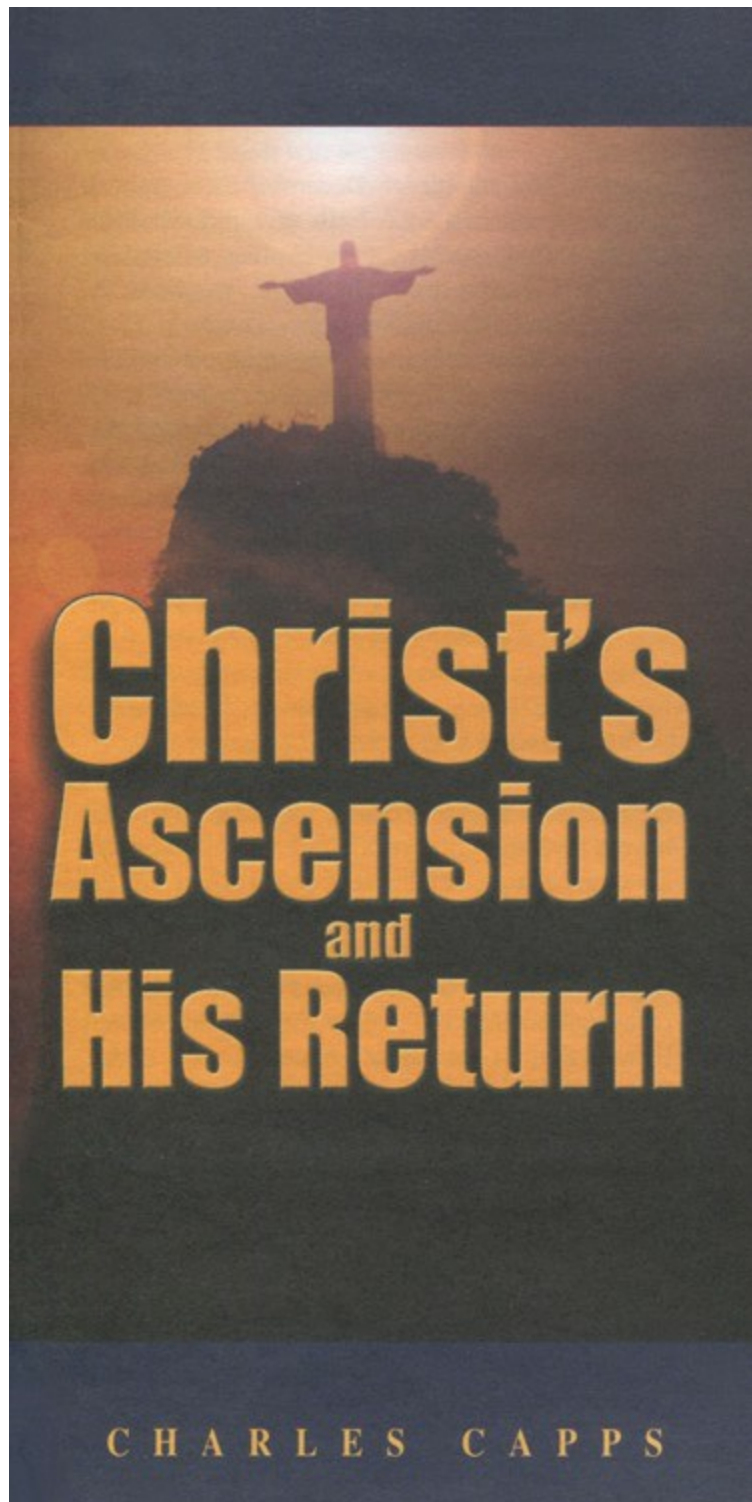


Christ's Ascension and His Return

C H A R L E S C A P P S



CHRIST'S ASCENSION AND HIS

RETURN

The month of December is a time in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. That was His first coming to earth in human flesh but let's not forget the end-time insight revealed in His last days on earth.

He knew He was the Lamb of God, the sin offering for all mankind but when Jesus knew that His time to be offered had come, He revealed some vital information for this end-time generation.

*Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God, believe also in
me. In my Father's house are many
mansions: if it were not so, I would
have told you. I go to prepare a
place for you. 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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. (John 14:1-4)

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These words of Jesus are prophetic, especially to this generation, for those who don't have a revelation of God's Word are truly troubled about the chaotic condition of world affairs. At the time of His betrayal, Jesus gave a prophetic message of comfort to all believers. He promised to prepare a place for us in our Father's house and come again to receive us unto Himself so we could be with Him in our Father's house.

Notice His statement in verse 4: "...

whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.” After His death, Jesus was seen of them forty days; then they saw Him as He was caught up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel... (Acts 1:9-10).

This has prophetic implications that the Church (Body of Christ) will depart the same way they saw Jesus go into

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heaven. We don't know the time but the indication is that it will be after the

2,000 years of determined time and God is the Master timekeeper.

Those who believe God should also believe those prophetic statements and consider their implications carefully.

The stabilizing force for the righteous of the earth is God's Word which abides in them. The stabilizing forces of the Church are found in the prophetic Scriptures. In John 17:24, just before Jesus was betrayed, He prayed, "*Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory...*"

This too is another confirmation of His plan that the righteous shall be with Him where He is now. When Jesus had finished His work on earth and was about to depart to be with His Father, His disciples thought that He would

restore the kingdom of Israel.

THEIR QUESTION

*When they therefore were
come together, they asked of Him,
saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time*

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*Christ's Ascension and His Return
restore again the kingdom to
Israel? (Acts 1:6)*

Jesus had given them inside
information which they didn't
understand because of their own
preconceived ideas.

He told them He was going to
suffer, die, and be raised from the dead.

But at the time of His approaching
death, they were still arguing about who
would sit on His right and on His left
when He set up His Kingdom. (Mark
10:35-45)

We find, in Acts chapter 1. that after His resurrection, they were **still** questioning Him concerning things to come. He had appeared to them off and on for forty days, and they thought surely He would, at that time, set up His Kingdom and restore Israel.

HIS ANSWER

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. (Acts 1:7)

Jesus made similar statements on

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several occasions (Mark 13:32, Matthew 24:36).

The Scriptures reveal that it would be presumptuous for anyone to try to set exact dates for God's pattern of events

that will end the age. However, the fact that Elijah and Jesus knew the exact day they were to be raptured would seem to indicate that God may reveal this information before the Rapture takes place. Both Elijah and Jesus are profiles of the Church.

But I want to reiterate that it is not my purpose to try and set a date for the Rapture, but rather point you to the prophetic revelation which does establish a general time frame for all end-time events. In I Thessalonians 5:5, Paul said that we are children of the day and should not be in the dark concerning the events that are about to be fulfilled.

Jesus continued His answer by shifting His emphasis to receiving the Holy Spirit.

*But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is come
upon you: and ye shall be*

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*Christ's Ascension and His Return
witnesses unto Me both in
Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in
Samaria, and unto the uttermost
part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

Jesus seemed to emphasize that
there was something more important
that had to transpire on earth before
God's prophetic timetable would permit
Him to restore Israel and set up His
Kingdom on Earth. First, the Holy Spirit
(Spirit of Truth) must come, and Jesus
said he would teach us and guide us into
all truth and show us "*things to come.*"
(John 16:13-15). Could this be a clue
that the Holy Spirit may reveal the time

of the Rapture to those who will
experience that blessed event? God's
revelation is progressive. We could call
it "time released revelation." (Ephesians
3:4-5)

*And when He had spoken these
things, while they beheld, He was
taken up; and a cloud received
Him out of their sight. And while
they looked steadfastly toward
heaven as He went up, behold, two
men stood by them in white
apparel; Which also said, Ye men
of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up
into heaven? This same Jesus,*

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*Christ's Ascension and His Return
which is taken up from you into
heaven, shall so come in like
manner as ye have seen him go*

*into heaven. Then returned they
unto Jerusalem from the mount
called Olivet, which is from
Jerusalem a Sabbath day's
journey. (Acts 1:9-12)*

Remember the words of Jesus in
John 14:4, “*And whither I go ye know,
and the way ye know.*” The disciples
watched Jesus ascend into the heavens
as a cloud received Him out of their
sight. This is how they knew where He
had gone and the way He had gone. It
was obvious that He was raptured while
they watched.

Let's consider some interesting
observations. When Jesus was born, the
physical *body of Christ* came to Earth.
That was His personal physical body.
Then in John 12:24, Jesus said, “...
Except a corn of wheat fall into the

ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

When His physical body died, it was placed in a tomb. When He arose from death, His physical body had gone through a transformation and was a

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glorified body (see I Corinthians 15:35-45). Then, after He was seen of them forty days He was caught up into Heaven and the believers (the Church) became the only Body of Christ on earth. Paul said, *“Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular.”* (I Corinthians 12:27) Acts 1:3 reveals that He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs being seen of them forty days, and speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom of

God. Then after forty days, Jesus' original body was taken up into Heaven. Then, consider the Scriptural precedent in Daniel 9:24 which reveals an end-time event in which a day represents a year. We have already seen the 120 years spoken of in Genesis 6:3, seems to represent Jubilees (6,000 years of determined time). We know that the Scripture teaches that we are joint heirs with Christ. Then in Ecclesiastes the first chapter, Solomon (the wisest man that ever lived outside of Jesus Christ) makes this statement in verses nine and ten,

*The thing that hath been, it is
that which shall be; and that which*

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*Christ's Ascension and His Return
is done is that which shall be done:*

*and there is no new thing under the
sun. Is there anything whereof it
may be said, See, this is new? it
hath been already of old time,
which was before us.*

This scripture reveals that certain events that happened in days past reveal what happens in the future. Is it possible that Jesus' ascension and His return is an accurate prophetic profile of what will happen to the Body of Christ (Church) that is on earth today? You will notice that after Jesus arose from the dead, He had a glorified body. He stayed here and taught concerning the Kingdom of God for forty days before He was raptured. This would seem to be one of the events that Solomon was referring to. *"The thing that hath been is that which shall be."* It's possible that

the Body of Christ will receive our glorified bodies forty days before we are raptured and be able to minister concerning the Kingdom of God the same as Jesus did before we are caught up.

In Matthew 13:30 Jesus said,

Let both grow together until

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the harvest: and in the time of

harvest I will say to the reapers,

Gather ye together first the tares,

and bind them in bundles to burn

them: but gather the wheat into my

barn.

Notice the tares were not burned then, it was not time to burn them. They were just bound to the point that they could not pollute or hinder the end-time

harvest and Jesus says, “*but gather the wheat into my barn.*” I believe this is a prophetic utterance of Jesus of a great end-time harvest before we are gathered to the Father’s house.

CHRIST’S TEMPTATION—COMPOSITE OF THE CHURCH

Let’s consider another time period of forty days, which could also be of prophetic importance.

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil... (Luke 4:1-2)

Here again the Scripture reveals that Jesus, the physical body of Christ, was

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in the wilderness forty days being

tempted of the devil. It seems that Jesus Himself was a true living pictorial of the Church. Since we have precedent for a day in the wilderness representing a year, this would fit a parallel of the Body of Christ (Church) being tempted on earth for forty Jubilees (2,000 years) of determined time before being raptured. To say the least, the prophetic implications are astoundingly accurate. In any event, we shall soon know the truth of this matter.

HIS ASCENT

Jesus ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives. This will be the exact place where He will return with the saints on the evening of the last day of the Tribulation Period (Zechariah 14:1-5; Revelation 11:3-20).

It's interesting that Acts 1:12

mentions that it is a “*Sabbath days journey*” from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem, which is less than a mile.

The Scriptures reveal that Jesus will descend on the Mount at the beginning of the seventh millennium on God’s calendar. This seems to be what the

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Sabbath day represented to Israel under the Old Covenant—a thousand-year day of peace and rest.

The six days God labored plus the seventh day of rest represents a time period of 7,000 years of determined time on God’s calendar, in which he will deal with mankind to weed out the wicked of the Earth and gather the righteous into an eternal state. God hallowed the seventh day and

commanded Israel to honor it. It represents the last millennium before eternity, in which Israel will be raised up and live in His sight.

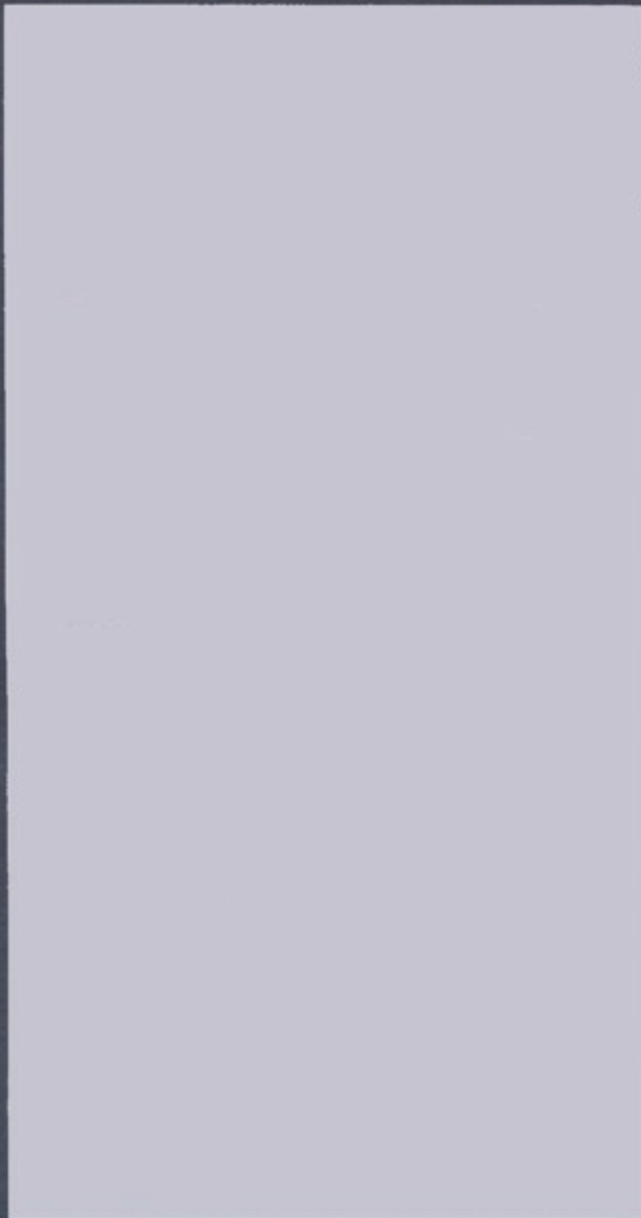
After two days will He revive

us: in the third day He will raise us

up, and we shall live in His sight.

(Hosea 6:2)

MARANATHA!



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