



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of September 20 – 26, 2014  
Lesson #13: **The Second Coming**

The return of Jesus is mentioned more than three hundred times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament, an average of more than one verse in every twenty-five. There are eight times more references to His Second Coming than to His birth. The Bible closes with these words, “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Revelation 22:20, 21.

So where do we begin with such a popular Biblical subject? Let us begin with a promise. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1-3.

The most believable words in all the universe are from the lips of Jesus. He said, “I will come again.” Notice that He is not coming alone, Jesus said, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:” Matthew 25:31. Now that will be glorious! There are billions of angels, if not more.

This glorious event will be so visible that everybody will see Him at the same time. As it is written, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Revelation 1:7

His coming will not only be visible, but also with a great sound. Jesus said, “And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31. And the apostle Paul wrote, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:” 1 Thessalonians 4:16

So far we know that Christ is coming literally and personally. He is coming visibly and audibly. So why does the Bible say He is coming like a thief in the night? The Bible says, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

This is well explained by the words of Jesus, saying, “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:42-44.

Jesus will come like a thief in the night because nobody knows the day and hour of His coming. As Jesus said, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

But Jesus mentioned something else, saying, “Therefore be ye also ready.” For those who are spiritually ready to meet Jesus, He will not come like a thief in the night. It is a surprise for those who are not spiritually ready. They have continued to live independently of Christ and do not know Him, and therefore, Christ comes like a thief in the night.



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We may not know the day or the hour of His return, but we can know when it is near, even at the door. We have been given signs to look for, signaling His soon return. Perhaps the most famous of these signs is found in Matthew 24:6, 7, where Jesus said, “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:6, 7.

The twentieth century was filled with warfare. We saw two world wars, plus the Korean War, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. I have counted at least 250 wars since 1900. Some estimates declare that over 240 million people died due to warfare since the turn of the twentieth century. Fifty million alone died in World War II, and nearly eleven million in World War I.

We need peace, and there are efforts for peace, but look what the Bible says, “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3. Since 1900, men have talked peace, while they have been planning for war. Even now, we seek for peace in the Middle East, while developments are underway for acquiring nuclear weapons.

Jesus also referred to the frequency of earthquakes in different places. From 1986 to 1996, there were fifteen earthquakes that registered 7.0 on the Richter scale or higher. From 1997 to 2007, there were ninety-nine earthquakes that registered 7.0 or higher. That is a six-fold increase over the same span of time.

One of the sure signs of Christ returns would be the darkening of the sun and the moon. As Jesus said, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:29, 30

One of the key words in the above quote is the word “immediately.” Something was to happen “immediately after the tribulation of those days.” The days of tribulation spoken of here are the Dark Ages. From the years of 538 to 1798 A.D., the Church of Rome controlled the state. Religious dogmas were legislated as the laws of the land, and over fifty million innocent men, women, and children were murdered. Some place the martyrdom of God’s persecuted church as high as one hundred million. God would relieve His persecuted church by shortening the years of persecution. Some years prior to 1798, the persecution diminished.

What would “immediately” follow these years of papal persecution was the darkening of the sun and moon. The first of these signs occurred on May 19, 1780. It started off as a normal spring day. However, while it was yet morning, the birds disappeared, the chickens went to roost, the cows returned to the barn. The sun had disappeared, and none could see but by candle light. Men and women thought it was the end of the world. That same night the moon was darkened and even turned as red as blood. The Revelator prophesied of the same event, and wrote, “And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.” Revelation 6:12.



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The “great earthquake” was none other than the Lisbon earthquake of 1755. This great earthquake was the most severe earthquake ever recorded. It extended throughout Europe, was felt in Greenland, North Africa, America, and the West Indies. It covered over a million square miles. Spain and Portugal were the hardest hit. It has been estimated that ninety thousand persons lost their lives on that fatal day.

In 1755, the “great earthquake” hit. In 1780, the sun and moon were darkened. The next event would be the falling of the stars. This phenomenal event occurred the night of November 13, 1833. On this night was witnessed the greatest meteoric shower in history. Again, men and women thought it was the end of the world. But it was a sign of the soon return of Christ.

What has followed the great earthquake (1755), the darkening of the sun (1780), and the falling of the stars (1833)? There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of wars, the cost of war, and the deaths due to wars (1900s). There has been a horrific increase in the number of earthquakes around the world (1990s till today). They have increased exponentially in simply the last twenty years. Something is happening to our little world. What do all these signs point to? They point to the soon return of Christ.

But there are more than physical signs pointing to Christ’s return. There are social signs as well. Paul wrote, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Do we live in “perilous times”? They certainly have seemed more perilous after senseless school shootings, an unstable global economy, and of course, the events of 9/11.

Men are openly “lovers of their own selves. . . without natural affection.” Of course, we have had homosexuality for millennia, but we have never had it parading itself down Main Street like it is today. We now have same sex marriages in many states. This was not happening one hundred years ago. Not even fifty years ago. But it is happening now. Why? It is a sign of the Second Coming.

We have children “disobedient to parents” at its highest level. Much of this is due to the terrible influence of worldly television, unsanctified music, and much more. The moral standards of America are at their lowest.

But there are good signs too. Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14.

Most of the world has good accessibility to hearing the gospel. Perhaps our greatest challenges are in China, Muslim countries, and many villages scattered throughout the 10/40 window. But great progress is being made in these areas. With today’s technology, these people groups are much more accessible. The work could be done very quickly.



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There are some wonderful passages pointing to a return to true godliness amongst God's people:

- They keep the commandments of God. Revelation 12:17; 14:12
- They have the testimony of Jesus. Revelation 12:17
- They refuse to worship the beast even in the face of death. Revelation 13:15
- They refuse to worship the beast even in the face of civil penalties. Revelation 13:17
- They proclaim the everlasting gospel. Revelation 14:6
- They fear God and give glory to Him. Revelation 14:7
- They proclaim that judgment has begun. Revelation 14:7
- They worship the Creator in keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. Revelation 14:7
- They proclaim that spiritual Babylon is fallen. Revelation 14:8
- They warn against the mark of the beast. Revelation 14:9
- They warn against the worship of the beast. Revelation 14:9
- They warn against worshipping the image of the beast. Revelation 14:9
- They have the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12
- They are calling people to come out of spiritual Babylon. Revelation 18:1-4
- They would rather perish than disobey God. Revelation 20:4

As you can see, this is a pretty special group of saints. And guess who hates them? Satan hates them. The Bible says, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. Why does Satan hate them so much? Consider these facts:

- Satan knows that he was cast out heaven due to his disobedience.
- He knows that Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden due to disobedience. In fact, he was the one that led them to sin.
- He knows that the Flood was the result of disobedience.
- Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of disobedience.

You see, Satan knows that he must keep everyone in disobedience to God if he were to be able to claim this world as his own. All he has to do is to make sure that everyone is breaking God's commandments in one way or another.

Now you may be asking, "How do you know that is Satan's plan?"

Let us look at Revelation 12:17 again, which reads, "And the dragon [Satan] was wroth with the woman [the church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed [the church in the last days], which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17

In this verse, who does Satan hate? He hates those that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Who is Satan out to make war with and to destroy? He is out to destroy those who keep the commandments of God.



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And how does God chose to describe His true church in the end of time? “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

Jesus says, “. . . here are they.” And we say, “Where Lord! Where are your people?”

Jesus says, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

We come to the very last chapter of the Bible and how does God describe his true church? “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14

God will have a commandment keeping people in the end of time. Satan is out to destroy them. But we might ask, which commandment or commandments is Satan trying to get us to break?

I would like us to turn to the first commandment found in Exodus 20:3, which reads, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3

God alone is self-existent. He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. There is none like Him, and as such, is alone worthy of reverence and worship. This first commandment forbids us to place any other person or object before God. It would even forbid us to do anything that would lessen our love for God, or compromise our duty in serving God with our whole heart. Would you agree?

Everything begins with our relationship with God. The Bible opens with these words, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1. The gospel of John rightly begins, saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1. Jesus is known as the “first,” the “Alpha,” and the “beginning.” We worship God and Him alone because He is before all things and created all things.

If we truly kept the first commandment, we would be able to keep the whole law. As the law is the miniature of the entire Bible, the first commandment is the summary of the whole law. If we could grasp the broader meaning, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me,” how different our lives would truly be.

If God were always first and best in our life, then we would receive the righteousness that He offers us in His dear Son. Jesus had said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33.

The great commandment is, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Deuteronomy 6:5.

True success in the spiritual life is to place God first. It is to love Him with all your heart. It is to worship Him and Him alone. Would you agree?

Now look at what Satan is up to in the end of time, “And the beast [this religio-political power] which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon [Satan] gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the



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beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:2-4. Emphasis supplied.

Did you catch all that? The dragon, Satan, empowers the first beast of Revelation chapter thirteen. This beast is a religio-political power in our world. As a result of Satan empowering this religio-political power "all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon. . . and they worshipped the beast." At this point has the devil led the world to break any of the commandments? He certainly has. He has led the world to break at least the first commandment.

How many people are caught up into this? We were told in verse 3 that "all the world wondered after the beast." But it also says in verse 8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8

It sounds like Satan will nearly accomplish his plan to take over the world by leading everyone to break the Ten Commandments. But did you notice that everyone who does worship the beast is lost? It says that their "names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb." Why is this? People are lost because the judgment is real, and they are in opposition to God's Ten Commandments.

How does the devil accomplish this? "And I beheld another beast [another political power] coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Revelation 13:11-14

Another political power comes on the scene. It is described as a beast with "two horns like a lamb" but it will in the end speak as a dragon. This second superpower "causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast [that religio-political power]." He "doeth great wonders . . . and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had the power to do. . ." So Satan begins with deception to lead the world to break the commandments.

So what will happen to God's commandment-keeping people who refuse to worship the first beast? "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:15-17

Satan will lead the world to pass a law that is in opposition to the law of God. By enforcing that law he hopes to force everyone into disobedience to God. But remember, he first uses deception to lead people astray. His methods of deception will deceive almost the entire world. But there will be a tiny remnant that will not comply to this false religious law. What does Satan use then? He uses force. At



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first the penalties will not be so stringent. But then the penalty will forbid them to buy and sale. In the end, there will be a death decree.

What happens to those who do worship the beast power, who are outwardly breaking God's commandments? "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." Revelation 14:9-11

What a religious crisis! Those who do not worship the beast cannot buy and sell and will eventually face a death decree. Those who do worship the beast will face the wrath of God.

Do we know what false religious laws Satan will pass? We do. The prophecies are very clear about that. While the world is worshipping the beast, God's commandment keeping people are worshipping "Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:7

What is the commandment that speaks directly to the worship of God as our Creator, who made heaven, the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters"? It is the fourth commandment concerning the seventh-day Sabbath, which read," Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11

Satan has always fought against the seventh-day Sabbath because (1) he hates God, and (2) he wants to be worshiped as God. If the devil can get the world to enforce a day other than the seventh day Sabbath, he can accomplish both a disregard for God's holy Sabbath day, and then set up his own day to be worshiped. Does Satan really want to be worshiped? It is written, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12-14

We have seen that the seventh day Sabbath is the Sabbath of the Lord. So which day will Satan enforce? But we can be assured that it will be Sunday.

But some have argued, I thought that the church has always kept Sunday as the Sabbath. Historically, this is not true. Let us consider what has happened in history. For example, one Catholic catechism records, "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 364) transferred the solemnity from Sabbath to Sunday." Peter Geirmann, *The Convert's Catechism*, 50.



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It is a historical fact that the Catholic Church changed the Sabbath to Sunday in the year of A.D. 364. This is over three hundred years after the death and resurrection of Christ. The entire early church during the first century kept the seventh-day Sabbath. No one within the church was even promoting Sunday in the first hundred years.

The Church of Rome claims that Sunday is a mark of her authority. "Sunday is a Catholic institution and its claim to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles. . . . From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." *Catholic Press*, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900. As Christians we recognize the authority of God's law above the laws of men. We also recognize that God gave no man the right to change His own law.

Yet it was prophesied that men would attempt to change God's law. As Daniel the prophet wrote, "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:25

It is easy to see that this power is not truly of Christ. First, it speaks "great words against the most High." Second, it wears "out the saints of the most High." And lastly, it would "think to change times and laws." These three elements sadly work together. He who speaks great words against God is setting himself up as God. With these boastful claims, he certainly does not have the power of the Holy Spirit. Without the power of the Spirit, he turns to the power of the state to enforce his decrees and thus wears out the saints. He would make claims that he has the power to change even the commandments of God. This is truly a very sad situation that we know has already happened in history.

But we know that history repeats itself, and it will happen again. Satan knows his time is short and will work through religious and secular entities to pass a law against the law of God.

Sunday laws are not new to America. The first Sunday law in America was the Virginia Sunday law of 1610, which read: "Every man and woman shall repair [go habitually] in the morning to the divine service and sermons preached upon the Sabbath day, and in the afternoon to divine service, and catechizing [teaching the principles of Christian dogma and ethics], upon pain for the first fault to lose their provision and the allowance for the whole week following; or the second, to lose the said allowance and also be whipt; and for the third to suffer death." G. Edward Reid, *Sunday's Coming*, 77.

Then came our founding fathers, such as, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. President Washington said, "Every man who conducts himself as a good citizen, is accountable alone to God for his religious faith, and should be protected in worshiping God according to the dictates of his own conscience."

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote, "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Our greatest unalienable right is our religious right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. And no government or ecclesiastical power is to interfere with this most sacred right.



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Not even God forces the conscience. So how can finite and fallible men think that they can force people to worship in a certain way or even on a certain day? It is simply blasphemous!

James Madison, our fourth president and author of the American Constitution, wrote, “The religion, then, of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”

True Christian patriotism will refuse to rule over the conscience of other men, and will refuse to adhere to any civil or ecclesiastical command that is in conflict with the Law of God.

So how does Satan take over this world if there remains a commandment keeping people on earth? If Satan cannot get them to disobey God, then what is he planning to do?

It is absolutely terrible and so dishonest, but here it is. Satan is planning a counterfeit coming of Christ. Satan plans to personate Christ. Isn't that terrible? The very same Satan that sought to destroy Jesus as soon as He was born, is now going to pretend that he is Jesus returning from heaven.

Now Jesus had warned us of such a deception, saying, “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:23-27.

And Paul wrote, “And no marvel [do not be surprised]; for Satan himself is transformed [disguises himself] into an angel of *light*. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed [disguise themselves] as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works [they will in the end get what they deserve.]” 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15. [Emphasis supplied]

So how will we know that it is Satan and not Christ?

### **Jesus will be visible to everybody at the same time.**

The Bible says, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; *and every eye shall see him*, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Revelation 1:7.

When Jesus returns with billions of angels, everybody will be able to witness this spectacular event at the same time. Nobody will have to tell you that Christ is over here or over there. But Satan cannot appear to everybody at once. As Jesus said, “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.” Matthew 24:23.

### **Jesus is coming back with *all* of His angels, and *only* with His angels.**

The Bible says, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and *all the holy angels* with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: *and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another*, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:” Matthew 25:31, 32



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Jesus is returning with billions of angels, and these holy angels have the glorious work of gathering the resurrected saints from all around the world. See also Matthew 24:30, 31.

Satan on the other hand, will have his demons personate both good angels, the saints of old, and those family members who have died. But we know according to Scripture that all our loved ones are resting in their graves awaiting the resurrection when Jesus returns. See 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. It is at the Second Coming of Christ that the “dead in Christ” will rise from the grave and put on immortality.

The apostle Paul warns us, saying, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

These “seducing spirits” or demons will deceive the world by masquerading as good angels and as other personages. We will need to guard ourselves against their words, “the doctrine of devils,” which will be a mixture of truth and error. Appearing as benefactors to the human race, they will deceptively lead people to break God’s law.

Yet, the almost overmastering deception is when Satan pretends to be Christ. He will roam the earth as the Great Benefactor of the human race and will appear to heal thousands, if not millions. As Jesus said, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24. And this is exactly Satan’s attempted plan. He knows that he cannot force the commandment keeping people of God to disobey God, so now he tries to deceive them that he is Christ. Isn’t that deceptive?

But here is a very important point. Satan will walk the earth performing signs and wonders. Christ, on the other hand, will not touch the earth. The Bible says, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be *caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

When Jesus returns the second time the saints that have died in Christ will be resurrected. Together, the resurrected and the translated saints, will be gathered by the angels and taken to “the Lord in the air.” And then what happens? They are winged to heaven. As Jesus promised, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2, 3. Imagine the glorious journey to heaven with Jesus, the holy angels, and all the saints!

Now back to the ugly. Satan leads the world to pass a law against the law of God. When the world passes such a blasphemous law, a time of trouble will take hold. The economy will falter. People will be deceived to blame God’s commandment keeping people for the collapsed economy and the disasters taking place around the world. Civil penalties against them will be enforced. See Revelation 13:17.

When Satan realizes there is still a faithful remnant of believers, he will appear as Jesus and try to deceive all. Then comes the death decree. See Revelation 13:15. Satan now hopes to destroy the faithful.



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There will be many martyrs in the end of time, and yet God will still have a witness upon the earth. Angels that excel in strength will guard the people of God.

Once every one has made their decision between worshiping the beast and worshiping Him who created heaven and earth; when everyone has decided between the commandments of men verses the commandments of God, then human probation will close. Each case is decided in the courts above. What follows? The seven last plagues fall upon those who worship the beast. The Bible says, “And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.” Revelation 16:1, 2

As the plagues begin to fall, Jesus prepares to return to planet Earth. But Jesus does not arrive until the seventh plague, when the whole earth lies in ruins. Satan on the other hand will pretend to be Jesus just before the plagues begin. So Jesus comes with the armies of heaven after the seven last plagues. See Revelation chapter nineteen. Satan pretends to be Jesus just before the plagues begin.

We do not know the day that Satan will appear as Christ, but this one thing we know for sure, Satan’s personation of Christ will precede Christ’s return. The counterfeit will come first.

Dear reader, Christ is coming! He has promised. The signs of His return tell us that it must be soon. Nay, more, it is imminent. We need to be spiritually ready. So let us invite Jesus into our hearts every day and eagerly await His soon return. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

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**Metro New York Sabbath School Notes prepared by Pastor Jeff Wehr**