

Sunday September 3rd, 2006

The Promise of His Coming
Part 5

1). 2Pe 3:1 ¶ *Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 ¶ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

2). We have I hope, in our studies of the last four weeks, seen that the scoffers message in relation to the promise of His coming is founded on the error that the heavens and the earth have continued and will continue uninterrupted since their initial creation.

3). We have seen that this is an attack by the ruler of this world, through those who had apostasized, on the central message of scripture and the very foundation upon which God's revelation to Man is based – the restoration of a ruined creation over a period of six days followed by a seventh day of rest. A restoration that has the revealed purpose of replacing the incumbent ruler with a new order of sons – Christ and His coheirs.

4). And we have, I hope, from the clear evidence of scripture seen how ridiculous the scoffers' message is.

5). In direct answer to the question, 'Where is the promise of His coming?' We would have to say the promise is everywhere. From Genesis to Revelation. A more pertinent question for us might be, 'Where isn't the promise of His coming?'

6). Jesus Himself gives us the key to understanding the origin of the promise in His conversation with His disciples on the Road to Emmaus. We will remember -

a). Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to*

have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

a). 'Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.' And Moses, as we know, began in Genesis.

7). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

a). And here at the very beginning point of God's revelation to man is the beginning of the promise.

b). Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

c). And of course, scripture itself adds more commentary for us Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

d). We cannot miss here the connection with rulership – visible and invisible thrones, dominions, principalities, powers.

e). Referring of course to two realms of the Kingdom, the earth – visible. The heavens – invisible.

f). And according to our scripture the rulership of the heavens and the earth, all things, were created through Him and for Him.

g). A quick look at the evening news will show you unequivocally that His rulership of the heavens and the earth has not yet begun. Hence there remains the promise of His coming.

8). Mt 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

a). Notice please when the Kingdom was prepared – 'from the foundation of the world'. This would be from before that time recorded in Genesis 1:1.

b). It has always been God's Divine purpose from eternity past, for the second person of the Trinity, God the Son, to rule from the heavens connected with this earth, over the earth, with a segment of humanity ruling with Him as coheirs.

i/ Eph 1:4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

c) The restoration of the earth and the creation of man was never plan 'B' – nor could it be. God being God is incapable of anything but Divine perfection from the outset. If God said black was white it would be.

9). Not only was this God's purpose from the beginning of creation, but His work to bring it about was also completed from the beginning of creation.

a). Heb 4:3 *For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' "although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

b). The works that were finished from the foundation of the world include the means of redemption for all three parts of Man – a being who at this point had not yet been created.

c). 1Pe 1:20 *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

d). Re 13:8 *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

e). In all of this is the promise of His coming – again the fulfillment of this is to be at His 'second' coming rather than the first. And once more, this was God's intention from the outset.

f). We might ask the question, 'Why would God do it this way?' – To which there is no definitive answer.

g). Isa 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

h). It is impossible for us with a finite mind to comprehend that which is conceived in an infinite mind. God's perspective must of necessity be eternal, whereas ours is always temporal. We don't think like God so we need to leave it there, and rely entirely on what He has chosen to reveal to us through scripture.

10). And what we find revealed in the scriptures is the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes at Christ's second coming – now, when we speak of the second coming we are dealing with an event that we can understand as progressive rather than a one time event.

a). Encompassed in the phrase the second coming, would be all events from the rapture of the Church, through the redemption of the inheritance (the Great Tribulation) to Christ's literally setting foot again on the earth and the establishment of His Kingdom.

b). Fulfillment at the second coming is exactly the pattern that is set through the types of Joseph and Moses, both of whom are a type of Christ.

c). A pattern that the martyr, Stephen, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, reveals to the Jewish council in the hope that they would understand this very thing thereby making sense of the events that had just transpired.

d). Ac 7:11 *"Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance. 12 "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. 13 "And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh. 14 "Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people.*

e). Having first been rejected by His brothers it is the second time that Joseph is made known to his brothers. This is when they are delivered from the famine and the family of Jacob is blessed.

f). Ac 7:35 *"This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. 36 "He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.*

g). Again, it is Moses who was rejected by his brothers who comes a second time to be their deliverer. Delivering them from the oppression of the brick yards of Egypt to take them to the land of promise at the head of the nations.

h). The Holy Spirit deliberately witnesses these two types in order to show the leaders of Israel that they have followed the same pattern of rejection - Ac 7:51 ¶ *"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,*

i). And of course what must logically follow is the promise of His second coming to bring deliverance and blessing to Israel as witnessed in the types.

j). The evidence of secular history shows that this event has not happened yet, leaving the promise of His coming, in accordance with the types, firmly intact - Heb 9:28 *so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

11). The types we have just looked at are part of a larger pattern of rejection and acceptance that we find throughout scripture. It seems a facet of the Divine operation that the first is rejected and the second established.

- a). Ishmael, the firstborn is set aside in favour of Isaac
- b). Essau is set aside in favour of Jacob
- c). Saul is set aside in favour of David
- d). Our first birth is set aside in favour of our new birth
- e). Our corruptible body is replaced with an incorruptible.
- f). The first Adam is set aside in favour of the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ
- g). The first creation will be done away with in favour of the new heavens and the new earth.
- h). The first ruler of the earth will be set aside in favour of the Second

12). Now given that there would be no dispute that Christ was rejected and crucified at His first coming, what must remain? – The promise of His coming – a second time.

a). Ac 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. – (Teach this) -The promise of His coming*

i/ Isa 11:11 *It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.*

ii/ Joe 3:18 ¶ *And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.*

iii/ Ps 110:1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

b). Eph 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. – (Teach this) - The promise of His coming*

c). Heb 10:12 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.* – (Teach this) - The promise of His coming

13). We find the promise of His coming in the parables

a). Lu 19:12 *Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. 13 "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' 14 "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.' 15 "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.*

b). Mt 25:14 ¶ *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them... 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*

c). Mt 25:1 ¶ *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*

d). Mt 13:47 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

14). We find the promise of His coming in the signs wonders and miracles of His earthly ministry of which this is one example.

a). Joh 2:1 ¶ *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother*

said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

b). There are six waterpots – six is the number of Man, the waterpots are made from the earth, as is Man, who are filled with water, the word of God and by a Divine intervention a change ensues, pointing to that future day when Israel will be saved – which will be three days from the cross and on the seventh day from the beginning of the restoration.

15). We find the promise of His coming on the mount of transfiguration, an event that Peter makes reference to - 2Pe 1:16 ¶ *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

a). Mt 17:1 ¶ *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

16). With the promise of His coming also comes the promise of judgment, something that both Peter and Jude draw attention to, pointing to past events that are examples of what is to be expected in the future.

a). 2Pe 2:6 *and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 ¶ and delivered righteous Lot, who was*

oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) -- 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 ¶ and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.

a). *Jude 1:5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

18). Jesus Himself testifies of His coming

a). *Joh 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

b). *Re 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

19). His angels testify of His coming

a). *Ac 1:11...."Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

20). The whole of that recorded in the Book of Revelation testifies of His coming - *Re 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!"*

a). And scripture ends, just as it began, with the promise of His coming - *Re 22:20 ¶ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

21). There is no easy way to conclude this message as we have only begun to scratch the surface of the promise of His coming within scripture. And I am conscious of how inadequate my presentation to you has been.

a). But I hope as a result of the few scriptures we have looked at today you may be inspired to search out this promise for yourself.

b). Where is the promise of His coming? – it's in the Bible, in every book

c). Only the blind, deluded or willfully ignorant could fail to see it.

22). The Lord's Supper.