

## **Second Coming of Christ In Acts Period??**

**By Pastor Art Watkins**

Throughout my life I have heard many preachers say that if Israel would have repented at the preaching of the 12 Apostles in the so called “Acts period”, that Christ would have come again and set up his kingdom. Recently, I heard Doctor Peter “cash register” Ruckman say that the reason why Christ was standing in Acts 7:55 is because he was about to come back, but sat back down when the Jews in Jerusalem stoned Stephen instead of believing him. This from a man who says he has read the Bible through over 300 times and has read a “book a day” all his life.

I heard another preacher say that Christ was about to come back, but his Father had to stop him to tell him about a so called “mystery program” he didn’t know about that was about to begin. Many dispensationalists teach that in early Acts, Jesus could have come again and set up his kingdom, but didn’t because Israel did not repent.

This theory that Christ could have come back during the Acts period if Israel would have repented is totally bogus. Just a casual reading of the Four Gospels and a simple understanding of prophecy proves it is bogus.

### **The 12 Apostles and the Second Coming**

We are told that if Israel would have repented at the preaching of the apostles in the “Acts period” the Lord would have come back and set up his kingdom. But, did the apostles expect Israel to repent at their preaching? And did they expect the Lord to come back and set up his kingdom during their life time? Search and see. In Luke 21:12-17 Jesus told the apostles before hand what to expect when he sent them out to preach in the so called Acts period.

He said: *They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to*

*be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*

Does this sound like the apostles expected Israel to repent so the Lord could return and “set up his kingdom” in the so called “Acts period”? No! They expected to be hated, beaten, jailed, persecuted and even killed and it all came to pass. Everyone of them was murdered!

### **The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and the Second Coming**

In Luke 19:43-44 the Lord prophesied the city of Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed. He said:

*For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

This prophecy came to pass in 70 AD when Titus and the Roman army destroyed both the city and the temple. If this is true, was there any chance of Christ returning anytime BEFORE the city and the temple was destroyed? It's obvious that as long as the city and temple were standing there was no chance of Christ returning. Therefore, we see again that the theory that Christ could have come back in the so called Acts period and “set up his kingdom” is bogus. There was no kingdom coming to Jerusalem in the Acts period, only wrath and destruction. (See also Luke 21:20-24, 1 Thess. 2:16)

### **Peter's Death and the Second Coming of Christ.**

In John 21:18-19 Jesus said to Peter:

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.*

The Lord plainly told Peter he would grow old and die. In 2 Peter 1:14 Peter knew he was going to grow old and die for he said: *Knowing that shortly I*

*must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.*

If this is true, do you think Peter believed the Lord was coming back in the so called “Acts period” or any time before his death? No. Whenever and whatever Peter preached in the book of Acts he always knew in the back of his mind that there was no chance the Lord was coming back as long as he was alive.

### **The Standing of Jesus and the Second Coming**

As mentioned at the beginning of this article there are many preachers who call themselves dispensationalists who teach that the reason Jesus was standing in Acts 7 is because he was about to come again. Cornelius Stam even says in his Acts commentary that in Acts 7 Jesus was about to come again and pour out his wrath on the world! When I hear men say these things it makes me wonder if they know anything about the second coming of Christ and especially the events that must precede the second coming of Christ. Don't they know the antichrist must first appear before Christ's coming? Don't they know the fourth kingdom in Daniel 7 must come to power before Christ's coming? Don't they know that Babylon must be rebuilt and become the center of world commerce before Christ's second coming? Don't these scholars and writers know that Moses and Elijah must appear before Christ comes again? Also, how could the antichrist sit down in the temple of God and say he is God (2 Thess. 2) when Jesus said in Luke 19 and Luke 21 and Matthew 24 that the temple was going to be destroyed?

None of these prophetic events happened before Acts 7 and yet they are all prophesied to take place PRIOR to the second coming of Christ. This is the problem with modern dispensationalism. People get locked into these dispensational theories such as the theory that Jesus could have come again in the Acts period if Israel would have only repented and they end up ignoring the plain facts of the scriptures. I will say again as I have said in the past; It's one thing to be a dispensationalist; it's another to be a Bible believer. This subject is a prime example of this.

In closing consider this fact: There is not a verse in the Bible that says the whole nation of Israel will repent and believe on Christ before he comes again. In Romans 9:26-29 Paul shows us how many will repent and believe before Christ comes again: ***And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.***

These verses are prophecy and it tells us that only a small remnant of Jews will be saved before Christ comes again.