

Things That Do Not Differ in relation to the Return of the Lord

A comparison study attempting to answer the question: “Did the Apostle Paul teach a return of the Lord that is different from the “Second Coming” previously foretold?”

Those who proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom before Paul...

...described the Return of the Lord as an *Apokalupsis* (1 Pet. 1:7, 13, 4:13, Rev. 1:1).

...described the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord as something for which his followers hoped /awaited (1 Peter 1:13).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with the judgment (i.e. reward) of believers (1 Peter 1:7).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with rest from suffering/tribulation (1 Peter 4:13).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with the Lord’s Day, i.e. the Day of the Lord (Rev. 1:1, 10).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with destruction for the unbeliever (Rev. 1:1, 19:15).

...described the Return of the Lord as a *parousia* (Matt. 24:3, 27, 37, 39, James 5:7-8, 2 Peter 3:4, 1 John 2:28).

...associated the *parousia* of the Lord with a gathering of believers (Matt. 24:30-31).

...associated the *parousia* of the Lord with a trumpet (Matt. 24:30-31).

...likenes the *parousia* of the Lord, and the Day of the Lord associated with it, to a thief in the night (Matt. 24:3, 42-43, 2 Peter 3:10).

...associates the *parousia* of the Lord with “the end” and the Kingdom (Matt. 24:3, 14, 25:1, 14).

The Apostle Paul...

...described the Return of the Lord as an *Apokalupsis* (1 Cor. 1:7, 2 Thess. 1:7).

...described the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord as something for which his followers hoped/ awaited (1 Cor. 1:7).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with the judgment of believers (1 Cor. 1:8).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with rest from suffering/tribulation (2 Thess. 1:7).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ, i.e. the Day of the Lord (1 Cor. 1:8).

...associated the *Apokalupsis* of the Lord with destruction for the unbeliever (2 Thess. 1:8-10).

...described the Return of the Lord as a *parousia* (1 Cor. 15:23, 1 Thess. 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 2 Thess. 2:8).

...associated the *parousia* of the Lord with a gathering of believers (1 Thess. 4:15-17, 2 Thess. 2:8).

...associated the *parousia* of the Lord with a trumpet (1 Thess. 4:15-16).

...likenes the *parousia* of the Lord, and the Day of the Lord associated with it, to a thief in the night (1 Thess. 4:15, 5:1-2).

...associates the *parousia* of the Lord with “the end” and the Kingdom (1 Cor. 15:23-24).

Those that proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom before Paul...

...associates the *parousia* of the Lord with judgment, reward, and loss (Matt. 24:3, 45-51).

...described the return of the Lord as a *phaneroo* (1 Peter 5:4, 1 John 2:28, 3:2). [John links the *phaneroo* of Christ to the *parousia* of Christ in 1 John 2:28).

...associated the *phaneroo* of Christ with glory (1 Peter 5:4).

...associated the *phaneroo* of Christ with judgment (1 John 2:28).

...associated the return (*phaneroo*) of Christ as the moment when we will be changed (to be like him) (1 John 3:2).

...associated the return of the Lord with the preparation for battle (Rev. 19:14).

The Apostle Paul...

...associates the *parousia* of the Lord with judgment, reward, and loss (1 Thess. 2:19, 3:13, 5:2-3).

...described the return of the Lord as a *phaneroo* (Col. 3:4).

...associated the *phaneroo* of Christ with glory (Col. 3:4).

...associated the *phaneroo* of Christ with judgment (Col. 3:5-6, note the 'therefore').

...associated the return (*parousia*) of Christ with the sound of a trumpet and the resurrection (1 Thess. 4:15-16), which is elsewhere associated with the moment when we will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

...associated the return of the Lord with the preparation for battle (the trumpet and the shout in 1 Thess. 4:15-16).

Paul uses one word to describe the Return of the Lord that is not used by others that proclaimed the Kingdom of God before him. That word was *epiphaneia*.

However, Paul associates the *epiphaneia* of Christ...

...with the judgment of believers, just like he did the apokalupsis, parousia, and phaneroo of Christ (1 Tim. 6:14, 2 Tim. 4:2).

...with the judgment of the resurrected dead (1 Tim. 4:2).

...with the Kingdom of God (2 Tim. 4:2).

...with the *parousia* of the Lord (2 Thess. 2:8).