

Doctrine



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...

*The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Eschatology

The Second Coming of Christ

THEOLOGY

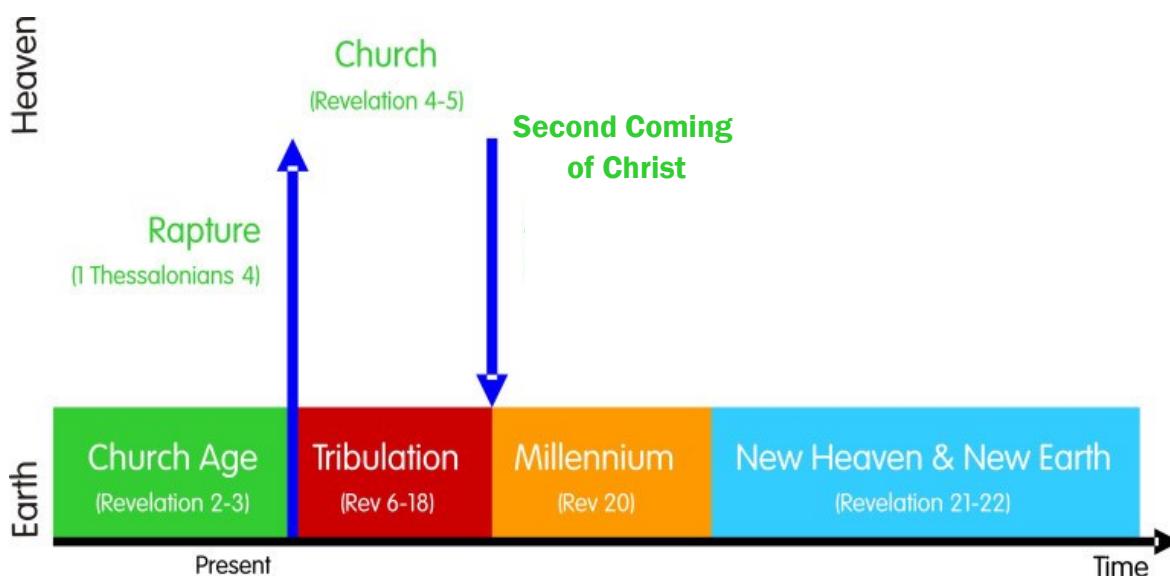
Calvary Old Path believes that God will judge the living and the dead and that every human being will give an account for their sin. Those saved by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf will inherit God's Kingdom.

DOCTRINE

Calvary Old Path believes that the human existence as we know it will change beginning with a time known as the tribulation, lasting 7 years, we believe Jesus will return to the earth to establish His kingdom. This will eventually lead to a New Heaven and a New Earth which we address in our other doctrinal papers.

These are the areas we will cover to help you understand our beliefs regarding the Second Coming of Christ.

1. The Series of Events Before the Return of Jesus.
2. What Will Happen at His Return?
3. How Does the Church Figure in to the Topic?



The Series of Events Before the Return of Jesus

As we cover in our other papers, we believe the church is removed at the *rapture of the church* (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*, *1 Corinthians 15:52*). Immediately following the rapture begins the time of the tribulation, described by events beginning at chapter 6 of *Revelation*. These are the same events Jesus spoke of this time in *Matthew 24-25*.

During those seven years, judgment is poured out on those who have rejected Jesus and His sacrifice for their sin. Many come to faith in this time as we read in the pages of *Revelation*, but it is a judgment on the unrepentant, who “*dwell upon the earth*” a phrase that is used several times in *Revelation*.

What Will Happen at His Return?

In the Old Testament some of the prophets explain these events, though their knowledge of who Jesus is was not known to them, obviously. However, they did know what He would do at a future time. *Zechariah*, in the latter chapters of his book, details these times of Jesus coming to earth.

The best source we have, however, is found in *Revelation, chapter 19 and 20*. There it is revealed that Jesus returns to earth, visibly, for the first time since He left some 2,000 years ago. It is at this time, when Jesus returns, that we see Him engaged in a war with the Antichrist and those who oppose Him (*Revelation, 19:11-21*). The battle, if we can call it that, is immediately won and a time of peace ensues which will last 1,000 years.

How Does the Church Figure in to the Topic?

Calvary Old Path believes that the church will be with Jesus through the duration of the tribulation. We further believe we will return with Him and are represented as those mentioned in:

Revelation 19:14

“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”

The fine linen, given the context, matches with what we read in:

Revelation 19:7-8

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸*And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*

Much of what we know about the Second Coming and what follows is concisely recorded for us in the *19th and 20th chapters of Revelation*. It is also interesting to note that much more of what we know about life in that time is better sourced from reading the Old Testament prophets. This time after His return, though given to the church as an inheritance, is also a time of restoration for the Jewish people and for the nation as a whole. So it should be expected that Old Testament prophets would be given those prophecies.

We know that what is often referred to as His First Advent, (when He walked among us). He came as a servant who came to give His life as a ransom for many (*Mark 10:45*). In His Second Advent, or Second Coming, we see that His role and responsibility is entirely different. He first came in humility as a servant, but will return as a Conquering King.

“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶*And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:*

*KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.”*

Revelation 19:15-16

Is There More Than One View on the Topic?

The simple answer is, yes. As with all doctrinal matters, the various churches have differing views on the topic. For many churches in the world there isn't the belief in the rapture, nor even the 1,000 year reign (Millennial Kingdom). We won't take much time discussing that view.

What we will address is the matter of His Second Coming and how scripture treats the topic differently from the Rapture. The best way to do so is to compare the dissimilarities of events written of in the New Testament.

On this page you will see a description of the two events and how scripture presents them as being characteristically very different events.

We hope this chart will be helpful to you to understand the differences between the two events and give you reason to be looking up, as we await His soon return.

	The Rapture	The Second Coming
1	Jesus coming for His bride - the Church. (<i>John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:14-17</i>)	Jesus' second coming, returning with His bride - the Church (<i>Col 3:4, Zech 14:5, Jude 14, Rev 19:14</i>)
2	Believers caught up with Jesus in the air. (<i>1 Thess 4:13-18</i>)	Jesus' feet touch the earth, second return. (<i>Zech 14:4, Rev 19:11-21</i>)
3	Christians taken first, unbelievers Left Behind. (<i>1 Thess 4:13-18</i>)	The wicked are taken to judgment, those saved after the rapture, the tribulation saints, are Left Behind. (<i>Matt 13:28-30</i>)
4	Jesus presents the bride to Himself and the Father (<i>2 Cor 11:2, Rev. 19:6-9 40</i>)	To execute God's judgment upon the earth and set up Jesus' millennium Kingdom reign (<i>Jude 14-15, Rev 19:11-21, Zech 14:3-4</i>)
5	Marriage of Lamb in heaven after the Rapture	The marriage supper of Jesus and His bride consummates on earth after the second coming ends Armageddon
6	Happens in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (<i>1 Corinth 15:52</i>)	A slow return, people will witness Jesus' second coming with His saints. (<i>Zech 12:10 Matt 24:30, Rev 1:7</i>)
7	Only Christians can/will see Jesus (<i>1 John 3:2, 1 Corinth 15:52</i>)	Everyone on earth will see Jesus return with His bride (<i>Rev. 1:7</i>)
8	Jesus descends with a shout at the Rapture (<i>1 Thess 4:16</i>)	No shout mentioned (<i>Rev. 19:11-21</i>)
9	A Resurrection event (<i>1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-54</i>)	No resurrection mentioned (<i>Rev 1:7, 19:11-21, Zech 12:10, 14:4-5</i>)
10	Rapture can happen at any moment in time - Imminent (<i>Rev 3:3, 1 Thess 5:4-6</i>)	Occurs at the end of the 7 year Tribulation (<i>Dan 9:24-27, Matt 24:29-30, 2 Thess 2:3-8</i>)
11	Angels not sent to gather - resurrected/raptured saints do not need angelic help	Angels sent forth to gather the unsaved for God' judgment (<i>Matt 13:39, 41, 49, 24:31, 25:31, 2 Thess 1:7-10</i>)
12	Spirits of those dead in Christ arise to Jesus and receive their resurrected/raptured body (<i>1 Thess 4:14-16</i>)	Christians return with Jesus in already resurrected bodies on white horses. (<i>Rev 19:11-21</i>)
13	Jesus does not return on a white horse (until Second Coming) Jesus appears in clouds, does not touch ground (until Second Coming)	Jesus returns on a white horse (<i>Rev 19:11</i>)
14	Only for the Church bride - those saved and covered through and by the shed blood of Jesus <i>1 Thess 4:14-17</i>	For the redeemed - Israel & Gentiles (<i>Rom 11:25-27, Matt 25:31-46</i>)
15	A message of hope and comfort (<i>1 Thess 4:18, Titus 2:13, 1 John 3:3</i>)	A message of Judgment (<i>Joel 3:12-16, Rev 19:11-21, Mal 4:5</i>)



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.