

## We Shall See Him Whom We Pierced

Revelation 1:7

*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.*

“**Behold**” is a “call to attention”. *Behold* is appropriately used of Jesus Christ, for He is certainly worthy of our attention. For example, when Jehovah sent Jesus Christ to earth the first time, He said “Behold your God” (Isaiah 40:9-11). We now are told to behold Jesus Christ in His *second* coming to earth:

“**Behold, He is coming ....**” This should not surprise us. He Himself said “if I go ..., I will come again” (John 14:3).

“**Behold, He is coming with clouds.**” This also should not surprise us. He Himself repeatedly prophesied of His return “on the clouds of heaven” (e.g., Matthew 24:30 & 26:64). When men saw Jesus Christ depart this earth, “He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight”, and they were told “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11). He shall *return* as He *departed* – “with clouds”.

“**Behold, ... every eye will see Him.**” This includes all who ever lived – from the dawn of creation to that final day, both those who are yet alive at the day and those who died before that day.

How can it be that everyone who ever lived will see Jesus Christ when He returns? Especially, how will Jesus Christ be seen by those whose physical bodies no longer physically exist as physical bodies? Some bodies were buried in the earth, and decayed to dust. Some bodies were buried at sea, and their remains were scattered to the seven seas. Some bodies were cremated, and their ashes were cast to the four winds. How can it be that they in their own bodies and with their own eyes will see Jesus Christ when He returns?

They will see Him because of the resurrection at the last day of all who ever lived. For at that last day “there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15; cp. John 5:28f; Daniel 12:2). This *resurrection* of all who ever lived will be followed by the *judgment* of them all. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things

done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10; cp. Revelation 20:11ff; Matthew 25:31ff).

Therefore “every eye will see Him.” Special persons are here cited among those who will see Christ the Judge:

“... **even they who pierced Him.**” These are of two sorts: they who pierced Christ *physically*, and they who pierced Him *spiritually*.

First, consider those who pierced Jesus Christ *physically*. These are all who personally performed the deed, and all others complicit with them in this deed. Roman soldiers pierced His *back* with their whip, His *head* with their crown of thorns, His *hands and feet* with their spikes, and His *side* with their spear (John ch.19 and parallels). Complicit with them were the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, who authorized them to do so; and the Jewish Sanhedrin, who delivered Jesus to Pilate to be crucified; and the Jewish people who demanded that Pilate crucify Jesus (ibid). All these shall be resurrected from the dead at the final day, and see Him whom they pierced.

Second, consider those who pierced Jesus Christ *spiritually*. These are of various sorts. And all *spiritual* piercers of Jesus Christ are in sympathy with His *physical* piercers.

Many have pierced Jesus’ heart with their *unbelief in Him and rejection of Him*. The spear of rejection was cast into His heart when “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11), and furthermore said “We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). And many since that time – both Jews and Gentiles – have rejected Jesus Christ in like manner. He has come to them through the preaching of His gospel, but they refuse to receive Him, and reject Him and deny His Lordship over them. They thereby cast their spear of rejection into His heart. They hear Him call “Look to Me and be saved” (Isaiah 45:22); they cast the spear of their unbelief into His heart, then look away. They hear Him call “Come to Me, ... and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28); they cast the spear of their unbelief into His heart when they say “We are not willing to come to You” (John 5:40 adapted).

Others would pierce Jesus Christ in the sense of “crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6). They are professing Christians who believe they may depart from Christ and return to sin (which they generally call “falling from grace”), then repent of sin and return to Christ. That

is, they believe they may be “saved today, lost tomorrow, resaved day after tomorrow”. But it is impossible for one to apostatize from Christ and then be resaved by Christ, for that would require Christ to be re-crucified (see vv.4-6). But they are willing to “pierce again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame”.

It is no wonder that we now read ...

***“And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.”***

They who pierced Jesus Christ will mourn when they see Him coming in His wrath against them. We read about them in Revelation 6:15-17: “15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”

Imagine the horror that will in that day seize Herod the king, Pilate the governor, Caiaphas the priest, and all others who pierced Jesus Christ through their unbelief in Him and rejection of Him. I hope you will tell me that you will not be one of them.

**“Even so, Amen.”**

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This text ends on a dreadful note.

Let us end this message on a sweeter note.

Note again the phrase “every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.” This phrase is from the Old Testament prophecy uttered by Jehovah and recorded in Zechariah 12:10: “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me [Jehovah – first person pronoun in Septuagint] whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

This prophecy was fulfilled on the day Jesus Christ was crucified (John 19:33-37): “33 But when they [the soldiers who crucified Jesus] came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that

he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. [This one is John the apostle, who wrote this account.] 36 For these things were done that the Scripture [in Psalm 34:40] should be fulfilled, ‘Not one of His bones shall be broken.’ 37 And again another Scripture [Zechariah 12:10] says, ‘They shall look on Him whom they pierced.’”

This prophecy was fulfilled in the Roman soldiers who pierced Jesus Christ. As they nailed Him to His cross, they heard Him pray “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). (Do you suppose God answered that prayer?) Then “Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there” (Matthew 27:36) – looking on Him whom they had pierced. As Jesus expired, evidently God the Father answered the prayer of Jesus for them, and His Spirit of grace and supplication was poured on them. For “the centurion ... glorified God, saying, ‘Certainly this was a righteous Man!’” (Luke 23:47). And “the centurion and those with him ... feared greatly, saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’” (Matthew 27:54). Do you not see them mourning and grieving for having pierced Jesus?

This prophecy was also fulfilled in certain Jews complicit with these soldiers in piercing Jesus. For on the same occasion “the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned” (Luke 23:48). Later, on the Day of Pentecost, when Peter reminded them of their part in the piercing of Jesus Christ, they repented and were saved (Acts 2:37-41).

This prophecy has also been fulfilled in many who have pierced Jesus Christ with their unbelief in Him and rejection of Him. I am one of them. Through the preaching of Christ’s gospel, I have looked on Him whom I pierced. To me has been given the Spirit of grace and supplication. I therefore have mourned and grieved for having pierced Jesus Christ, repented of my unbelief and rejection, and trusted in Him for the salvation of my soul. Therefore, I and all other believers in Jesus will rejoice when we see the coming of Him whom we pierced. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

Will you now mourn and grieve for having pierced Jesus Christ – and rejoice when you see Him? Or will you instead pierce Him again and again until the day when you see Him coming in the clouds – when your mourning and grief will be too late!

– Daniel E. Parks (April 2, 2017; #971)