

RIVER BIBLE COURSE

Copyright © E. C. Gedge
www.5loaves2fishes.net

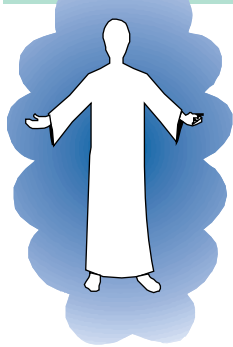


THINGS TO COME

River Bible Course - Prophetic Overview

There are dozens of theories about Jesus' second coming but the differences usually relate to order of events, not to the events themselves. So, this study will summarise things to come then provide charts of the two major viewpoints. Most prophetic scenarios are variations of '**Premillennialism**' or '**Amillennialism**' and students of prophecy need to be familiar with both these views. Fortunately, they are agreed on the first point.

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!



Finish off Hebrews 9:28 here:

"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; _____

The above verse is one of many that explicitly teach his returning.

Can you think of more examples? _____

Moreover, it will be visible. Alarm bells should go off if ever someone pretends there has been a secret coming, an invisible coming, or something seen only with 'eyes of faith.' They are lying. (Matthew 24:23-27) He will come in full view just like he left.

"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?"

_____ (Acts 1:9-11)

THE DEAD WILL RISE

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned." (John 5:28-29)



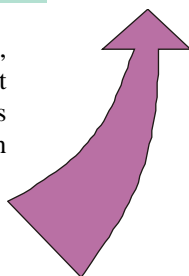
Pre-mil view. The dead rise in stages. The '1st resurrection' includes believers who died before and up to Christ's second coming. A thousand years later, at the end of the millennium, unbelievers (and believers who die during the millennium) take part in the '2nd resurrection'.

These were the words of Jesus, and the resurrection of our body has been a central doctrine of the Church ever since. However, the book of Revelation speaks of two resurrections leading many to think the saints and the wicked are raised at different times. How does Revelation 20:4-15 read to you?

A-mil view. The '1st resurrection' refers to our spirit being born again and later going to heaven. The '2nd resurrection' refers to a general resurrection of the body, both believers and unbelievers at Christ's second coming. The '1000 years' is symbolic of the church age in-between his comings.

BELIEVERS WILL BE GATHERED

This is dubbed the '**rapture**' by many, though some call it by other names but the basic idea is the same. Believers who are still alive at the resurrection get to be taken up to the Lord too. Please connect the following statements with an arrow to the appropriate verse.



Jesus' purpose is to gather us to where he is. 1 Corinth 15:51

Not every Christian will die first. John 14:3

But those who have died will be raised. 1Thess 4:16-17

And those still living will be gathered after them. 1 Corinth 15:52

SATAN WILL BE BOUND

Revelation 20:1-3 presents us with an amazing vision of Satan being bound for one thousand years after which he is released for a little time. Now, questions arise about this: Can a demon be tied with a chain? Are the years a literal one thousand? Some say it speaks of Satan’s power being ‘bound’ at the Cross (Matthew 12:29), one thousand years being symbolic of the church age with Satan prevented from stopping the gospel. Others say the book of Revelation should be interpreted literally whenever possible, so what it says is exactly what it means! What do you think?



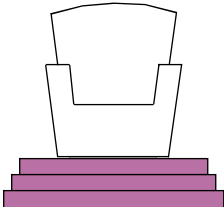
Rev 20
literal



Rev 20
symbolic

Both sides of the millennium debate have good arguments so it behooves us to think twice before dismissing one view over the other. For example Pre-mill scholars point to Revelation 19:11-14 which is obviously the second coming of Christ. Since chapter 19 comes before chapter 20 then the second coming must precede the millennium. A-mill scholars reply that Revelation is a series of visions showing different aspects of the same time periods – in other words, not chronological. Therefore, depending on how we interpret the book of Revelation, (literal/symbolic, chronological/parallel) we can find ourselves in very different scenarios regarding the binding of Satan for 1000 years. See diagram on the next page.

THE WORLD WILL BE JUDGED



Judgment is depicted in scripture as a ‘seat’ or ‘throne’ and the one who sits on it will be Christ. (John 5:22) Read the following passages, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 14:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15 then write the selected verses in the boxes below.

(Matt.25:31)

(2 Cor. 5:10)

(Rev. 20:11)

Some Christians believe these accounts reveal **three different judgments** to come. The first, the judgment of nations, comes after the tribulation but before the millennium. The second is a judgment of believers’ works when Christians receive reward for their service to God. The third is the great white throne judgment at the end of the millennium when unbelievers are judged and sent to their punishment.

Other Christians believe that all three judgments speak of **the same final event**. Believers and unbelievers alike are judged but those whose names are found in the book of life are spared from condemnation. Instead, their service to God results in rewards. They interpret the ‘sheep and goats’ simply as another description of what takes place at the great white throne judgment.

