

IV. THE ESCHATOLOGICAL GLORY OF CHRIST--“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Heb. 9:28).

DOCTRINE: *Jesus Christ shall certainly return in majestic and mighty glory to recover and reward His people, restore the cosmos, rout the wicked, reign unrivaled forever in righteousness, and receive the adoration of the nations.*

“[A]waiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us” (Titus 2:13-14)

We come to the “end”--as I want us to consider what I have called the “eschatological coming glory” of Christ--His glory in His second advent, His promised return. Certainly this subject matter is one that generates much controversy and is surrounded with much confusion. It is not my intention to be controversial or confusing. I will unfold no last day calendars or specific scenarios for you. Rather, I would have us fix our eyes upon Jesus, **“the author and perfecter of faith”** (Heb. 12:2). My desire, as it has been in these notes, is to unfold the glory of our Redeemer and King, Jesus Christ. As I deal with this last part of our consideration of the glory of Christ. Some might refer to this aspect of Christ’s glory as His “apocalyptic” glory, His “coming” glory. Take what name you will--my interest is that you would behold Him, believe on Him, and love and long for Him to come and consummate His union with His blood-bought bride (2 Tim. 4:8).

*“The time is coming when faith will be swallowed up by sight. For now, ‘we walk by faith, not by sight’ (2 Cor. 5:7). But at the last trumpet, when the dead are raised and we are changed in the blink of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52), spiritual and physical seeing will [combine] into one overwhelming [sight] of the glory of Christ” (Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, 117).*

Here is a glory we are to/should *long for* (and pray for). This is what grace instructs us and produces in us--a **“looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”** (Titus 2:13). “Glory,” that is the way this blessed “event” is constantly referred to (Matt. 25:31; 1 Peter 4:13).

A. The CERTAINTY of the Revelation of this Glory.

As to the certainty of His coming glory there should be no confusion, for the Scriptures, from beginning to end, declare it. It is the subject of the prophets, of Christ Himself, and of the apostles.

1. Prophetic Utterances.

- **“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth [tumult] . . . One from Jacob shall have dominion . . .”** (Num. 24:17,19).
- **“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming . . . and to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom,**

that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13-14).

- **“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you . . . He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth”** (Zech. 9:9-10).
 - **“And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple . . . But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap”** (Mal. 3:1-2).
2. **Christ’s Declarations.** After the revelation of His coming death in Matthew 16, the Lord mentioned His coming glory. **“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds”** (v. 27). He described the nature of His coming in Luke 17. **“For just as the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day”** (v. 24). The last evening with His disciples He promised His coming. **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself . . .”** (Jn. 14:3). He spoke of His coming on the night before His death to His enemies. **“[H]ereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven”** (Mt. 26:64). This coming was the certain hope of the dying and penitent thief as he pled with Christ, **“Remember me when You come in Your kingdom.”** This coming is predicted and described by the angels in Acts 1:11, **“This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”**
3. **Apostolic Ministry.** This coming was part of the apostolic preaching and letters. In almost every letter of the New Testament there is some allusion to this great event. **“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you . . .”** (Acts 3:19-20). **“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him”** (Heb. 9:28). This coming glory is the anticipation of our Lord’s table ordinance (1 Cor. 11:26).

B. The CHARACTER of the Revelation of this Glory

Consider the Transfiguration (Lk. 9--the “foretaste of Jesus’ future glory”), the description (Lk 9; 17) and the Return (Rev. 19). In Matthew 16:28 the Lord told His disciples, **“Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”** There immediately follows in the gospel account the description of His transfiguration on the mountain. This scene is the divinely wrought “foretaste of His future and coming glory.” There Jesus is transfigured. **“His face shone like the sun”** (Mt. 17). **“His garments became radiant and exceedingly white”** (Mk. 9:3). The disciples were terrified (Mk. 9:6). What are we to think of Revelation 19? What does it convey about His coming glory? What words seem most appropriate to describe the character of His glory? Majesty

and might (power), sovereignty (supremacy) and strength (Mt. 26:64; 2 Pt. 1:16; 2 Th. 1:7). What a different presence He will have in His second coming from His first! His first appearance was manifested in much weakness. His second appearance will be manifested in much power. His first appearance was without visible glory. His second appearance will be bathed in glory.

1. **He Will Come in Visible/Majestic Glory.** “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him . . .” (Rev. 1:7). He will return bodily. It will be a radiant glory that none can miss. “For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be” (Mt. 24:27). It will be displayed before the whole world. None will be able to ignore Him in His coming glory. All will see Him who thought so little of Him--Him who they laughed at, mocked, blasphemed, ignored. They will see Him! They will see Him gloriously coming. Atheists will see Him, agnostics will see Him, Buddhists and Muslims will see Him, New-Agers and Secularists will see Him. All will see Him for who and what He is.
2. **He Will Come with Enhanced Glory.** Jesus said in Luke 21:27 that the Son of Man would come with “*great glory.*” The Lord says in Luke 9:26 that He will come in “**His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.**” How incredible will this be! If His own personal glory was not enough, it will be attended with the glory of God the Father and the glory of the angels! A threefold glory (Hend., 501; Marshall, 377). The Lord calls it “**great glory**” in Luke 21:27. The reflected glory of the angels caused the shepherds to quake at Jesus’ birth.
3. **He Will Come in Mighty Glory.** It will be an awesome glory. A frightening glory. Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 1:7 that Jesus “**will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire . . .**” John describes Him in Revelation 19:15, “**And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.**” He will come with “cataclysmic glory” (cf. 2 Pt. 3:10).
4. **He Will Come in Commanding Glory.** He will come, it appears, as the Lord of hosts, accompanied by “**the armies which are in heaven**” (Rev. 19:14).
5. **He Will Come in Supreme/Unrivalled Glory.** His name is gloriously displayed, “**King of kings, and Lord of lords**” (Rev. 19:16). He has no match, no rivals, no equals. He will come with incomparable glory.

C. The CONSEQUENCES of the Revelation of this Glory

As His first coming was to purchase salvation, so His second coming will be to perfect and complete it. All the consequences of His coming only augment His glory and show Him as more glorious.

1. **A Glorious Revelation of Himself.** He shall be glorious in His revelation of Himself. This I have spoken to in the previous heading. But His coming in glory will show Him as all glorious. He will appear in the glory of His divine nature. His Deity will be unveiled, unclouded, and undeniable, the “**God over all, blessed forever.**” None will be able to deny His deity in that day. None will withhold from Him the honor and worship and fear He has

always been worthy of. **“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father”** (Phil. 2:10-11). He will appear in the glory of His human nature. He will appear robed in glory and exalted in dignity.

2. **A Glorious Resurrection and Reunion.** He shall be glorious in His full redemption of His people. **“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory”** (Col. 3:4). His coming shall bring about the consummation of our salvation (Heb. 9:28). He shall come with resurrecting glory. **“[A]ll who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did good deeds, to a resurrection of life . . .”** (Jn. 5:28-29). He shall come calling for His own as He did Lazarus who shall have part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6). He shall come with transforming, yea glorifying, glory. **“[W]hen He appears, we shall be like Him”** (1 Jn. 3:2). He will **“transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself”** (Phil. 3:21). **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye . . . we shall be changed [and] this perishable [will] put on the imperishable, and this mortal [will] put on immortality”** (1 Cor. 15:52-53). He shall come with consummating glory. He shall be glorious as gathering His elect together to Himself forever and reuniting the church militant and the church triumphant (Mt. 24:31). Will there not be the recovery of the natural branches which were broken off for our benefit? Will not Israel’s partial hardening be removed and all Israel be saved (Rom. 11:26; cf. Winslow, 396-397)?
3. **A Glorious Renovation and Restitution/Restoration.** He shall be glorious in His restoration of the created order, the cosmos. He shall shake the heaven and the earth, removing that which can be shaken, as of created things, that that which cannot be shaken may remain (Heb. 12:27). In Matthew 19:28 the Lord calls it the **“regeneration.”** In Acts 3:20-21 it will be **“times of refreshing”** and the **“period of restoration of all things.”** The creation shall be **“set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God”** (Rom. 8:21). Its groaning days will be over and its glory days will have come.
4. **A Glorious Reward and Retribution/Recompense.** He shall be glorious in His judgment. This judgment was the subject of the Baptizer’s introduction of Jesus’ ministry. **“And His winnowing fork is in His hand to clean out His threshing floor, and to gather up the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”** (Lk. 3:17). This judgment had been committed to Him by the Father. The Lord warned about all this in His earthly ministry. He warned that His coming will be an *accounting* day (Lk. 19:11ff.). That His coming will be a *judging* day. **“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep and the goats”** (Mt. 25:31-32). There will be a setting right of all wrongs, a vindicating of all offenses. **“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds”** (v. 27). This judgment will be universal (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12), perceptive (Rom. 2:16), exact (Mt. 12:36).

Reward for the Righteous. For those who love Him He will be glorious with His rewards. He will give to His own relief from their afflictions (2 Th. 1:7). Though their best deeds still leave them unworthy He will yet remember their deeds and their diligence of faith.

Retribution for the Wicked. But for those who have ignored and despised Him He will be glorious with an awful retribution. He will **“execute judgment upon all, and . . . convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him”** (Jude 15). These are said to be grumblers and fault-finders and the self-indulgent and the proud speakers and manipulators/flatterers (v. 16). Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 that Jesus **“will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power . . .”** What response ought we have to this? Let the Psalmist answer it for us: **“Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains sing together for joy before the Lord; for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity”** (Ps. 98:7-9; cf. Ps. 96:11-13; Isa. 11:3-4; Mt. 16:27-28).

5. **A Glorious Reign and Recapitulation.** He shall be glorious in His rule. The prayers of the saints since His incarnation that His kingdom come shall now be fully answered. What was inaugurated by His first coming will be consummated by His second. He shall rule *unrivaled*. He shall rule *alone* (with the Father). He shall rule *universally*. He shall rule *manifestly*. **“The Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one”** (Zech. 14:9). At His name **“every knee [shall] bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and . . . every tongue . . . confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”** (Phil. 2:10-11). [cf. Ps. 97:1-6] He shall rout all His foes. All His enemies and the enemies of His people will be brought under His royal foot. He shall finally subdue the devil. **“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet”** (Rom. 16:20). And He shall slay the last enemy, which is death itself--banishing it out of existence! In the end He who is the **“Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”** shall stand supreme. That which Daniel prophesied in Daniel 2:44 will definitely come to pass. And thus, the **“kingdom of the world [will have] become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever”** (Rev. 11:15). Those who in this day hungered and wept and were poor and were ostracized and mocked and insulted for Christ’s sake shall in that day enjoy the blessings of the kingdom. They shall laugh and be satisfied and be joyous. Amen.

6. **A Glorious Reception of Worship.** He shall be glorious in His reception of worship and adoration. The nations **“will resort to the root of Jesse”** (Isa. 11:10; cf. 18:7). As Zechariah declares, **“who are left of the nations . . . will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts . . .”** (v. 16). Everything shall be **“Holy to the Lord”** (14:20-21). So, as John says in Revelation 21, the **“kings of the earth shall bring their glory”** into the city of God and the Lamb (v. 24). Oh, dear saints, this is where all of history is headed--what Paul declared in Philippians 2:10-11 with every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Applications of this Glory.

This glory of Christ ought to be the great comforting anticipation and hope of every believer. Beloved, the glorious coming of Christ will bring all things to a great completion and perfection. He shall make all things right. (1 Peter 1:13)

This glory of Christ ought to be the great purifying anticipation of every believer. (cf. Titus 2:13-14; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:3).

This glory of Christ ought to be the great stimulating anticipation of every believer. (cf. Lk. 12:35ff.; Heb. 10:24-25).

This glory of Christ ought to be the great drawing anticipation of every believer.

This glory of Christ ought to be the great strengthening anticipation of every believer. (cf. Lk. 9:24-26; Js. 5:8). Do not shrink to own Him now and live for Him (Nolland, 484-5)! This is a glory to persevere for (cf. 1 Pt. 7-9).

This glory of Christ ought to be the great terror and spur to repentance of every unbelieving one. (cf. Psalm 2).