

THE RETURN

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST



Daniel 7: 13,14

PART 1 THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE RETURN

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

Prophecies concerning the Return or the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ are to be found throughout the Bible. The time of Christ's visible Return is referred to as the Day of the Lord, the End Times, Day of Judgement, the Latter Days or Last Days. God's message in the Bible expresses His longing for fellowship with His created people in a personal relationship of obedience and holy living. As shown in the previous studies, the Old and New Testaments prophecies, including prophecies made by Jesus, have all been fulfilled; excepting those prophecies awaiting fulfilment in future times. For more details refer to the Bible Studies entitled *Bible Prophecies and Fulfillments (Parts 1, 2, and 3)*.

There are over 800 verses in the Bible about the Second Coming and it is significant there are about five times more prophecies concerning the Second Coming of Jesus than those foretelling His First. In the New Testament the Second Coming of Christ is referred to over 300 times!. Jesus, Himself, refers to His Return, His coming back over twenty times. There are more verses on the Return of Christ than can be conveyed in this study.

Jesus said - *I will come back again.* John 14: 3

The fulfilment of the prophetic words in the Bible Studies mentioned gives sure evidence and wonderful hope of future fulfilment, in exact detail, of all the remaining unfulfilled biblical prophecies regarding the Second Coming.

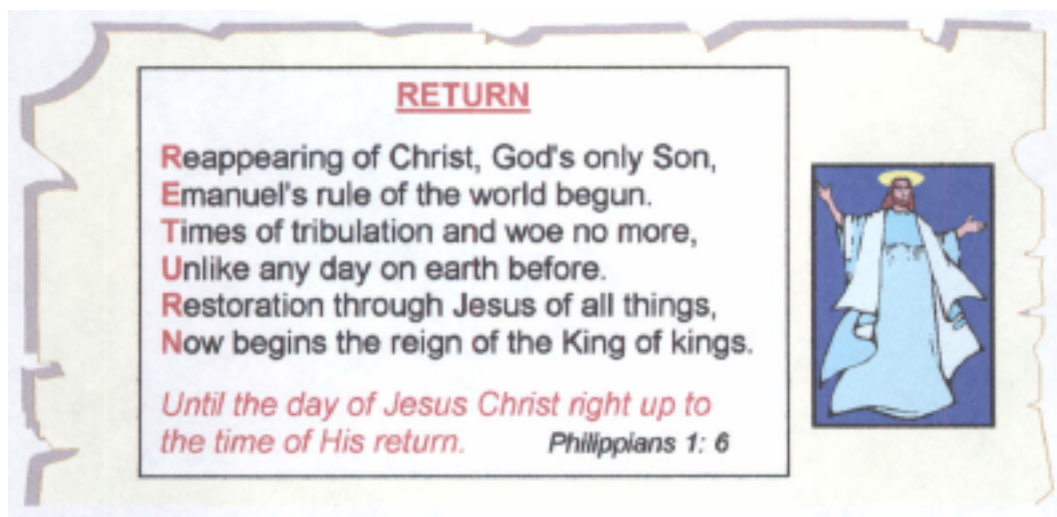
Christ's Return! - How wonderful and what a revelation! For Christians, the Return of Jesus is the most exciting future world event and one which will have the greatest global and universal divine impact.

Deuteronomy 29: 29

Luke 1: 37

Jesus told His disciples -


John 16: 13



RETURN

Reappearing of Christ, God's only Son,
Emanuel's rule of the world begun.
Times of tribulation and woe no more,
Unlike any day on earth before.
Restoration through Jesus of all things,
Now begins the reign of the King of kings.

*Until the day of Jesus Christ right up to
the time of His return. Philippians 1: 6*





KEYWORDS

P2

APOCALYPSE Read 1 Peter 1: 7 - 13

A disclosure or unveiling - the now invisible power of the Ascended Christ made visible by His revelation at His Second Coming.

1 Peter 1: 13

EIPHANEIA

The appearing - at Christ's First Coming and His visible presence at the promised Second Coming on the Day of the Lord. The Visit of the Wise Men (Magi) at Christ's first appearing is remembered on 6th January, the Feast of Epiphany. The following Scriptures look forward to Christ's Second Coming.

Psalm 102: 16

Titus 2: 13

ESCHATOLOGY

The study of the last things, especially concerning the Day of the Lord (*Day of Jesus Christ*) at His Second Coming.

Philippians 1: 6

PAROUSIA Matthew 24: 3 - 50

The arrival or presence of the Lord Jesus Christ - Who, on His Return to earth at the Second Coming, will come in great power and glory.

The timing of Christ's Second coming is known only to God, the Father.

Matthew 25: 31

RAPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18

The transition for believers into Resurrection Life without crossing through death, like Enoch in the O.T.

1 Thessalonians 4: 17

In the most ancient account in the Bible, the prophet Job sought justice through the help of an advocate in heaven. He expressed prophetically a future time in his longing for One to act as Redeemer. Job believed, even after death, he would see God.

If only there were one to arbitrate (an advocate) between man and God, as between a neighbour and his friend.

Job 16: 21 N.E.B

After my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh shall I see God.

Job 19: 26

HANNAH'S PRAYER

The last words of Hannah's prayer were prophetic on giving Samuel, her *asked for* son to the Lord, when she worshipped at the yearly sacrifices at Shiloh.

The child Samuel grew up to become the prophet to Israel, the Chosen People (as promised to Abraham) and to Israel's first kings.

1 Samuel 1: 2, 28 2: 10

THE BOOK OF RUTH



In Israel's history, another child had been born, the son of Ruth, a Gentile from Moab. In God's plan, Ruth's great grandson was David who was anointed King by Samuel, Hannah's son.

King David, *the sweet psalmist of Israel*, was the son of Jesse of Bethlehem; the promised Messiah to come from the Root of Jesse.

(Isaiah 11: 10)



Isaiah 11: 1

1 Samuel 2: 10

KING DAVID'S PRAYERS

Psalm 61: 6, 7

David's prayer has been accepted as Messianic by Jewish scholars.

God promised David a royal dynasty, an everlasting house and throne in an unconditional covenant. (Psalm 89: 3, 4, 35 - 37 Daniel 2: 44 Luke 1: 32 -33 Galatians 3: 16)

Read 2 Samuel 7: 8 - 17, Psalm 132: 10 - 18

2 Samuel 7: 16

(2 Samuel 22: 51, 1 Chronicles 17: 14, 2 Chronicles 13: 5, 21: 7)

In the following generation, God's promise to David was initially fulfilled in King Solomon but his throne was not everlasting being divided in the reign of Solomon's son.

The Davidic Covenant promised a future everlasting king, kingdom and throne as recorded in the last words of David. (2 Samuel 23: 1 - 5)

On the Return of Christ, there will be peace on earth and kings and nations shall serve Him; described prophetically as in the reigns of King David and Solomon - types of Christ in the words of Psalms 2 and 72.

Psalm 2: 6

Just as King David ruled Israel from Jerusalem, God's Messiah would rule the whole earth from Zion's city.

Psalm 72: 11

Psalm 72: 20



THE PROMISED MESSIAH

David's greater Son is the Jews' promised Messiah – from the Hebrew word meaning Anointed One. The Greek word is Christos, from which we get the word Christ, God's promised Seed.



Psalm 89: 3, 4

The Jews still await the coming of their Messiah. It is to Him they will look in the Latter Days.

Christians believe God's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, has already come, being born as foretold in His first coming at Bethlehem, the city of David.

Unlike the Jewish people, the Church (Gentile believers and Messianic Jews), empowered by the Holy Spirit, now live expecting His Return to earth in His Second Coming. The Lord God, the Almighty Father, will then dwell with His redeemed people, the desire of His loving heart.

A time of righteousness, justice and blessing will dawn when the Messianic Kingdom comes to be established forever.



Psalm 93: 5

Read Psalm 96 1 Chronicles 16: 31 – 36

When Messiah returns all Creation will rejoice. God's redeemed children will shout and sing for joy. The Lord God will care for His people like a Shepherd as vouched by King David in the well-known 23rd Psalm and in Psalms 95: 7, 100: 3.

The waves of the sea will lift up their voice and the trees of the woods will clap their hands and sing for joy before the Lord God. These words of praise and thanksgiving celebrated the coming of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem in the reign of King David.

Psalm 96: 12, 13



THE RETURN PART 1

THE MAJOR PROPHETS

INTRODUCTION

The Major Prophets (ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, DANIEL) continue to forth tell the Second Coming of Christ. Their prophetic words reveal events for both the near and distant future and include God's judgement of Israel and the Gentile nations. Israel should have been a *watchman* to the nations but instead the people had rejected the Lord. The Chosen People had broken the Covenant relationship through their idolatry and rejection of Christ at His first coming.

Even so, the Lord God in His great love for Israel gave future promises of hope in the End Times with restoration of the land and people in an Everlasting Covenant. This is the golden line throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. The Messiah of the house of David would return in His Second Coming to rule the nations.

ISAIAH

In the Book of ISAIAH the Messiah's *First and Second Coming* are both prophesied. The prophet foretold Messiah would come from the Root or Branch of Jesse – his son, who became King David. Isaiah foretold Messiah's everlasting government from the mountain of the Lord's house in Jerusalem. The Lord God would then, in the latter days, dwell with His people, the desire of God's heart.

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH PROMISED



For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. The government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the time forth, and forevermore.

Isaiah 9: 6, 7

Isaiah 16: 5

THE CORNERSTONE

Hebrew scholars understand the words Stone and Cornerstone to be Messianic titles.

Isaiah 28: 16 (Psalm 118: 22)
(Matthew 21: 42 Acts 4: 11 Romans 9: 33 Ephesians 2: 20 1 Peter 2: 4 - 6)

Isaiah 33: 17

The prophet JEREMIAH foretold the coming of a Righteous Branch.

It should be noted that King Jehoiachin (598 B.C.) was the last surviving Davidic king till Christ. Jeremiah prophesied that none of Jehoiachin's children would rule in the line of David on the throne in Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 22: 30)

Jeremiah 23: 5

The word *Branch*, like the words *Stone* and *Cornerstone*, is a Messianic title.

God's Messiah would come as both PRIEST and KING.

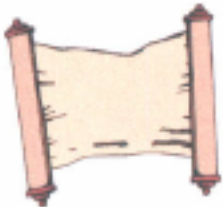
The only One of King David's remaining seed of the royal line is - the Lord Jesus Christ; as proved by the genealogical records in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Many of the O.T prophets refer to God's Messianic promise to King David.

Today, no Jewish family can trace their family line back to prove they belonged to the Levitical priesthood. On the Roman destruction in 70 A.D. of the Temple in Jerusalem, all such essential records of proof were destroyed by fire. Following the crucifixion of Christ, the Lord God showed no pity for His people because they had rejected His beloved Son, the Messiah - hence the Roman conquest. Nevertheless, God's love for the Chosen People of Israel still remains, being an everlasting and unconditional covenant to Abraham.

(Genesis 15: 18) (1 Chronicles 16: 15 - 18)

Jeremiah Chapters 30 - 33



Jeremiah, known as the Weeping Prophet, was instructed (30: 2) to write these words spoken by the Lord in a book (scroll). This record in beautifully written poetry contains many well-known promises of hope and Israel's future prosperity after the grievous years of *Jacob's Trouble* (30: 7).

Jeremiah's prophetic word of both destruction and restoration refers to times in the near and distant future when the Messianic Age will dawn. Then the awesome power and holiness of the Lord God would be known by all people. This will be a far greater event than the Exodus from Egypt and the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea.

Jeremiah 30: 9

THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

In the Latter Days when Messiah comes, the old Sinai Covenant will be replaced by the New and Everlasting Covenant - a Covenant of Peace. No longer would the law be written on stone but on the hearts of His people, both Jew and Gentile.

SHALOM

The Prophet EZEKIEL was called by God to be a Watchman and a Sign to the house of Israel.

Ezekiel Chapter 17



In the messianic allegory of the **Vine and the Cedar**, God promised Israel's eventual restoration in His everlasting covenant to King David.

The VINE represented Israel, the CEDAR – David's royal family.

In future times there would no longer be the two separate kingdoms of Israel and Judah, for the Lord God would plant a tender shoot (a new king of David's line) in the land of Israel to become a tall and splendid Cedar.

Then, the house of Israel will be gathered from all the nations and the Remnant brought into the everlasting *bond of the covenant*.

But the promised Royal power in Jerusalem would *not* be restored –

Ezekiel 21: 27

Ezekiel 34: 23

This next prophetic word refers to a future time in Israel of blessing, peace and safety.

Ezekiel 34: 24 – 25



Ezekiel 37: 15 - 22



Although the Jews returned to Israel after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the Jews were dispersed again for 2000 years among the nations following the Crucifixion of Christ in Jerusalem. The many promises of re-gathering to the land were amazingly fulfilled in 1948 when Israel was reborn and declared a nation again, with the old city of Jerusalem being regained in 1967 - important signs that the Return of Christ is near.

Unlike the Jews, Christians believe that sinless Jesus Christ has already come, having made peace by the blood of His cross -.

On the Second Coming of Christ, there would be an everlasting covenant of peace, joy and blessing as promised to King David.

David, My Servant, will be their King and they shall have one Shepherd. I will make them one nation in the land, upon the mountains of Israel, and one King shall be King over them all; and they shall be no longer two nations, neither be divided into two. Ezekiel 37: 22 (24 - 28)



EZEKIEL'S PROPHECY AGAINST GOG

Ezekiel Chapters 38, 39

Ezekiel received God's cataclysmic judgement against Gog (world leader and enemy of Israel) and the forces of many nations for the predicted invasion and destruction of Israel's enemies in the End Times.

On that day, there would be a great earthquake and shaking of the mountains. The sword of the Lord, in the fire of His fierce anger, would cause catastrophic confusion in the ranks of the invading troops. All mankind would tremble at the presence of God's holiness.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Thrice Holy Lord God Almighty!

The Book of **DANIEL** also records prophetic visions both for the near and distant future of the End Times. Daniel, the last of the major prophets, saw a great stone that would destroy the Gentile empires when the Messiah returned to establish the everlasting Kingdom of God on earth in Jerusalem.

Gentile domination of the Holy Land began in 586 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed in the Babylonian conquest by King Nebuchadnezzar. This lengthy period is known as the - *Times of the Gentiles* as recorded in St. Luke's Gospel and lasted for nearly 2,500 years until 1948 when Israel became a nation again.

Daniel 2: 34 - 35

In the New Testament Jesus reminded the chief priests and the Pharisees -

Luke 20: 18 (Matthew 21: 44)

Daniel 2: 44

I saw in the night visions, and behold, on the clouds of the heavens came One like a Son of man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And there was given Him (the Messiah) dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is one which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7: 13 - 14



GOD'S MESSIANIC KINGDOM

God will set up in the latter days the 5th Kingdom when the nations shall serve and obey Him. The glory of this everlasting kingdom was revealed to the Apostle John in the Book of the Revelation at the end of the New Testament. (Daniel 7: 27)

To Daniel this was a message of survival and hope for his people - an end to Gentile domination of Israel (*the times of the Gentiles*). (Luke 21: 24)

Daniel's last visions include the years of *Jacob's Trouble* of the near and distant future and the time of the Beast, according to the Book of Truth. (Daniel 10: 21). Then in the sanctuary in Jerusalem the abomination of desolation would be seen. Daniel's vision in the Last Days, of the glorious Man clothed in linen and pure gold, awaits fulfilment - the Book being sealed.

Daniel 10: 5 - 6 (Revelation 1: 12 - 17)

THE RETURN



PART 1 - THE OLD TESTAMENT Continued

THE MINOR PROPHETS

INTRODUCTION

As the four Major Prophets foretold, the shorter books of the twelve Minor Prophets all prophesy some aspect of the Lord's Return. All these shorter books include events to do with Israel and the nations in both the near and distant future. In the Book of **HOSEA**, his family life portrays God's judgement of Israel's idolatry and immorality. Israel had rejected the Lord and would therefore be deprived, would exist in exile without king or prince, without sacrifices or priesthood for many days.

Hosea 3: 5

Likewise, the Lord Jesus was rejected by His own people and returned to His own place in heaven - until that time comes when in repentance Israel will seek His face.

As His Chosen People have returned to Israel after long years of exile, so the Lord Jesus Christ will return to the words -

Psalm 118: 26

The crowd in Jerusalem quoted these same words on Christ's triumphal entry into the Holy City at the beginning of Passion Week (Palm Sunday). (Matthew 23: 39)

The prophet **JOEL** prophesied that the coming Day of the Lord would be as a mighty army; like a plague of locusts destroying everything in its path. The nations will be gathered for judgement in the Valley of Jehoshaphat for their wickedness and cruelty to His people, the Jews.



Joel 2: 11 (31)

Even so, Joel prophesied that the Lord God will pour out His Spirit in those days (2: 28) and whoever calls on the name of the Lord, will be saved. (2: 32)

Joel prophesied God's final restoration of Israel for the invading army of the enemy nations would be destroyed with a mighty destruction. His people, both Jew and Gentile, will then praise the Lord and know assuredly that He is the God of Israel; the Book of Joel ending with these words-

Joel 3 :21

The Prophet, **AMOS**, was a herdsman called by God to prophesy Israel's imminent and dreadful divine judgement. In God's mercy and according to His everlasting promise, the House of Jacob (Israel) would not be completely destroyed. A time would come when God's exiled people would return just as the promised Messiah would return.

Amos 9: 11

Long afterwards, James, the apostle and brother of the Lord, spoke these same words to the brethren assembled in Jerusalem. (Acts 15: 16)

OBADIAH

The short Book of **OBADIAH** details the Lord's judgement of Edom. The Day of the Lord is mentioned once in its only chapter. (Obadiah 1: 15)

Obadiah's final words of deliverance are Messianic for the rule of the Lord will be established and Mt. Zion alone will be exalted.

Obadiah 1: 21

MICAH

Like other prophets, **MICAH** prophesied both the Lord's judgement and the hope of final deliverance in the Messianic Age.

It was the prophet Micah who prophesied the *First Coming* of the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5: 2)



The Voice of the Lord to Micah continued to convey a message of hope with the promise that the Remnant of Israel (the nation) would return and God's Messiah would break through the gate and lead them. In the End Times Messiah's reign would fulfil the Lord's plan of deliverance for Zion.

Micah 2: 13

The words of the prophet ZEPHANIAH are apocalyptic in his description of the fearful destruction upon the earth on the Day of the Lord's great wrath in His universal judgement of the nations in the End Times.

Zephaniah 1: 14

Like other prophets, Zephaniah foretold the ultimate restoration of the Remnant in Israel. His people will become a praise in all the lands of their shame and fear.

Zephaniah 3: 15, 17

HAGGAI

Again, God promised through the prophet HAGGAI, that the everlasting covenant with David would ultimately be renewed when the Messiah returned. Haggai's prophecies convey God's promises for the near and distant future.



The Lord promised Zerubbabel, King David's successor as governor on the people's return from the Babylonian exile, that he would be His signet ring as a sure sign that the Messiah would come.

Haggai 2: 23

Haggai 2: 7

The prophet **ZECHARIAH** foretold the *DAY OF THE LORD* in great detail.

Zechariah 2: 10



Zerubbabel, of King David's line, on the return of the exiles from Babylon, had been appointed Governor in Jerusalem – but not King. Together with Joshua the High Priest, they were to lead and encourage the dispirited people to rebuild the Temple for the worship of the Lord of all the earth. Zerubbabel and Joshua, represented in the vision of the two olive trees supplying the Lamp, pointed to the future work of God's Messiah as both King and Priest. (Zechariah 4: 2 – 3)

The Voice of the Lord announced to the assembly of priests standing before Joshua –

Zechariah 3: 8

Zechariah 6: 12 – 13

A CROWN FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Zechariah 6: 9 – 13



The crown was not for Zerubbabel as governor but for Joshua, the High Priest, as a type of Christ, the One Who would come again as Priest and King and Temple builder.

Zechariah's words to Joshua prophesied that the crown was not only a confirmation of the visions but a symbol of the coming Messiah, His universal rule and the people's spiritual renewal. At His coronation He would be enthroned in glorious honour bringing peace as both Priest and King.

Zechariah 8: 3

Only the promised return of Christ will bring final peace and an end to the age-long hostility between Jews and Arabs. Then Israel, the only democratically ruled country in the Middle East, will once again, as in the times before King Saul, become a Theocracy.

Under Messiah's rule, Israel will no longer be a curse among the heathen but a blessing to other nations and so fulfil God's purpose for His Chosen People.

Zechariah 9: 10

In His care for the people of Israel, the Lord gave the promise of the coming Cornerstone - a Messianic word used in both the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament. God's covenant relationship with His people, sealed in blood, assured the promise -

Zechariah 10: 4

Despite the Jews' rejection of the Messiah, in the distant future, they will be defended by the Angel of the Lord going before them. Then will the inhabitants of Jerusalem be strong in the Lord. In that future day the Lord will destroy all the nations that surround Jerusalem.

MOURNING AS FOR AN ONLY SON

Zechariah 12: 10 - 14



In that day there will be a great mourning in Jerusalem. It will be like that for King Josiah, who was killed in battle, even though in disguise, fighting the Egyptians at Megiddo. *And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace or unmerited favour and supplication. And they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

Zechariah 12: 10

Zechariah prophesied that all the families in Israel will repent and mourn, their wives apart, in deepest sorrow and overwhelming grief when their rejected Messiah appears. Their mourning for the only begotten Son of God they had pierced will be far greater than their deep sorrow on the death of King Josiah, Judah's last good king.

THE DAY OF CLEANSING FROM SIN

Zechariah 13: 1

In the End Times the Lord will gather all nations against Jerusalem. The city will be taken and plundered, the landscape subjected to a mighty upheaval.

Zechariah 14: 3 - 4

Malachi 3: 2

These words are similar to those of the prophet, Joel, who also described the great and very terrible Day of the Lord when Christ appears at His Second Coming.

Joel 2: 11, 31

The Lord Almighty will then reign in majesty, as the closing chapter of the book of Zechariah records - worship being God's priority.

Zechariah 14: 9



At the Return of Christ, God will rule in righteousness with nothing unclean for all will be holy. Zechariah declared that even the household pots in Jerusalem and Judah and the pots in the Temple shall be holy to the Lord like the bowls before the altar.

As inscribed on the turban of Aaron, the first High Priest, even the bells on the horses shall be inscribed with the words -

HOLY TO THE LORD

Zechariah 14: 20

Then the words foretold by the prophets Habakkuk and Isaiah will be fulfilled -

Habakkuk 2: 14

Isaiah 6: 3