

# Pulling Back the Curtain on Jesus' Second Coming

Message 4 of 5 in the series: "Pulling Back the Curtain"

## A. About 60 years after He ascended into heaven, Jesus pulled back the curtain on himself, heaven, and the end times for his disciple John.

"This is a **revelation** from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. God **blesses** the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who **listen** to its message and **obey** what it says, for the **time is near.**" Revelation 1:1-3 (NLT)

## B. Jesus pulled back the curtain on His second coming.

"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. **Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.** His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: **King of all kings and Lord of all lords.**"

Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)

1. Jesus will come back in the same way He left. "'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:11 (NIV)
2. Jesus will come back riding a white horse, NOT a donkey. He will not be coming to make peace but to wage war against rebellious humanity. "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt.'" Matthew 21:5 (NLT) (*Zechariah 9:9*)
3. Jesus will NOT come back until the entire world has had an opportunity to respond to the gospel. "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14 (NLT)
4. Jesus will come back at a time when the Antichrist, an imposter supernaturally empowered by Satan, rules the world. "Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... **that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist) is revealed**—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. **He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God...** This man will come to do the work of Satan with **counterfeit power and signs and miracles**. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them."

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 & 9-10 (NLT)

"Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! **And the dragon (Satan) gave the beast (the Antichrist) his own power and throne and great authority.** I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. 'Who is as great as the beast?' they exclaimed. 'Who is able to fight against him?' Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. **And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast.** They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Revelation 13:1-9 (NLT) (*See also Daniel 8:23-24, 9:27, & 11:36*)

*Note:* The Antichrist will be assisted by a false prophet who is also supernaturally empowered by Satan to do amazing miracles that will **deceive** people into worshiping the Antichrist instead of God. “Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, **he deceived all the people who belong to this world**. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. **He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead**. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. **His number is 666.**” Revelation 13:11-18 (NLT) *(See also Matthew 24:15)*

5. When Jesus comes back, the Antichrist will gather the world’s armies together in a ludicrous attempt to make war on the Lord of Heaven’s armies. “And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty... And **the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name *Armageddon***.” Revelation 16:13-16 (NLT)

“Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse**. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.” Revelation 19:19-21 (NLT)

“...the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8b (NLT)

### C. Four Life Applications:

1. We must never forget how powerful God’s Word is. “For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)
2. We must beware of false teachers. “Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world... if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.” 1 John 4:1-3 (NLT)
3. We must prepare for Jesus’ second coming by doing the things he told us to do when He came the first time. “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 24:45-51 (NLT)
4. As believers, we don’t need to fear Jesus’ second coming. “But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die...” 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT) *(See also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)*

## Connect Group Questions:

Read Revelation 16:13-16 & 19:11-21. Then answer the following questions:

1. When you hear someone speak about Jesus' second coming, how does it make you feel? Why?
2. Why is it important that Jesus is "Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war"? (Revelation 19:11, Matthew 24:14)
3. How does Paul describe the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 & 9-10? Why will most of the people on earth follow him? (Luke 4:5-8, Ephesians 2:1-3) Do you think it's possible for someone like this to come to power today?
4. Read Revelation 13:11-18. How would you define the role of the false prophet who serves the Antichrist? Why is the mark of the beast significant? How do we make sure we won't be misled by false prophets/teachers today? (1 John 4:1-3)
5. Apparently, Jesus defeats the combined armies of the entire world with a simple word from His mouth. What do these Scripture passages teach us about the power of God's Word?
  - Matthew 8:16
  - Mark 4:39
  - Luke 4:1-13
  - John 11:43-44
  - Hebrews 4:12
6. Why do you think the armies of the world will believe they can defeat Jesus and the armies of heaven? Why do you think we often underestimate what Jesus can do in our circumstances? (Mark 9:22-23)
7. What is the best way for us to prepare for Jesus' second coming? (Matthew 24:45-51, 2 Peter 3:14)
8. What do the following passages teach us about the rapture of the church? Why didn't God tell us more about this? (Deuteronomy 29:29)
  - Matthew 24:40-41
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 5:9