**Christ’s Second Coming**

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# **Introduction**

Prayer

This is a message on the second coming of Jesus Christ who has promised will return.

In terms of exact dates and times I believe the following verse that no man woman or child knows the exact date of when Jesus will return including Jesus himself but only God the Father.

3 keys verses to start with

**Matthew 24:36 – But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**

This verse mirrors the book of Zechariah;

**Zechariah 14:7 - But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.**

Again, Peter speaks of mans inability to forecast when the end of days will occur in:

**Acts 1:7 - And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

There are signs and events which will need to occur before Christ returns and many people talk about Christ imminent return with some degree of certainty, who in time are proved wrong.

I know people who have given up their professions and lives who believe they know this date and when it does not happen, they can question their faith.

The aim of this message is to show some key points or they way I think of describing events is known project terms as milestones in the return of Jesus Christ the Messiah. (Yeshua Ha-Moshiach)

I have used the book of Matthew / Mark and there are separate studies to be done on;

1. The Rapture
2. The Tribulation
3. The anti-Christ

# **Why will he return?**

Firstly, to take his people back when they truly repent and recognise Christ as the Messiah.

Secondly, to fulfil both his promises and previous foretold prophecy and from the Old and New Testament through biblical references I will discuss this in detail within this study.

Thirdly, he will return to judge the wicked and destroy satan and his archangels and the anti-christ as detailed in the book of Revelation.

Fourthly to rule in eternity with the angels and his elect in his kingdom;

**Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”**

Fifthly to set the law (the word in Hebrew is ‘mispat’ which means Justice or judgement)

**Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.**

**2.He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.**

**3.A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.**

**4.He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.**

And finally, to destroy death.

**Revelation 20:14 - And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

And as we can see from this verse death and the holding place for the dead (Sheol) are now banished.

# **The Promise**

In the OT, the Messiah has promised to return.

**Zechariah 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.**

**2. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.**

**3. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.**

**4. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**

Jesus will return as promised in many NT bible verses, and one is in John;

**John 14:3 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.**

# **Events / Precursors**

There will be several events which will occur before Christ comes once again and are detailed below and are detailed in the book of Matthew chapter 24.

## **Trouble for Israel**

Before the Messiah comes there will be great troubles within the world;

**Daniel 12:1 - And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

Whereupon because of this God’s people will turn to God’s voice.

**Deuteronomy 4:30 - When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;**

## **Mourning**

Israel will mourn for their Messiah as detailed in **Zechariah 12:10-14.**

Messianic Jewish commentator Yechiel Liehtenstein writes,

"*It can be seen that the mourners will be the people of Israel, first, because Zechariah writes of the families of Israel — the families of David, L'vi, Shim'i, Natan, and 'all the rest' (Zechariah 12:10-14), and second, because the phrase 'they will look' refers to 'the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem' (Zechariah 12:8-11, 13:1*)."

This reconciles with the New Testament verse in where it states his people will wail for him which is the Greek word ‘kopsontai’ and can mean to mourn or to lament.

**Revelation 1:7 – 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.**

This is a reference to;

**Daniel 7:13 - I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.**

Israel will mourn for Jesus as a nation and will cause them great grief which will allow repentance and accept his offer of salvation and what is interesting is that many some Jewish commentators accept this is talking about the Messiah (Rashi and Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Levi)

## **The Request**

What is key to Jesus return he reveals the fact that he will not return until Israel requests his return in:

**Matthew 23:37 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!**

**38. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**

**39. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

There is a link here to the concept of Jewish corporate salvation i.e., Israel as a nation which is Christ will return when they bless the Messiah Yeshua.

In verse 37 ‘Hen gathereth her brood’ is referenced in

**Psalm 18:8**

And the house in verse 38 refers to future generations of Israel as in **Jeremiah 22:5**

## **Wars**

In **Matthew 24:7-8** it describes“the sorrows of the Messiah”.

There are many references to wars and in the Glossary in ‘bab sabbat’ says from the judgment of Gehenna and from Gog and Magog”.

Gog and Magog are mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as the nations which will try and destroy Israel in the end times, and I will be doing a message on that subject shortly.

Birth pains are common in rabbinic Judaism from the imposition of the Messianic age as in **Isaiah 27:17.**

**I have now split the subsequent events into two parts;**

## **Tribulation or Time of Jacobs Trouble – (First Half)**

Split into two parts; **Matthew 24:9-14 & 24:21**

### *Persecution of the saints*

This is detailed in **Revelation 17:1-6.** where there will be a persecution of

Christs followers and can be seen as Persecution by Bavel the whore as per

**Nahum 3:4** and this could refer to a nation.

Babylon is inspired by 2 lustful sisters Ohalah (Samaria) and Oholibah (Jerusalem) in **Ezekiel 23:31-34.**

### *Rise of many false prophets*

There will be a rise in prophets who are not from God in **Matthew 24:11**

Definition of false prophet the Greek word is ‘pseudoprophētai’ and is someone pretending to speak the word of the Lord (prophesy) but in fact is phony (an imposter), acting as a wolf in sheep's clothing.

This is also a reference to **Zechariah 13:2-6.**

### *Rise of sin and iniquity;*

We are told in **II Thessalonians 2:6 a**bout that ‘withholdeth’ could refer to ‘the restrainer’ and may symbolise;

1. God
2. the Messiah
3. the Holy Spirit
4. the Roman Empire
5. the preaching of the Gospel
6. and some force hostile to God – which is most probably the correct one and verse 6 could translate to ‘*And now you are aware of the hostile occupying power so that the man of rebellion will be revealed at his proper time*.’
7. ‘Iniquity’ in verse 7 is translated as ‘lawlessness’ and means apostasy and false teachings. The Greek word is ‘anomia’ and relates to an utter disregard for Gods law.

### *Saved Jews.*

It is stated that the Jewish people who believe will be saved which leads on to the next point of:

### *World- wide preaching of the gospel*

This is detailed in **Matthew 24:14** which will be conducted by the 144,000 Jews.

As described in **Revelation 7:1-8** and is also referenced in **Ezekiel 9:4.**

“*there are twelve tribes of Israel and twelve emissaries; there are Ten Commandments; squaring the former and cubing the latter bespeaks perfection, the perfection and fullness of Israel*”

## **Tribulation or Time of Jacobs Trouble – Second half**

As per **Matthew 24:15-28** and **Mark 13:14-23**

### *Abomination of desolation*

In the following passage **II Thessalonians. 2:3-10,** Paul discusses what some commentators believe to be a divergence from the truth in churches denying the central doctrines of Christianity.

It will be a ‘lying spirit’ and he will sit in the Temple of God where satan will deceive believers.

Reference to;

**Ezekiel 28:2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:**

### *Sit down at the Holy of Holies (Matt 24:15)*

The Holy of Holies refers to the Third Temple where the anti-christ will sit as described in;

**II Thessalonians. 2:4**

This could possibly relate to a future world leader but in essence he will be one who blasphemes God and rebels against an almighty God.

### *Image of the Antichrist*

In **Revelation 13:11** there is reference tothe anti-messiah or the antichrist who;

* 1. Encourages idolatry.
  2. Resembles the Lamb i.e., looks or acts like Christ.
  3. is known as the ‘man who separates himself from Torah’ referenced in;

**Daniel 9:27 - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

* 1. He will perform demonic miracles (mimic the 2 prophets)

**Daniel 12:11 - And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**

In the following verse it is called an abomination in the Targum and

‘filthiness’ in KJV as in **2 Chronicles 29:5**

A future message will be about the anti-christ as this is quite a large subject.

### *Jews to flee out of the Land (v14-22)*

Some commentators see this as the Jewish people fleeing due to anti-Semitism. This was documented by Josephus that when the Roman Cestius Gallus advanced to Jerusalem, raised the siege and withdrew allowing Christians to escape.

### *False rumours of messiah and prophets (v24)*

The anti-messiah and the false prophets will lead even deceive the elect.

### **Place of second coming**

In **Matthew 24:28** the Place of carcasses is mentioned by Matthew and eagles are most likely vultures which eat dead bodies.

Some commentators believe dead bodies referring to False messiahs drawing people away from the truth (Is Yeshua quoting an old folk proverb here?)

There are other references in **Habakkuk 3:3** where it relates to two places.

* 1. Teman which is the Hebrew name of Yemen due to its location in the Southern end of the Arabian Peninsula.
  2. Mount Paran – this may be either Jebel Maqrah, 29 miles South of `Ain Kadis (Kadesh-barnea), and 130 miles North of Sinai (Palmer, Desert of the Exodus, 510); or the higher and more imposing range of mountains West of the Gulf of `Aqaba

## **No light**

We are given details of a period of darkness before Christs return in;

**Matthew 24:29 - 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:**

Same terminology for destruction of ‘Bozrah’ or as ‘Petra’ in Greek in

**Isaiah 34:4**

**Isaiah 19.10**

**Ezekiel 32:7**

**Amos 8:9**

**Zephaniah 1:15**

This terminology can be used to signify any great calamity i.e., de-throning of Kings and princes as in

**Isaiah 13:10 - For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

Which is also, it is detailed in;

**Ezekiel 32:7** and **Haggai 2:6**

These events are also mentioned in the New Testament in:

**Luke 21:25 - And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;**

**26.Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.**

This is taken from **Joel 3:3-4.**

## **Re-Gathering of Israel (his elect)**

The next stage would be for Christ to gather the elect in **Matthew 24:31** where.

the reference to the four winds is also in **Mark 13:27** and four is a number in Hebrew which usually indicates completeness as in **Isaiah 11:11-12.**

His elect will be gathered at Jerusalem as in **Isaiah 27:12-13.**

God promises he will gather his people back in **Deuteronomy 30:4.**

**Zechariah 9:14**

**Micah 2:12-13**

# **The Second Coming (what will happen)**

Arnold Fruchtenbaum speaking about the date of the second coming “*This is not true of the Second Coming of the Messiah, which will someday be a datable event; it will occur exactly seven years after the signing of the seven-year covenant and 3 1/2 years – 42 months or 1,260 days – after the Abomination of Desolation*”.

Christ will return in the same way he departed.

**Acts 1:11 - Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

We are promised of his return in many verses and it important to note that everybody will see him as in **Revelation 1:7.**

## **Location**

**Zechariah 14:4** identifies the mount of olives where the Lord will return.

## **Separated and judged.**

Gentiles will be judged as per **Matthew 25:31-46** and will be separated as ‘sheep from the goats” as the word ‘All of the nations’ is used which means both Jews and Gentiles as per; **Isaiah 66:18 - And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein.**

**Ezekiel 34:17 - And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats.**

What is key about this is the sheep will be acquitted or absolved and the goats condemned.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum believes the sheep will be gentiles who are pro-Semitic, and the goats anti-Semitic and Annotated NT commentary simply distinguishes them as righteous and the wicked.

Right hand in verse 33 indicates righteousness as in **1 Kings 2:19**

The judgement is one of eternal judgement and is written in;

**Daniel 12:2 - And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

These events are also paralleled in **Joel 3:1 - 3.**

# **Post Second Coming**

The world-wide restoration will come only after the Second Coming as it states in **Isaiah 11:11-12:6.**

# **Summary 1**

Most of Matthew 24 and 25 shows Christ second coming in the form of parables which each teach us to be ready and waiting for his return.

From the passages given there are many Old Testament references with clear events detailed and the problem is how many Jewish and Christian commentators interpret these.

I do not believe some of these events will be easy to detect and as we know from history many circumstances can change in the matter of hours and change the course of history easily.

Look to the sequence of events rather than trying to estimate the dates.

# **Summary 2**

We must labour for the Lord and to work for task aimed to accelerate his return and it says in Matthew that people working alongside each other will have one taken and one will be left behind.

It also likens Christ coming like a thief in the night and this relates to our own lives where we must be ready for the return of our Lord Jesus and assume he will come today.

**Amen**

# **Bibles**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Publisher** | **Title** |
| A1 | Artscroll | Tanakh |
| A2 | JPS | Jewish Study Bible |
| A3 | KJV | King James Version |

# **Bibliography / Commentary**

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| B2 | Maggid Books | Jeremiah The Fate of a Prophet | Binyamin Lau |
| B3 | Messianic Jewish Communications | Commentary on the New Testament | David Stern |
| B4 | Oxford University Press | Jewish Annotated New Testament (JANT) | Various |
| B5 | Artscroll | Daniel – A New Translation with Commentary | Rabbi Hersh Goldwurm |

# **Websites**

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| **Website** | **Description** |
| <http://www.messianicassociation.org/> | Fruchtenbaum - Christology: The Doctrine of Messiah |
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