

New Testament study of the word “coming”

We are looking closely at the word “*coming*” as it occurs in reference to Christ’s coming. Two particular Greek words, which appear to be used when speaking of the “return” of our Lord, reveal a significant difference in meaning. Without knowing the definition of the Greek words used, most people would assume that the word “coming” in all verses actually means “coming,” as found in the English dictionary.

We will discover in this study that there is error in the traditional and very popular belief as to what Paul was saying in 2 Thessalonians regarding Christ’s *coming*. The word definitions and their roots confirm wonderful truths of which Jesus and Paul spoke so often.

The first Greek word we look at is *parousia*, and is used less than 25 times. Its primary definition is “*a being near,*” according to Strong’s dictionary, while Thayer shows it as “*presence.*” As we read through each verse which contains the translated “*parousia*” let us stop and consider the verse as having “*presence*” in place of the word “*coming.*” This may shake up some beliefs held dear by many. But for those who understand that the Kingdom of God is within us, the usual “*second coming*” passages will take on a glorious new light. At the same time, deep sadness will grip them as they begin to grasp who the “*man of sin*” is.

First of all, the Greek definitions used in the study are listed (including their roots), then all the quoted passages wherein are found the English translated words. Except where noted, all quotes are from the Revised Version (1870-1885) rather than the so-called “authorized” KJV.

Something we must understand is that both Strong’s and Thayer’s definitions often include the KJV translators’ conclusions as to word meanings. Too often we see where words are translated into English words that seem to have nothing to do with the actual definition. It is simply the man of flesh injecting carnal ideas into “God’s Word.” We truly do need the Holy Spirit to teach us what the printed word says.

Let’s get on with the study. Because this is an extremely important study, there will be more commentary throughout. See “Note:” for commentary. May the Lord reveal to you the wonders of the truth of Jesus Christ and how He came to dwell in those born anew by His Spirit.

~~~~~

For emphasis, the primary definitions are underlined.

### 1. Greek #3952

parousia (*par-oo-see'-ah*)

Strong's Definition: "**From the present participle of Greek #3918; a *being near*, that is, *advent* (often, *return*; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physical *aspect***"

Thayer's Definition: "**1) presence**

**2) the coming, arrival, advent**

**2a) the future visible return from heaven of Jesus, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God"**

Translated: "coming, presence"

**Note:** Pay close attention to the first words of the definition, above; particularly, "*From the **present** participle...*" Now read carefully the next definition which is gleaned from the two following it. Greek words numbered 2, 3 and 4 are included for reference because of their relevance. Quotes of all their translated words are not included in this study.

### 2. Greek #3918

pareimi (*par'-i-mee*)

Definition: "**From Greek #3844 and Greek #1510 (including its various forms); to be *near*, that is, *at hand*; neuter present participle (singular) *time being*, or (plural) *property***"

Translated: "come, X have, be here, + lack, (be here) present"

**Note:** Already we are beginning to see a meaning that does not suggest some future event.

### 3. Greek #3844

para (*par-ah'*)

Definition: "**A primary preposition; properly *near*, that is, (with genitive case) *from beside* (literally or figuratively), (with dative case) *at* (or *in*) the *vicinity* of (objectively or subjectively), (with accusative case) *to the proximity* with (local**

**[especially *beyond* or *opposed to*] or causal [*on account of*]). In compounds it retains the same variety of application”**

Translated: “above, against, among, at, before, by, contrary to, X friend, from, + give [such things as they], + that [she] had, X his, in, more than, nigh unto, (out) of, past, save, side . . . by, in the sight of, than, [there-] fore, with. In compounds it retains the same variety of application”

**Note:** This next (and last) Greek word, making up the word *parousia*, is the one Jesus used when He said “I am”, in answer to the Jews who “*said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’*” (John 8:57-58 EMTV) As the definition shows, it is used *only when emphatic*.

#### **4. Greek #1510**

eimi (*i-mee'*)

**Definition: “First person singular present indicative; a prolonged form of a primary and defective verb; I exist (used only when emphatic)”**

Translated: “am, have been, X it is I, was”

**Note:** This final word in our study is the one used in direct reference to Christ’s actual coming back to earth. Only those verses (but not all) to do with “coming” are included in the list of quotations. If you wish, for personal study, you could check out the remainder of the passages by checking Strong’s list which shows where the word is used.

#### **5. Greek #2064**

erchomai (*er'-khom-ah-ee*)

**Definition: “to come or go (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively)”**

Translated: “accompany, appear, bring, **come**, enter, fall out, go, grow, X light, X next, pass, resort, be set”

**Note:** And now let’s read all the passages and, being equipped with understanding of definitions, discover what is being said. Of course, the Holy Spirit is the only

one who can quicken truth to us--and He will. Let's trust Him to do as Jesus promised His Spirit would.

~~~~~

1. Greek #3952

parousia (*par-oo-see'-ah*)

Definition: “**From the present participle of Greek #3918; a *being near*, that is, advent (often, *return*; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physical aspect**”

Translated: “coming, presence”

- The word “*coming*” was used in the KJV. See bold words for its use in the RV or the EMTV.

Note: Try reading the verses with “*presence*” in place of “*coming*” and see how the primary definition fits better in most cases where “*coming*” was used by the King James translators.

Matthew 24:3, 27, 37(&38), 39: “*And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy **coming**, and of the end of the world? . . . For as the lightning cometh [Greek: ‘issues’] forth from the east, and is seen even unto the west; so shall be the **coming** of the Son of man. . . . And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the **coming** of the Son of man. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the **coming** of the Son of man.*”

1 Corinthians 15:(22 &)23: “*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are Christ’s, at his **coming**.*”

1 Corinthians 16:17(&18): “*And I rejoice at the **coming** of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours: acknowledge ye therefore them that are such.*”

2 Corinthians 7:6-7: “*Nevertheless he that comforteth the lowly, even God, comforted us by the **coming** of Titus; and not by his **coming** only, but also by the comfort wherewith he was comforted in you, while he told us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced yet more.*”

Philippians 1:(25&)26: “And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide, yea, and abide with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith; that your glorying may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my **presence** with you again.”

1 Thessalonians 2:(17-18&)19: “But we, brethren, being bereaved of you for a short season, in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more exceedingly to see your face with great desire: because we would fain have come [Greek #2064] unto you, I Paul once and again; and Satan hindered us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of glorying? Are not even ye, before our Lord Jesus at his **coming**?”

1 Thessalonians 3:(11-12&)13: “Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way unto you: and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we also do toward you; to the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before our God and Father, at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus with [Greek: ‘amid’] all his saints.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the **coming** of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.”

1 Thessalonians 5:23: “And the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1(&2-7),8-9(&10-12) EMTV: “Now, brothers, concerning the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we beseech you, not to be quickly shaken from your mind, nor be disturbed, neither by spirit nor by word nor by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ has come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is unveiled, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or every object of worship, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And now you know that which is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will continue until one comes out of the midst. And then the lawless one will be unveiled, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy by the brightness of His **coming**, whose **coming** is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and in all deception of unrighteousness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And because of this, God will send them strong delusion, in order for them to believe the lie, so that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth, but delighted in unrighteousness.”

Note: The above passage is one of the favorites used by those who believe in a pre-tribulation “rapture.” The man of sin is seen as some future “Antichrist” who comes to sit in a man-made temple, declaring himself to be God. The Bible

clearly tells us that the *temple of God* is His body--those who are born anew by His Spirit, and in whom He dwells. Pseudo-Christians are those who assume they are born again because they believed a false *gospel*. They never truly submitted to the crucifying power of the risen Christ, allowing Him to begin the regeneration process. They still live in the power of *self*. And this is the man of sin--man being his own god; all the while believing he is a Christian. Verses 10 to 12 indicate who the man of sin is. And when Christ is manifested in His fullness, these pseudo-believers will not survive because they are yet flesh. All their lying signs and wonders will have been for naught. All the *great* works they did *in Jesus' Name* will mean nothing when they come face to face with the living Christ. The god of this world has deceived them and used them for his own purposes against the true and living God whom he never could supplant.

For further reading, check out these two articles:

http://www.ekklesia4him.net/the_body_of_christ_its_identity.html

http://www.ekklesia4him.net/the_antichrist_christian.html

James 5:7-8 EMTV: “*Therefore be patient, brothers, until the **coming** of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient for it, until it receives the early and late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, because the **coming** of the Lord has drawn near.*”

2 Peter 1:16: “*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*”

2 Peter 3:(1-3&)4, (11&)12 (&13): “*This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance; that ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles: knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his **coming**? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. . . . Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the **coming** of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*”

1 John 2:28: “*And now, my little children, abide in him; that, if he shall be manifested, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed before him at his **coming**.*”

Note: Did you notice the passages where “*presence*” could have been used, rather than “*coming*”? Do you understand the wonders of **Christ in us**, the hope of glory? What could be more glorious than **I AM** making His abode inside of us?

- “presence”

2 Corinthians 10:10: “For, His [Paul’s] letters, they say, are weighty and strong; but his bodily **presence** is weak, and his speech of no account.”

Philippians 2:12 (&13): “So then, my beloved, even as ye have always obeyed, not as in my **presence** only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.”

4. Greek #1510

eimi (i-mee')

Definition: “**First person singular present indicative; a prolonged form of a primary and defective verb; I exist (used only when emphatic)**”

Translated: “am, have been, X it is I, was”

Mark 14:62: “And Jesus said, **I am**: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

5. Greek #2064

erchomai (er'-khom-ah-ee)

Definition: “**to come or go (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively)**”

Translated: “accompany, appear, bring, **come**, enter, fall out, go, grow, X light, X next, pass, resort, be set”

Matthew 16:28: “Verily I say unto you, There be some of them that stand here, which shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man **coming** in his kingdom.”

Matthew 24:(29&)30, 48: “But immediately, after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall

*see the Son of man **coming** on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. . . . But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his **coming**;*"

Matthew 25:(26&)27: *"But his lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I did not scatter; thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the bankers, and at my **coming** I should have received back mine own with interest."*

Matthew 26:64: *"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Henceforth ye shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and **coming** on the clouds of heaven."*

Mark 13:26, 35-36: *"And then shall they see the Son of man **coming** in clouds with great power and glory. . . . Watch therefore: for ye know not when the lord of the house **cometh**, whether at even, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or in the morning; lest **coming** suddenly he find you sleeping."*

Mark 14:62: *"And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and **coming** with the clouds of heaven."*

Luke 12:45 (&46): *"But if that servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his **coming**; and shall begin to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; the lord of that servant shall come [Greek #2240 'shall arrive'] in a day when he expecteth not, and in an hour when he knoweth not, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint his portion with the unfaithful."*

Luke 21:(25-26&)27: *"And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on [Greek #1904 'occurring'] the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man **coming** in a cloud with power and great glory."*

John 5:28: *"Marvel not at this: for the hour **cometh**, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice,"*

Matthew 24:42-43: *"Watch therefore: for ye know not on what day your Lord **cometh**. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief was **coming**, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken through."*

Matthew 25:31 (&32-33): *"But when the Son of man shall **come** in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."*