

## **The Two Stages of Jesus' Coming**

### ***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Matthew 24:15-31***

#### **Outline**

**Introduction:** In these last days we know more about the specific details of biblical prophecy and how they fit together than at any other time in church history since the first century. But not everyone agrees about what the Bible teaches about Christ's coming. Confusion about what the Bible teaches about the end times is not new. The letters of 1 & 2 Thessalonians were written largely to correct errors about Christ's coming. I believe that in the last days Jesus will come again in two stages and not in one single event. I believe that Stage One will be the rapture of the church and Stage Two will be the Second Coming of Christ also called "the day of the Lord."

#### **Stage One: The Rapture of the Church - *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

1. Jesus will come personally - **vs. 16a.**
  
2. Three signals will alert us - **vs. 16b.**
  
3. The rapture is called a "mystery" - ***Romans 11:25.***
  
4. God has given the times of the Gentiles a shelf life - ***Luke 21:24***
  
5. The order of events at the rapture is given.
  - a. The dead in Christ will rise first - **vs. 16c.**
  
  - b. Believers alive at that time will be caught up - **vs. 17.**
  
6. The timing of this event is given to us in ***Revelation 4:1*** and ***Revelation 3:10.***

#### **Stage Two: The Second Coming of Christ - *Matthew 24:29-31***

1. The rapture is the instantaneous snatching of church out of the world but the "appearing" or "revealing" is the return of Jesus to earth in power and great glory.
  
2. The timeframe for His second coming was given by Jesus in Matthew 24:29 when He said, "***Immediately after the tribulation.***"
  
3. All of the prophecies of the Old Testament about the "day of the Lord" or the earthly millennial reign of the Messiah on David's throne in Jerusalem will be fulfilled at His Second Coming.

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***Joel 2:30-32; Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 16:16; Revelation 14:20;  
Revelation 16:3-4***

**Seven important differences between the Rapture and Second Coming:**

**Why is it important to keep the Rapture and the Second Coming distinct?**

**Conclusion:** What can we take home from this today?  
*Be ready, for you do not know when the Lord is coming.*