

ABATT
From Here to Eternity
 Christian Life Assembly
 Jim Hoffman

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From Here to Eternity

Where are we historically relative to the Rapture?

Not Close	Within 100-200 Years	At the Door
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Rev 22:7 "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

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Would your life change if you knew when the rapture will occur? If so, how?

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Failed Predictions Jesus' Return

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions_and_claims_of_the_Second_Coming_of_Christ

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- The Jew of Jesus' day knew Messiah would come one day, restore the nation of Israel, defeat their enemies, regather the dispersed Jews, and setup his kingdom.
- They were expecting tribulation before Messiah comes to put down Israel's enemies – remember how the crowds welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday.
- They knew nations will align against the Messiah when he comes (Psalm 2) and all the opposition will be destroyed – the disciples were taught this.

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Psalm 2

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed

2 Why do the nations rage^{al}
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

3 "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

5 "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

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- On Palm Sunday the disciples expected war against the nations of the world would be next, followed by their Messiah setting up his kingdom.
- They believed before the kingdom is setup the nation of Israel will go through pain. They thought the Roman occupation was the tribulation.
- From their own apocalyptic literature – The disciples were taught to expect lots of trouble and upheaval right before Messiah comes.

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- The Matthew 24-25 text completely ignores the rapture – it is dealing only with Jesus’ second coming to earth.
- The OT Jew had no reason to suspect that Messiah would come more than once – afterall, why would your all-powerful king need to come twice?
- In addition – even if they had suspected a 2nd coming, what are the chances they could have seen 2 phases to the 2nd coming?

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- Because we have the advantage of time and the New Testament we can now see two comings and even 2 phases to his 2nd coming.
- Between Paul in 1st Thessalonians and 1st Corinthians and John in The Revelation of Jesus Christ we are now confident in a rapture AND a glorious appearing.
- These two events are separated by 7 years – the time Jeremiah referred to as the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”.

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<p>61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;⁶² he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.⁶³ 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, <i>the desolation of many generations</i></p>	<p>18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Isaiah 61 and Luke 4 juxtaposed shows that Jesus closed the scroll from Isaiah 61 when he read it in the Nazareth. He was signaling that he was here, but was only here this time to preach.</p> </div>
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- Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me ***again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'***" ESV
- Notice that just prior to fielding the disciple's questions about the end of the age, he does more than hint that he will come again.

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- When the disciples asked their questions, they wanted more details around, "what are the signs of Messiah's coming?"
- The death and resurrection of Jesus would have made no sense to them – they were fully convinced Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, and they had the law so why would the King of kings die?
- Paul called the church age a mystery – something neither revealed nor seen in the OT.

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- Ephesians 3:7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 **and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.** ESV

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The Olivet Discourse

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- Matt 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ESV
- Josephus wrote of the destruction of Jerusalem that it was so flattened that no one would have known anything was ever built there.

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Flavius Josephus - *The Jewish War*, p. 303:

The Romans, though it was a terrible struggle to collect the timber, raised their platforms in twenty-one days, having as described before stripped the whole area in a circle round the town to a distance of ten miles. The countryside like the City was a pitiful cite; for where once there had been a lovely vista of woods and parks there was nothing but desert and stumps of trees. No one - not even a foreigner - who had seen the Old Judea and the glorious suburbs of the City, and now set their eyes on her present desolation, could have helped sighing and groaning at so terrible a change; for every trace of beauty had been blotted out by war, and nobody who had known it in the past and came upon it suddenly would have recognized the place: when he was already there he would still have been looking for the City.

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- Matt 24:3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, ***when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?***" ESV
- The disciples saw their eschatological events all as one continuous set that would happen without breaks.
- When Jesus died, they were shocked and crushed – but when he rose their hope was renewed.

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- Luke 19:11 As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and ***because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.*** ESV
- One of the BIG messages of Matt 24 & 25 is that the end times were not "right now" for the disciples.
- Their eschatology was limited to the OT prophets and other non-writing prophets in Jewish history.

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- The disciples are not asking about a 2nd coming – they were asking about when he would take over!
- When they were asking about his coming Matthew used the Greek word, "Parousia" – this has to do with presence, or his full manifestation as king. (not his coming, but his Messianic presence)
- When Jesus died they were completely bewildered, but they should not have been, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Luke 9:22 ESV

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<http://www.godrules.net/library/kjvstrongs/kjvstrongs.htm>

Word: parousia

Pronounce: par-oo-see'-ah

Strong's Number: G3952

Orig: from the present participle of 3918; a being near, i.e. advent (often, return; specially, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect:--coming, presence. G3918

Use: TDNT:5:858,791 Noun Feminine

Heb Strong:

- 1) presence
- 2) the coming, arrival, advent
- 2a) the future visible return from heaven of Jesus, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God

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Questions?

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