

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.
Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.
Every island, sea, and mountain,
Heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
All who hate Him must, confounded,
Hear the trump proclaim the day:
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment! Come away!
Now redemption, long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear;
All His saints, by man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the air:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!
The dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own;
O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting God, come down!*

(by John Cennick, published & altered by Charles Wesley (1758))

INTRODUCTION TO ESCHATOLOGY

Article XVIII, Of the World to Come, CHBC Statement of Faith

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

I. INTRODUCTION (Rev. 1:3)

II. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (1 Thess. 4:16; Mt. 24:30-31, 26:64; Rev. 1:7; Jas. 5:7-8; 2 Thess. 2:1; Tit. 2:13; Zeph. 1:15-18; 3:8-9; Acts 1:11)

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to another.” – Matthew 24:30-31.

- A. There will be a sudden, personal, visible, bodily return of Christ.
(Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16, 5:2; Mt. 16:27)

“The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.” – 1 Thess. 4:16.

- B. The time of Christ’s coming is unknown
(Mt. 24:36, 42; Mk. 13:34-37; Luke 21:11; Acts 1:7; 2 Pet. 3)

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” – Matthew 24:36.

- C. Christians should eagerly await Christ’s return
(Rev. 22:20; Tit. 2:12-13; Phil 3:20; 1 Pet. 4:13; John 14:3)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” – John 14:1-4.

III. THE MILLENNIUM (Rev. 20:1-10)

See Millennium Perspectives Handout

IV. FINAL JUDGMENT (Rom. 2:5; Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 20:11-15; Acts 10:42; Mt. 25:31-34, 41; Rom. 2:6,8; 1 Cor. 3:12-15)

- 1) Jesus Christ will be the Judge
- 2) Unbelievers will be judged and condemned to eternal punishment
- 3) Believers will be judged

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, an all His angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” – Matthew 25:31-33.

V. THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH (Rev. 21-22; Rom. 8:19)

“I heard a loud voice from the throne saying ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” - Revelation 21:3-4.