

I. Introduction

A. Review

B. Colossians 1:1-13

II. v.3 "And if ever I go and prepare a place for you all, I come again and I will receive you to Myself, in order that where I am even you all may be."

A. "I will come again" = $\pi\acute{\alpha}\lambda\iota\nu$ ἔρχομαι

1. "again I come (of myself)"

a) This is a contrast to His first coming.

b) The coming one.

(1) He has been speaking of His coming *again* for some time now.

1. John 12:35; 13:33; 14:19; 16:16-19

2. He is coming again and He had known it.

(2) This does not fit into any other category of the OT.

(a) Joel 1:15

(b) His first coming was Him being there at that time speaking to them.

i) "sent One" = John 3:34; 5:36, 38; 6:29, 38, 57; 7:29; 8:42; 10:36;
11:42; 17:3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25;
20:21.

ii) He was sent from/by the Father.

2. Let's take a look at His coming as compared in the NT:

a) There are 2 comings spoken of after the Lord's first coming.

(1) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(a) v. 14 = "Those who have fallen asleep in Jesus."

i) The point Paul is making here is concerning the fate of those who have fallen asleep (Acts 7:60) in Jesus Christ.

ii) "In Jesus" = through Jesus.

iii) Those who have died while having been baptized in Christ.

(b) v. 15 = This is by the word of the Lord (see 1 Corinthians 7:10-12 cp. by the Word of the Lord).

i) Paul was taught this directly from Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:12).

ii) "Until the coming ("presence") of the Lord" = described in vv. 16-17.

(2) What does that coming look like?

(a) The Lord Himself - personal (alone).

(b) Descended from heaven - from heaven.

- (c) With (accompanied by) a shout - audible
- (d) With the voice of the archangel - possibly an announcement.
- (e) With a trumpet of God - again, announcement.
 - i) This is not the seventh trumpet of Revelation:
 - ii) Matthew 24:31 = angels with a trumpet.

Exodus 19:16-17

16 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.

17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

iii) Isaiah 27:13 & Zechariah 9:14 = announcement.

(f) What about the seven trumpets of Revelation?

- i) Revelation 8:6-9:21
 - (1) What about the seventh angel?
 - (2) 11:15-19 = v. 18 = the time for the dead to be judged, reward the bond-servants the prophets, saints.
- ii) Focus = 14:14-20.

(1) After this is seven angels who have seven plagues who are given seven bowls to pour plagues out on the earth (Revelation 15:5-8).

(2) "Trumpet" in Scripture has more to do with the announcement of the presence of God than anything else.

(g) v.16 - The dead in Christ will rise first - those who have fallen asleep.

(h) v. 17 - Those who are alive and remain - alive..

- i) "Caught up" = snatched, yanked.
 - (1) Ezek 8:3; Acts 8:39 (Phillip); 2 Cor 12:4; 1 Thess 4:17; Rev 12:5 (the woman).
 - (2) This is a vigorous snatching from the earth to the Lord who is in the air.
- ii) This word is used in Matthew 11:12 as well to teach of the kingdom of God that is only entered into by force (Matthew 13:19).

b) The point is that the coming of the Lord this describes is:

- (1) Personal,

- (2) From heaven.
- (3) With a loud announcement.
- (4) Produces a resurrection of 1) the dead ones who are Christians, 2) the live ones who are Christians.
- (5) The alive ones are "snatched" into the air to meet 1) the dead saints and 2) the Lord there.

3. Now, compare that with the other coming mentioned in Scripture:

a) Matthew 24:29-31;

- (1) Preceded by intense tribulation
- (2) The sun and the moon will become dark and stars shaken (fall).
- (3) The Son of Man (His very presence is the sign) appears in the sky.
 - (a) All the tribes of the earth will mourn.
 - (b) All the tribes of the earth will see Him.
- (4) The Son of Man will come on clouds in a display of power and great glory.
- (5) He will send out His angels, with a trumpet sound, to gather the elect from around the world.

b) Matthew 25:31-33

- (1) The angels will be with Him.
- (2) He will sit upon His glorious throne.
- (3) Nations gathered around Him.
- (4) Judge the nations.

4. Very different scenarios.

a) Distinctions:

- (1) First coming:
 - (a) For the apostles (and by understanding of the church being founded upon the apostles as examples) and the church.
 - (b) Alone.
 - (c) Personal.
 - (d) Announcement by the archangel.
 - (e) Return to heaven.
 - (f) Takes only the saints of the church with Him.
 - (g) Does not ascend an earthly throne.

(2) Second coming:

- (a) Descend from heaven.
- (b) Surrounded by angels/messengers.
- (c) Gathers elect.
- (d) Is seen by everyone.
- (e) Ascends His throne.
- (f) Judges the nations.
- (g) Never returns to heaven.

5. Bottom line:

- a) There is a prior "coming" of Jesus Christ that is different from His second coming in which He comes to judge the earth.
- b) This earlier coming is specifically for the church and not for judgment.
- c) The snatching of the church to be with Him is based upon this precious promise by Jesus in John 14:3 - "I am coming and will receive you to myself.)

B. "That where I am there you may be also..."

- 1. Where is Jesus?
- 2. v. 6 "comes to the Father" (cf. v.2)
 - a) Finally in 16:28 Jesus tells them where He is going.
 - b) Jesus is going to be with the Father.
John 17:24

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

- 3. The fact is, Jesus, in order to gather all the ones God the Father has given to Him, came at the appointed hour, in spite of Israel's rebellion, and instituted a body called the church through which the elect are called and will be snatched away by Him at His coming.
 - a) Let's consider more of what the Scriptures says about this "snatching away":
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:23-24
 - (2) "All will be made alive..."
 - (3) "Each in His own order"
 - (a) Christ = the first fruits. He is the beginner of the order of being made alive.
 - (b) "After that...those who are Christ's at His coming" = those who are in Christ will be made alive "at His coming."

- (4) "Then" = in the next sequence of being made alive, the end comes
(cf. Matthew 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.)
- (5) This is the time when the kingdom comes to fruition, Jesus destroys His enemies, and hands the kingdom to the Father.

b) vv. 51-58 = in the end, you will be made alive so work hard for the kingdom!

III. vv. 4-6

A. v. 4 = "And you know the way where I am going..."

1. Jesus sets them up to ask the question: "Where?!"
 - a) He knows they are not understanding.
 - b) They have already demonstrated that they don't realize He is going somewhere.
2. This is "...where I go you know the way..."
 - a) They don't know where.
 - b) How could they know the way?!

B. v. 5 "Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way?"

C. v. 6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

1. The way to the Father - (cf. John 10:9 = I am the door...)
2. The truth about the Father - John 12:45

45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.

3. The life of the Father - John 5:26

26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

4. In the end, no one can see the Father and live outside of Jesus Christ.
 - a) Acts 4:8-12
 - b) Jesus is the exclusive way to see the Father.
5. There is another way to see the Father - Judgment.
 - a) Revelation 4:1-5:14
 - b) Revelation 20:11-14

IV. Conclusion