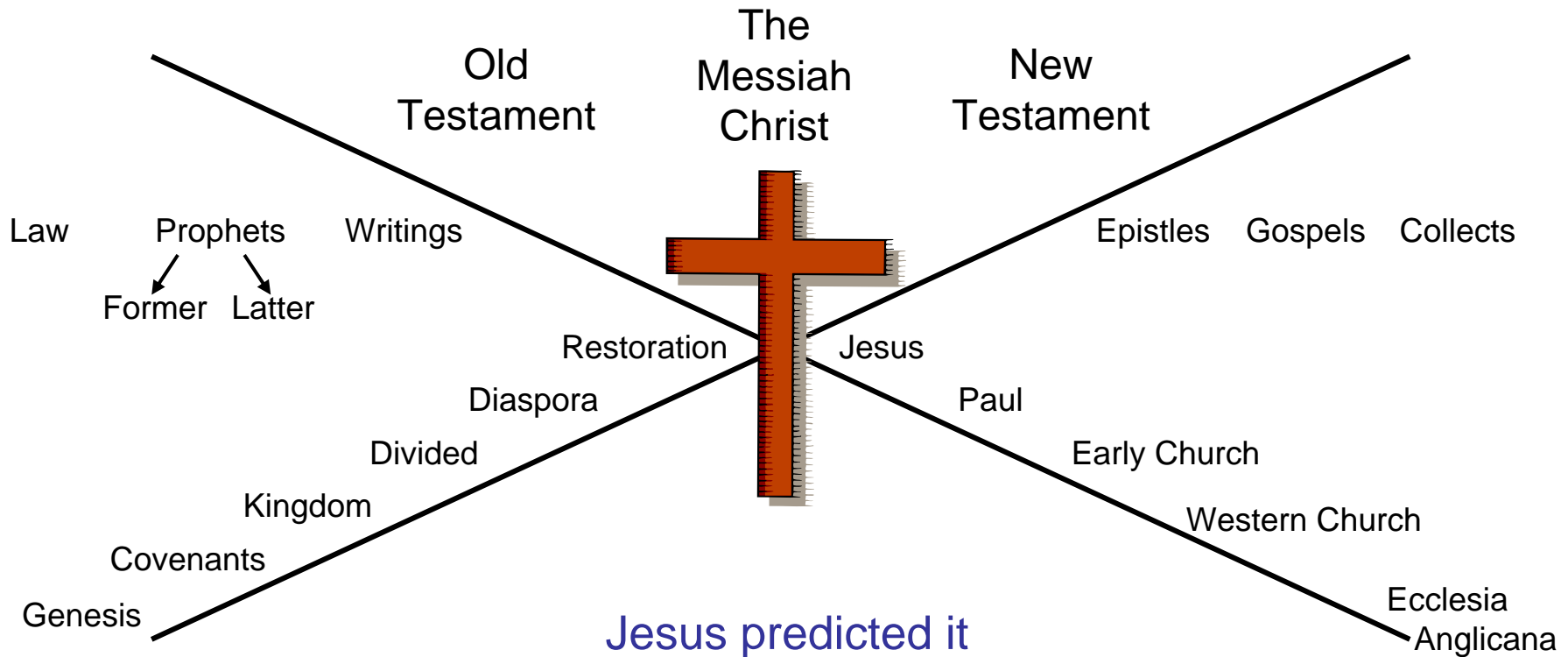
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# The Second Advent of Jesus



From the heavens to the new heavens



Jesus predicted it  
 The Early church believed in a future coming  
 We need to understand its implications for our lives



# A view of time



Cyclical View	divine cycle of endless repetition
Scriptural View	history moving towards a future goal
Jewish View	a coming age of the Messiah's rule (olah hab'ah) Passover will be celebrated in Jerusalem (Le'shana hab'ah b' Yerushalayim)
Jesus' View	the present and future are side by side He will return at the end of time, the future goal



# A view of time



- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Cyclical View   | - divine cycle of endless repetition  |
| Scriptural View | - history moving towards a future goal  |
| Jewish View     | - a coming age of the Messiah's rule (olah hab'ah)<br>- Passover will be celebrated in Jerusalem<br>(Le'shana hab'ah b' Yerushalayim) |
| Jesus' View     | - the present and future are side by side<br>- He will return at the end of time, the future goal                                     |

**Need to separate fact from fiction when we try to understand the end times and the second Advent of Jesus the Messiah – the Parousia**

**The fact is indisputable – the details are less clear!**



# The Fact and the Fiction

Where do we find information about the end times?



## Source

1. The Old Testament

2. The Gospels

3. The Epistles

4. Revelation

## Key Passages

Daniel, Psalms, Major and Minor Prophets

Matt 24, Luke 21

Thessalonians, James

All of it!!!





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All of it!!!





# How is the Parousia Described?



## The Gospels

### What we know

### Jesus will come...

As the Son of man in His Kingdom

On the clouds in glory

Preceded by signs

- wars
- earthquakes
- famines
- persecutions
- false prophets
- darkening of sun and the moon
- Gospel preached to all the earth

Visibly and publicly

Jesus will come back personally

Matt 16 v 28

Matt 24 v 30 (cf Dan 7 13, 14)

Mat 24 v 5 – 9

Matt 24 v 29, 30

Matt 24 v 14

Matt 24 v 27

Jn 14 v 3



# How is the Parousia Described?



The Gospels

But what we don't know is when

Jesus will come...



Soon, but we don't know the time

Matt 24 v 36

Before a generation has passed away  
- does generation mean 'race'?

Matt 24 v 34







# How is the Parousia Described?



The Rest of the New Testament

What we know

Jesus will come...

He will come back the same way as He went

Imminently

The Lord Himself will come down

There will be terrible times in the last days

We're living in the last days

His coming is near

To a specific place (Mt of Olives)

Acts 1 v 11

1 Thes 4 v 13

1 Thes 4 v 16

2 Tim 3 v 1 5

Hebrews 1 v 2

Jas 5 v 8

Acts 1 v 11 (Zech 14 v 4)



# How is the Parousia Described?



The Rest of the New Testament

What we know

Jesus will come...

Imminently

We're living in the last days

His coming is near

1 Thes 4 v 13

Hebrews 1 v 2

Jas 5 v 8

And then there's Revelation...

The time is near

Rev 1 v 1 – 3

- But certain events must take place first...



# Revelation

## The book of the apocalypse



### The Structure

The Introduction of the purpose	Chapter 1 - 3
Pronouncement of judgement	Chapter 4 - 18
- Letters to the 7 churches	
- Visions with recapitulation	
- seals (affects 25%), trumpets (affects 33%), bowls of plagues (affects all)	
- The suffering of God's people	
- The rise of the antichrist	
- The destruction of existing world order	
The triumph of the lamb	Chapter 19
The coming of Christ marking the climax of history	Chapter 21





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Rev 19 v 11 – Ch 20 v 10





# Revelation

## The Millennium (1000 years)



### A post millennial view

2<sup>nd</sup> coming follows the millennium

Church will Christianise the world (evangelise and prepare)

This will be the millennium followed by Armageddon and the return of Christ

Simultaneous resurrection and final judgement

### An a-millennial view

No physical millennial reign

2<sup>nd</sup> coming preceded by apostasy and wickedness

Antichrist will appear and Christ will defeat him at His coming

Simultaneous resurrection and final judgement

### A pre-millennial view

Millennia is literally 1000 years

2 returns, one for His people, the other with His people

Antichrist ultimately defeated at the battle of Armageddon

Jesus reigns for 1000 years, then Satan let loose, initiates rebellion and is then defeated

Eternal state initiated



# Revelation over-emphasis The Millennium (1000 years)



## A post millennial view

Influenced many missionary movements, prepare the world for Christ return  
William Millar – 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists. The end is 1843 then 22 Oct 1844  
Charles Taize Russell -> Joseph Franklin Rutherford (the end is 1926)  
Led to Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931  
Resurrection completed in 1881, millennium kingdom started in 1914  
Christ and the 144,000 rule since then  
Conversion the way to avoid consequences of Armageddon

## An a-millennial view

Held by Augustine  
Satan bound from the time of the birth Christ until His second coming  
New Jerusalem is already here in each believer, we are part of that New Jerusalem

## A pre-millennial view

Held by the early church fathers, Papias, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian  
Saints will be resurrected and live in peace for 1000 years in greatly enlarged Jerusalem  
Peter the Hermit used this model to recruit huge numbers for the 1095 crusade  
Joachim of Fiore influenced Richard the Lionheart in the same way for the third crusade



# Twentieth Century Interpretations



## Hal Lindsay – the Late Great Planet Earth

Need a start point to calculate the end

Use the restoration of the state of Israel (1948)

End will be 'something like 40 years ('this generation') from that date

If wrong date/datum is used wrong answer results!

Enemy from the North is Russia

Rewrote the story in Planet Earth – 2000 AD

Islam is the enemy

Iran will force Russia to go to war with Israel





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## Beware those who think they know the date!

The Millennium is a metaphor which symbolises God's triumph over evil in the person of Jesus Christ and the vindication of the victims of oppression and injustice





# But what about the role of Israel?



The Messiah will come – the place of Israel and Jerusalem

I will save my people from the countries of the East and the West – I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem  
Zech 8 v 7

Written after the return from the exile

In that day the Lord will reach out His hand a second time to reclaim the remnant  
Is 11 v 11, 12

Dry bones brought to life then imbued with the spirit  
Ezek 37 v 1 -14  
Physical return then spiritual return of the Jews to Israel

The land will be to small  
Is 49 v 19 - 20  
Only 50,000 returned after the exile

Return of the Jews to the 'one they have pierced'  
Zech 12 v 1  
Spiritual awakening and openness



# Jerusalem and Rome



Two important cities in our understanding of the Second Coming

## Jerusalem

The Second coming of Christ is almost certainly linked to the coming of the Jewish Messiah. Christians too should look forward to:

**Next year in Jerusalem - Le'shana hab'ah b' Yerushalayim**

(The restoration of the state of Israel is probably important in cosmic history)

## Rome

The role of Rome at the time when Revelation was written is also important  
Understanding the Roman Empire probably gives Revelation a context  
If we fail to take it into account we will probably read too much into the text



# Why is Rome Critical?



## Greek Philosophical dualism and thought

The end of the physical world and the coming of a new age belonging to the eternal world

## Hebrew Philosophy and prophecy

The New Age will be established on earth

Hence John in Revelation wants to

- Rid the world of the beast
- Have God and the Lamb on the throne on earth

Cosmic collapse for John in Revelation does not mean the end of the world  
It does mean the end of an idolatrous imperial power (Rome)



# Why is Rome Critical?



Revelation is a critique of the effects of the ideology of the Roman Empire, a systematic expose of evil, and shows the alternative on offer in Christ

Revelation confronts the dominant culture of the day and offers to the faithful an alternative to the world of present experience.

Written after Nero's persecution of the early Christians and the fall of Jerusalem (Nero Ceasar in Hebrew numerology is 666)

It's a literary genre, deals in metaphor, parable, myth

- Relates back to the Old Testament story, prophecies and images

Written to address a crisis in faith

- Roman Empire ruled supreme

- Question the cult of the Emperor at peril

- Some Christians has compromised their faith by accepting some of the precepts



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Revelation presents a vision of an alternate symbolic universe where the world has become the Kingdom of the Messiah who will reign for ever



# Links with Rome?



## Revelation Chapter 13 & 17

### The Lamb and the Beast and the Harlot

The beast rises out of the sea...

...the Roman proconsul would rise over the horizon on the Aegean Sea on his annual visit to Asia Minor...

The beast has 7 heads, the seven hills on which the harlot sits...

- the beast can be taken to symbolise Rome's military might
- the harlot can be taken to symbolise Rome's civilisation

The harlot rides the beast

- Rome's civilisation was being supported by military might



# Links with OT Imagery



## Revelation Chapter 4 v 1 - 11

God is on his throne – the court takes on the appearance of the Temple

4 living creatures

- seraphim from Isaiah 6
- cherubim from Ezekiel 1
- cherubim at the Temple Mercy Seat from Exodus 35
- cry out 'Our Lord and God' (cf Domitian's demands)

## Revelation Chapter 5 v 5, 6

The Lamb open seals and things begin to happen...

The Lamb is described as Lion of Judah, Root of David, Messianic titles

BUT

The Lamb appears slain, the writer sees the marks of slaughter

When Jewish expectation is turned into vision and reality...

...we see the Christian understanding of redemption and salvation

**Ultimately it is the Lamb who is worshipped, not Caesar or the Roman Empire**



# The New Jerusalem



A Vision of a New and Alternate Society  
A New Heaven and a New Earth

The New World Order that comes with the Second Advent

The Old has passed away – God now dwells with humanity as His bride  
The New Jerusalem is the bride of the Lamb

The city is 12,000 cubits long, high (= 144,000) - its also a cubical, 12,000 high  
Same dimensions as the Holy of Holies in the Temple, only 1000 times bigger  
There is no Temple in the New Jerusalem, it is all Temple  
People are drawn to the New Jerusalem to worship

‘The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates are always open. People bring their honour and the glory of the nations into it. Nothing unclean will enter it. Those who enter will be written in the Lamb’s book of life...’ Rev 21 v 24 - 27

Its particular and universal, it’s the 144,000 and the great multitude  
It’s the people of God and the nations at large





# The New Jerusalem



A Vision of a New and Alternate Society  
A New Heaven and a New Earth

The New World Order that comes with the Second Advent

...the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations

...there will be no more night, they will need no lamp or sun for God will be their light

Its not just a blueprint for a new city, it's a new quality of life in the new age

The faithful don't escape to a heavenly world, but life on a renewed earth

The faithful are not taken up into a New Jerusalem, it comes down to them

The Lamb that was slain is now raised to life

The message of Revelation is primarily a message of hope  
John is convinced of the second coming but in reality tells us little about it



# The Second Advent

What does it mean for us?



The Kingdom was inaugurated when Christ came, but still awaits in consummation  
Then God's intentions revealed in Jesus will triumphantly fulfilled

Christ second coming marks the completion of the work began at Bethlehem  
We should be more concerned with the purpose of Christ's coming than the timing  
- Christ will come to welcome His people into His presence

We, as Christians, are part of His people and will come into His presence

We are to look to the future, in the hope that Christ gives us

**BUT**

The Millennium and the New Jerusalem are not only hope for the future...  
...they are an agenda for the present



# The Second Advent

What do we know?



Christ will come again!!

It will probably be a bit noisy

Israel will probably be important

We will probably know its happening

We don't know the time

