

Behold He is Coming

Revelation 1:7
David Rountree

- A. Obvious Questions with the coming of Christ (v.7).
- B. The absolute certainty of comfort.
- C. The timing is soon and near (1:1, 3).
- D. Reviewing different categories and ways of Christ coming to see which context fits Rev.1:7.
 1. **Creator Coming:** Christ coming in a pre-incarnate state as one of the persons in the Trinity. He came as our creator and sustainer (Gen.1:26; John 1:1-3, 10; Heb.1:2, 3). Christ continues to come to us our creator by creating new babies every day (Ps. 139:13, 14; John 1:3). Christ's first coming to us was to make us in his image.
 2. **Incarnational Coming:** It was prophesied in Gen. 3:15 that because of our sin, Christ would come to us as human flesh to provide a perfect human flesh sacrificial substitute for us; as was needed for our salvation from sin (2 Cor. 5:21). Christ coming in the flesh, born of a virgin, is often thought of as a first coming, but we have already seen it is not (1 Tim. 1:15; Matt. 1:21-23; John 1:4-18; 6:38, 51).
 3. **Pre-Incarnate or Angel of God Coming:** He came as an angel, as God's presence (Isa. 63:9, Exod. 3:2; Judges 2:1; Exod. 14:19; Judges 13:6; 2 Sam. 14:17, 20). In this same sense there are the many times God has come to his people through dreams. Men have been moved by the coming of Christ in the Holy Spirit to write and speak the word of God (2 Pet. 1:20; Heb. 1:1).
 4. **Regeneration Coming:** When we are "born again" by the Holy Spirit, Christ and God the Father come to us (John 14:23) to live with us forever. We do not have mere epiphanies of Christ but he has really come to us and is really living in us (Rom. 8:9, 10; Gal. 2:20). He is "God with us" (Matt. 1:23).
 5. **Community of Believers Coming:** There is a sense in which whenever believers gather (even two or three) to baptize and take the Lord's Supper and to pray and praise Christ and to listen to and love his word, Christ comes to us and is very present with us. We are the temple of his presence (Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 11:23-31; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; Matt. 18:20; Rev. 3:20).
 6. **Dominion Kingly Coming:** Christ went up to heaven to meet with the Ancient of Days and receive everlasting dominion, glory and a kingdom (Dan.7:13, 14). This reference helps us to see that Christ comes both ways, to earth and to heaven. Christ comes to his church as its kingly head to rule and reign over us (Rev. 1:5; Eph. 1:22; 4:15; Col. 1:18; 2:19).
 7. **Spirit Coming:** Christ comes spiritually and actively in the person of the Holy Spirit—Christ said, "I will come to you" (John 14:16-18). The Holy Spirit is referred to at times as, "the Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9; 1 Pet. 1:11). The Greek word used for his coming to us in the Holy Spirit is *erchomai*. This same word is also found in **Matthew 24:30, 48**. It is the verb form which speaks to Christ's *active involvement not necessarily his physical or bodily presence*. Christ's coming in this way is also found in Revelation 1:7; 2:5, 16; 3:11; 16:15; 22:7,12, 17, 20.
 8. **High Priestly Coming:** Does Christ only give us grace through our ministering angels and his Spirit, or does he not also frequently come to us as our high priest? (Heb. 4:14-16). As we run to him for grace, we see him running to us, ever empathizing with us for our forgiveness and healing (Luke 15:20). Christ is our chief physician, often coming to us to heal our lives both body and spirit. This is an endless present and future reality.

9. **Judgment Coming:** Christ's coming in judicial judgments often "on clouds" just as he promises to come in the book of Revelation (Isa. 19:1; Psa. 18:7-15; 104:3,4; Exod. 19:9, 16-20; Jer. 4:11-13; Ezek. 30:3-4; Joel 2:1, 2; Zeph. 1:14-16; Rev. 1:7; 2:5; Matt. 16:27; 21:40, 41,43,45; 24:3, 27, 37-39, 42-46, 50, etc.; John 5:26-29; 1 Thess. 4:13-17).

10. **Final Physical, Personal Coming:** Christ comes to his own in his resurrected body to give us our resurrected bodies and life with him forever (Acts 1:11; John 14:3; Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor.15:20-26; Phil. 1:6; 3:20). There is for all of us who are still alive on earth, a future coming of Christ to meet him, to be judged in him or not, and a future resurrection. We are all to proclaim the Lord's work "until he comes" (1 Cor. 11:26). This coming will be far beyond the Jewish nation. It will be universal in scope and significance.

E. Futurists and Preterists on Christ Coming

1. Futurist often think in terms of 3-timed comings of Christ.

2. Both partial-preterist and futurists believe in **a final return of Christ:**
 - **to complete Christ's redemptive victory** (Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 2:8); and
 - **to fully put an end to sin, death and the devil.** They were legally defeated in 70 A.D. and yet they remain (Rom. 7:18-25; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Col. 1:13-14; 2:13-15). Their defeat which has been legally declared is being practically realized through the continuing progress of the Gospel (Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 15:20-23).
 - **to provide rationale for why the gospel is still necessary** (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8), and goes forth toward a final completion (Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 15:24). A final removal of sin, death and the devil will be revealed at the final advent of Christ (Rom. 8:18-25; Rev. 20:10-15).

3. Futurists wrongly see Rev.1:7 and Matt.24 as referring to the final days of earth ignoring the 70AD judgment coming context.