

The Second Coming

The Fact & Its Importance

*The Old
Testament
prophets
saw it*

- The “Day of the Lord”
 - ✓ Judgment
 - ✓ Salvation
 - ✓ “day of the Lord” in NT
- In Isaiah
 - ✓ new heavens, earth, and Jerusalem
- In Daniel
 - ✓ glorious and everlasting kingdom
 - ✓ “time of trouble” and deliverance
 - ✓ resurrection and everlasting life

Daniel 2

Daniel 7

Daniel 8

Daniel 10-12

603 BC

549 BC

547 BC

536 BC

Head/gold
(Babylon)

Breast/Silver
(Medo-Persia)

Belly/Bronze
(Greece)

Legs/Iron
(Rome)

Feet/mixed:
divided
kingdoms

Lion
(Babylon)

Bear
(Medo-Persia)

Leopard
(Greece)

Dreadful
(Rome)

10 horns
Little Horn

Court Seating

Ram
(Medo-Persia)

Goat
(Greece)

Little Horn
(Political)

Little Horn

Sanctuary

Four Kings
(Medo-Persia)

Mighty King
(Greece)

"He who comes" [kings of {N} & S]
(Rome)

{Little Horn}={king of N}

Kings of S & N



Second Coming Second Coming Second Coming

Kingdom
(Stone)

Kingdom
(Son of Man)

Kingdom
(Prince)

Kingdom
(Michael)

*The New
Testament
clarifies it*

- first Advent preparatory for the second
- Jesus repeatedly promises. E.g.,
 - ✓ **Sevenfold refrain in Revelation:**
 1. “I am coming to you” (2:5)
 2. “I am coming to you soon” (2:16)
 3. “I am coming soon” (3:11)
 4. “I am coming like a thief” (16:15)
 5. “I am coming soon” (22:7)
 6. “I am coming soon” (22:12)
 7. “I am coming soon” (22:20)

Before He comes

- ✓ “I go to prepare a place” (John 14:1-3)
- ✓ “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (Rev 3:5)

How He will come

- ✓ “Then the **sign** of the Son of Man will **appear** in **heaven**, and then **all the tribes** of the earth will **mourn**, and they will **see** the Son of Man **coming** on the **clouds** of heaven with **power** and **great glory**. And He will send His **angels** with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt 24:30-31)

The Signs?

- ✓ “Take heed that no one **deceives** you” (Matt 24:4)
- ✓ “See that you are not **troubled**; for all these must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Matt 24:4-20)
- ✓ “There will be great tribulation” (Matt 24:21-28)
- ✓ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days” (Matt 24:29); “when He opened the sixth seal” (Rev 6:12-13)
- ✓ Proclamation of the everlasting gospel (Rev 14:6-12)
- ✓ “Time of trouble” (Dan 12:1-3; Rev 13:14-17)
- ✓ “Then the **sign** of the Son of Man” (Matt 24:30)
- ✓ “But of the day and hour no one knows” (Matt 24:26)

*Centrality of
the Second
Coming for
Adventists*

- ✓ “The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures” (GC 299)
- ✓ necessary sequel to the first advent; completion of the work of redemption
- ✓ creation eagerly awaits
- ✓ everything else depends on it
- ✓ **But for Seventh-day Adventists . . .**

1. A birth- mark

- emerging from a movement that proclaimed and expected the Second Coming in 1843-1844
- key motivator for the organization of the church
- It is what makes us Adventist!

2. A basis of our name

- confessing our belief
- a community of believers forward-looking with a definite destination
- identifying with the faith/hope that energized the apostles

3. A central identity marker

- “The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front” (1T 224)
- central to our self-understanding
- uniqueness of our belief
- worldview and life of the church

4. Focus of our message and drive for mission


- principal driving force for the church's life and mission
- sense of urgency
- Revelation 14:6-12
- gifts of the Holy Spirit
- unique message or mission
- church structure

5. It is our hope

- 1931: “great hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel”
- *Today*: “blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel”
- certainty of our hope
- vitality in the present life; sense of meaning and purpose
- “Maranatha” (1 Cor 16:22)

6. Motivation for Adventist lifestyle

- heavenward march
- value system and change of lifestyle
- holy conduct and godliness
- mission-driven lifestyle
- sharing hope with the world

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- “We should watch and work and pray as though this were the last day that would be granted us. How intensely earnest, then, would be our life. How closely would we follow Jesus in all our words and deeds” (5T 200).

7. Climax of prophecy

- all roads lead to the Second Coming
- climax of eschatological expectation
- entry point to the new heavens and new earth

“The Adventist doctrine of the Second Coming is uniquely faithful to the biblical description of Christ’s return in a literal, physical manner before the millennium and following the pre-Advent judgment. But this doctrine must translate into the burning desire and enlivening force for the lifestyle and mission of *every* Adventist. In times like ours where existentialism is increasingly threatening to undermine eschatological expectation, let us regularly remind ourselves of the Lord’s promise and consciously demonstrate our belief in His soon return by proclaiming the good news in word and song, appearance and comportment, and behavior and service to others” (D. Bediako, “Our Greatest Hope: The Second Coming,” in *Committed to Our Identity: Message, Mission, Unity*, ed. Artur A. Stele [Silver Spring, MD: BRI, 2024], 81-86)