

## **The Second Coming (Phase One)**

**2 Thessalonians 1:8 – 10** *"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (10) When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."*

The Lord's second coming is in two-phases, the first in the cloud which is talked about here. The second phase will be after the tribulation period when the Lord shall return to conquer the earth for His 1,000-year reign. In Revelations 19:11 it tells us that the Lord will come to defeat the powers of the earth, then in chapter 20 it tells us that Jesus shall reign over the earth for 1,000 years. So now is Phase One, the rapture of the saints, or the rapture of the saved, and the churches. Immediately following this resurrection of the dead and the rapture or catching away of the saints of God, is what is known as the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation Period is broken-down into two parts the first 3 ½ years is under the white horse which represents a peace on the earth. **Revelation 6:2** *"And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."* The rider carries a bow but now arrows are mentioned, which signifies he will take the world to a place of peace, the world will be under One-World order and Government with the Anti-Christ ruling the world. The second-half or the last 3 ½ years is called the Great Tribulation which is the second horse which is red. **Revelation 6:4** *"And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."* It is believed that the Anti-Christ is the rider of the White and Red horses, that he will be sit in rule over the earth bringing peace to the world, then he will take the peace with his power to rule the world. All of this after the rapture of the saints and resurrection of the dead. Here in our text is the actual event of Jesus return, lets look at it.

A. Jesus will return with His angels. V. 7b *"...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,"*

1. There is a reason His angels are with Him. **Matthew 24:30 - 31** *"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31)"*

*And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

2. God uses Angels as His servants in many ways, here they collect His children.
- B. His return will be with vengeance. V. 8a “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God...”
1. I do not know that the flaming fire is associated with the vengeance. Here the words “Flaming Fire” is defined as flashes of lightning.
  2. Fire is associated with God throughout the Old and New Testament. Fire is associated with the second phase. **Revelation 19:11 – 12** *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. (12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”*
  3. God’s glory burnt the top of a mountain while talking to Moses to give Him the tablets of the Ten Commandments. **Deuteronomy 4:11 - 12** *“And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. (12) And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.”*
  4. The fire is, I believe bolts of lightning that shows the glory and power of Jesus Christ. It is the second coming; it is going to be a glorious site.
- C. Vengeance will be on them that are lost. V. 8b “...on them that know not God...”
1. To know God is to know him as the one, true God as distinguished from false gods; to know his will, his holiness, his hatred of sin, and his saving intent toward mankind.
  2. They do not know God as Sovereign, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, All Holy, They belittle and refuse to accept God as Ruler and controller of all things.
  3. They have no fear of God because they listen to dreamers that teaches signs and wonders and choices and works, and all sorts of foolishness. **Deuteronomy 13:3 - 4** *“Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (4) Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.”*
  4. Let us understand the word - vengeance – it means – vindication (justification against denial), retribution (punishment for a wrong), and punishment.

5. It does not mean to be vindictive which means an unreasoning desire for revenge. God never has revenge.
  6. God will hold people accountable; He will punish them in anger, but remember God is always righteous in His judgment.
  7. This judgment will be without grace and without mercy, everyone who does not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will face judgment, but those who hurt Christians, God will be very wrathful. **Romans 12:17 - 19** *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. (18) If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. (19) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."*
  8. God said these people are without excuse. **Romans 1:20** *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"*
- D. Because they did not trust Jesus as Saviour. V. 8c "...and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
1. A refusal to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour is a refusal of the command of the Gospel. **Hebrews 2:1 - 4** *"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. (2) For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; (3) How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; (4) God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"*
  2. To deny that Jesus Christ is the Saviour is to not obey the gospel, and they call God a liar. **1 John 5:10 - 12** *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*
  3. **John 3:31 - 34** *"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. (32) And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. (33) He that*

*hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. (34) For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."*

4. Jesus Said, **John 3:18 - 21** "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. (21) But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."*