



Centralised Teaching: The Second Coming of Christ
Dr Tan Kim Huat

15th August & 17th October 2013
Wesley Hall

Introduction

This handout contains 3 sets of Small Group Bible Study questions that are based on Dr Tan Kim Huat's Centralised Teaching seminars on 'The Second Coming of Christ'.

Things to Take Note

- Make sure to have the 'The Second Coming of Christ' Powerpoint notes with you to use as your main reference to answer the Bible Study questions.
- Do refer to the Glossary in the next section if you are unsure about some of the terms used in the Powerpoint notes.
- The section that comes after the Glossary list the books that Dr Tan has recommended for further study on the Second Coming of Christ.
- If in the course of doing the Bible Studies, there are questions or clarifications about Christ's Second Coming that you would like Dr Tan to address at the Closing Seminar on 17th October 2013, do make sure to take these questions and clarifications down and pass them to your Small Group Bible Study Leader/Facilitator.

Glossary

- Abomination of Desolation – First used in Daniel 12:11 which historically pointed to the act of desecration of Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC (he erected an altar of Zeus in the Temple and sacrificed a sow) and then used in Mark 13:14 which referred to the destruction of the Temple by the Roman general Titus in AD 68-70. Besides its specific historical references, this term is also linked with the end times in both passages
- Christology – The theology regarding the person and works of Christ
- Common Era – An alternative naming of the term AD in the calendaring system (e.g. the year 2013 AD is also known as 2013 Common Era or CE)
- Day of the Lord – A term used or referenced in the Old Testament and New Testament where for the former, it generally refers to the day when God will intervene decisively for judgment and/or salvation, and often used in association with the end times, and in the latter, specifically refers to the day when Christ would return
- De Jure and De Facto Sovereign – Refer to Christ as being both the recognized and rightful (De Jure) King, as well as, One who wield the actual power (De Facto) of the King
- Eschatology – The study of the teachings in the Bible concerning the end times, or of the period of time dealing with the return of Christ and the events that accompany it
- Eschatological Antagonists – The leading characters who fiercely oppose Christ and the people of God in the end times and include the 'Antichrist' in 1 & 2 John, 'Beast' in Revelations and 'Man of Lawlessness' in 2 Thessalonians 2

- Eschaton – End times
- Millennium – Refers to the 1000 year reign of Christ as mentioned in the Book of Revelations
 - Amillennialism: The view that there is no literal 1000 year reign of Christ, and that it figuratively refers to a lengthy period between Christ 1st and 2nd coming (i.e. we are already living in the millennium)
 - Pre-millennialism: The view that Christ's second coming will occur prior to His millennial kingdom, and that the millennial kingdom is a literal 1000 year reign of Christ on earth
- Olivet Discourse – Refers to the teaching given by Jesus about the end times to His disciples at the Mount of Olives
- Paradisal – Refers to a Paradise-type of place
- Rapture – The belief that Christians are snatched up to heaven and taken away from earth
- Tribulation – Or 'Great Tribulation' which is the period associated with the end times where tumultuous events with great hardships take place
- Unmitigated Presence – Refers to being in the full, unhindered presence of God
- Zealots – Those who belonged to a group in 1st century CE Israel which sought to incite the Jews to rebel against their Roman conquerors and expel them from Israel by force of arms

Recommended Books

- 'Hope for the World' by Roland Chia (Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2006)
- 'Jesus, Paul and the End of the World' by Ben Witherington III (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1992)

Bible Study #1 – Claim, Context & Contributions

- 1a) Based on what Dr Tan has shared, why is the phrase 'This same Jesus ... will come back' (Acts 1:11) so important to us, Christians?

 - b) Share how this phrase impacts you, personally.
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- 2a) How has Christ fulfilled Old Testament expectations?

 - b) Why do you think it was important that Christ indeed fulfilled such expectations?
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- 3a) Explain in your own words the 'now-and-not-yet' concept of the New Testament.

 - b) Share your 'now' experience in terms of how you have been able to experience God and live out His will in your life now. Share as well how you have fallen short in your experiences with God and living out your life for Him.

3a) What are the problems with the Pre-tribulation Rapture theory?

b) Dr Tan mentioned that the role of the people of God is not to run away or to be removed from troubles but, instead, be in the thick of it to minister – in what ways have you been able to live up to this role of ministering to others in troubling situations / times when you are affected by troubles? Also, share some ways that you think can help you and others with you to be more willing and effective in taking up such a ministering role.

- 3) Besides the terms used in Dr Tan's Powerpoint notes, there are those like 'Armageddon', 'Apocalypse', 'Mark of the Beast', among many others that are associated with the end times but are not mentioned in the notes; find out and share, as many as are feasible, what these other terms are and what they mean.

Alternatively, you may want to find out more about 'Amillennialism' and 'Pre-millennialism', as well as those Millennium positions not mentioned in the notes like 'Post-millennialism' or 'Preterism' among others, and share briefly some key characteristics.

(Guide: You can use Dr Tan's recommended books to help you as well as search online for the many articles on the end times and choose the ones that you think are most suitable)

- 4) **Share your thoughts and questions on what you have learnt from the Opening Seminar of 'The Second Coming of Christ', especially those that you would like to ask Dr Tan about in the Closing Seminar on 17th October 2013.**