

# The Refrain of Revelation

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- Christ has a new people. The national Jewish church is no longer in the picture (5:9). What do we make of this?
- Christ was rejected as were his people (John 1:11; Acts 2:22-24; 4:1-3).
- Christ came to divorce a harlot and her temple (Ezek.16:8, 30-32; Jer.3:6-10).
- In Revelation, Jewish tribes are promised soon wailing and destruction (Rev.1:7; 6:9-11).

## The refrain of Revelation: “Christ is Coming!”

Rev. 1:4 Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and **who is to come**, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

Rev. 1:7 Behold, **he is coming** with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth[land] will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Rev. 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and **who is to come**, the Almighty.”

Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and do the works you did at first. **If not, I will come to you** and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Rev. 2:16 Therefore **repent. If not, I will come to you soon** and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

Rev. 2:25 Only hold fast what you have **until I come**.

Rev. 3:2,3 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. **Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Rev. 3:9-12 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, **I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming** on the whole world[land], to try those who dwell on the earth[land]. **I am coming soon**. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, **I will come** in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Rev. 4:8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, **who was and is and is to come!**”

Rev. 6:1 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “**Come!**”

Rev. 6:3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “**Come!**”

Rev. 6:5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “**Come!**” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev. 6:7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “**Come!**”

Rev. 6:17 for **the great day of their wrath has come**, and who can stand?”

Rev. 11:14 The second woe has passed; behold, **the third woe is soon to come**.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now **the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Rev. 14:7 And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment has come**, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Rev. 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, “Put in your sickle, and reap, for **the hour to reap has come**, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”

Rev. 16:15 (“Behold, **I am coming like a thief!** Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

Rev. 17:1,2 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “**Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute** who is seated on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

Rev. 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and **is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction**. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and **is to come**.

Rev. 18:9,10 And the kings of the earth[land], who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! **For in a single hour your judgment has come.**”

Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come**, and his Bride has made herself ready;

Rev. 21:9,10 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “**Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev. 22:7 “And **behold, I am coming soon**. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Rev. 22:12 “**Behold, I am coming soon**, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

Rev. 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “**Come.**” And let the one who hears say, “**Come.**” And let the one who is thirsty **come**; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Rev. 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming soon.**” Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

### **The Refrain: Christ is Coming!**

Christ is Coming for Destruction (chapters 1-5)

Christ is Coming for Divorce (chapters 6-19)

Christ is Coming for Deliverance (chapters 20-22)

Amen. Come Lord Jesus! (22:20)

## **Before Divorce, a Clear Plea for Repentance**

Jesus preached repentance (Matt.4:17)

Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you **repent**.

Rev. 2:16 Therefore **repent**. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

Rev. 2:21 I gave her time to **repent**, but she refuses to **repent** of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of her works,

Rev. 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and **repent**. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Rev. 3:19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and **repent**.

Rev. 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not **repent** of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev. 16:9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not **repent** and give him glory.

Rev. 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not **repent** of their deeds.

### **Inadequate Repentance Leads to Divorce**

1. The divorce decree is expressed with three messages involving the number 7:

***7 Seals (5:1-8:1) → 7 Trumpets (8:2-15:8) → 7 Bowls (16:1-21)***

2. Believing Jews and Gentiles alike become one new bride of Christ: one tree (Rom.11:15,25); one new man (Eph.2:13-18); one new temple (Eph.2:19-22); and one new creation (Gal.6:15).
3. Jesus had promised a divorce judgment in his generation (Matt. 21:40, 41, 43, 45; 24:24-30, 34) blaming the unbelieving Jew for his rejection and crucifixion
4. The high priest and Jewish leaders were told they would witness this coming of Christ in judgment (Matt.26:62-66; Luke 19:41-44; 21:20-22; 23:28-31).

### **Revelation is a judicial book with emphasis on the Throne of God**

1. Divorce is a judicial action and the throne of God is the judicial court room.
2. The great harlot deserves divorce (Rev.16:6) and represents Jerusalem, the national church. Christ is ready for his new bride, the new covenant Bride of Christ (Rev.21:1-2).

### **The Covenantal Judgment Refrain**

1. Israel was the nation God graciously took as his wife but she was unfaithful (Jer.3:14,20; 31:32; Ezek.16:8, 31,32; Isa.50:1; 54:5; 62:4).
2. Punishment for adultery was by stoning (Lev.20:10 and by fire (Lev.21:9). Jerusalem was met with hailstones and fire (Rev.16:21; 17:16).