

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL  
007 - MONDAY – MAY 13, 2024

**ANTICIPATING THE TIME**

Although the Protestant Reformers believed in the literal, visible, audible, and glorious return of Christ, gradually the understanding of this biblical truth changed. Popular 19th-century preachers taught that Christ would come to establish His kingdom on earth and usher in 1,000 years of peace. This led to spiritual lethargy and an apathetic commitment to spiritual values.

**Pre-tribulation Pre-Millennialist**

**Post-tribulation Pre-Millennialist** - base their doctrine on the complementary concepts that a two-phase pre-tribulation rapture is never mentioned explicitly in the Bible.

The Scofield Bible divides the history of the world into periods of time, known as "**dispensations** :" (1) Innocence, (2) Conscience, (3) Human Government, (4) Promise, (5) Law, (6) Grace, (7) Earthly Kingdom.

**Romans 6.14 NKJV “(6.14) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”**

Dispensationalism is a theological framework of interpreting the Bible which maintains that history is divided into multiple ages or "dispensations" in which God acts with his chosen people in different ways.

**Hebrews 13.8 NKJV “(13.8) Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.”**

## **Earthly Millennial Reign:**

Luis de Alcazar – Gap Theory

Manual Lacunza

John N. Derby

Margaret McDonald

Cyrus I Schofield- Dispensationalism

Hal Lindsay

Tim LaHay & Jerry Jenkins

**Similarly, Christ's disciples misunderstood the nature of the Messiah's coming. They thought that He would come as a conquering general who would break the yoke of Roman bondage, not One who would deliver them from the condemnation and shackles of sin. Thus, they failed to understand the manner of His coming.**

**The visibility of Christ return: Acts 1:9–11 (NKJV) “(9) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, (11) who also said, “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.””**

**The prominence of Christ's return: Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”**

The return of Christ will be similar to the departure of Christ. It will be visible to all that are alive. It will not be secret it will be undeniably prominent.

**Impact of the Return: Matthew 24:30 (NKJV) “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.”**

**Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”**

**The first Advent, for Christ was revealed to the shepherds in the field. It was a silent event; revealed only to a selected few.**

**We have been given the assurance by the revealed word of God, that the return of Jesus will not catch the people of God by surprise.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:2–5 (NKJV) “(2) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (3) For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”**

**Prophecy sharpens our vision concerning the return of Jesus:**

- 1. The word of God is reliable: 2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) “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.”**
- 2. God promises not to keep his servants in the dark: Amos 3:7 (NKJV) “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”**

3. Whatever God has promised will come to pass: **Habakkuk 2:3 (NKJV)**  
**“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”**
4. The return of Jesus will not be a silent event: **Psalm 50:3 (NKJV)** **“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.”**

**What encouragement do these verses give us regarding the manner of Christ’s coming?**

5. In light of God’s promises, we must eagerly wait: **Hebrews 9:28 (NKJV)** **“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.”**

**“The only way to be ready for the coming of Christ is to get ready and stay ready.”**

**The message of Christ’s soon return is an urgent appeal to each one of us to examine our hearts and evaluate our spiritual lives. It is a call to godly living. There can be no neutrality in the blazing light of the glory of Christ’s return.**