

Why Is Imminency an Immediate Issue?

Dr. John H. Niemelä The Pastor and the Professor November 21, 2017

Introduction

No Dates for Future Prophetic Events Are Known (or Knowable) Today

Pentecost ended Israel's age and began the Church (May 24, A.D. 33), it *had been* undateable.

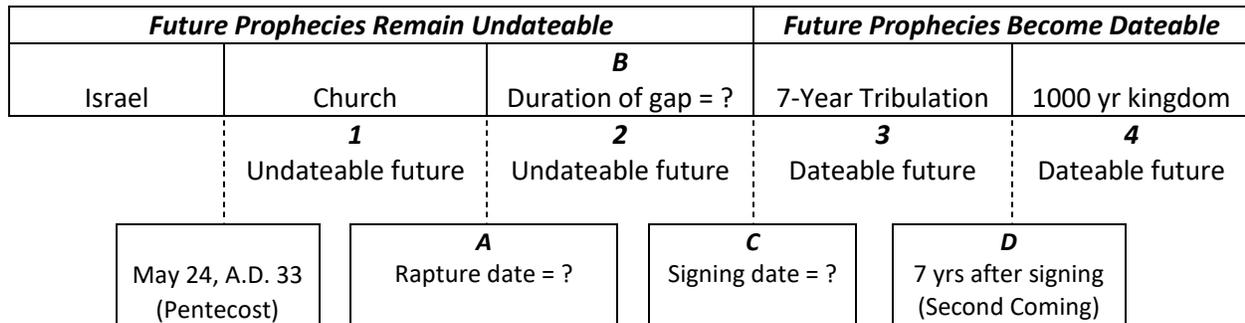
A: The Rapture will end the Church Age, but its date is unknown.

B: The rapture won't begin the tribulation. A gap of unknown length follows (Rev 5 notes).

C. No one can predict when the signing of the covenant [starting the tribulation] (Daniel 9:27).

D1: Until A, B, and C happen, no one will know the date of D, the second coming.

D2: After C happens, people will be able to calculate the date of D, the second coming.



After the Tribulation Begins (Point C), There Will Be Signs of the Times: Events Become Dateable

“Lord, Will You at This Time (*Chronos*) Restore the Kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)

He could not do so immediately, because of two predicted events:

1. Daniel 9:26 predicted a prior destruction of Jerusalem.

2. Daniel 9:27 predicted the seven-year tribulation.

Background: Luke-Acts is one book in 2 volumes. Acts 1 repeats part of Luke 24.

Jesus Had Opened their Minds to Understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:44-45)

He did so before they asked the question in Acts 1:6.

He had already said the OT predictions of Him are valid

Question: Did the OT reveal the mystery concerning the Church (Ephesians 3)?

Does it seem likely/unlikely that the Eleven understood the mystery here?

Were they expecting Jerusalem’s destruction, the Church Age, or the rapture?

They understood only what Jesus had clarified for them.

The Father's Times (*Chronos*) and Seasons (*Kairos*) Are Top Secret (Acts 1:7)

Jesus (in His humanity) did not know when the Kingdom would be restored.
He did not yet know the date of the rapture (Matt 24:36 // Mark 13:32),
so He could not yet know the date of the Daniel 9:26 covenant.
Thus, He did not yet know the date of the second coming—when He
would restore the kingdom to Israel.

It was not yet time for them (or Him) to know the date of kingdom restoration.

The Restoration Will Happen when Israel (as a Nation) Repents (Acts 3:19-21)

Note Deuteronomy 30:

“Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, and you **return to the LORD** your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.” (Deut. 30:1-3)

Why didn't Jesus tell the apostles when He would restore the kingdom to Israel?

1. _____

2. _____

Summary:

The date of the rapture will be unknown until _____.

The rapture can happen at any time. Nothing must happen before it.

The date of the second coming will be unknown until _____.

Passages Illustrating Imminency

"Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women will be grinding at the mill*: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into." (Matt 24:40-43)

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting for the revelation [e.g., revealing] of our Lord Jesus Christ** (1 Cor 1:6-7)

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed [Greek = *anathema* = unrewardable]. **O Lord, come!** [*Maran atha*] (1 Cor 16:22)

A play on words: **ANATHEMA R**
ANATH A

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which **we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ** (Phil 3:20)

Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand.** (Phil 4:5)

[You turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God] **to wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10)

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thess 5:6)

[I charge you before God] that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless **until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing**, (1 Tim 6:14)

[The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that...we should live godly in the present age,] **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ** (Titus 2:13)

Therefore **be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.** See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (James 5:7)

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.** (James 5:8)

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned [temporal]. Behold, **the Judge is standing at the door!** (James 5:9)

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you **at the revelation** [e.g., revealing] **of Jesus Christ** (1 Pet 1:13)

Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev 3:11)

Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev 22:7)

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

He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming quickly.**" Amen. Even so, **come, Lord Jesus!** (Rev 22:20)

Conclusion