

# WHO WILL ACCOMPANY JESUS?

(ANGELS OR BODY OF CHRIST)

*By Sue Ellen Poe*

My entire life, I have always been taught that the Body of Christ is returning with Jesus at His second coming. Does the Bible actually support this belief? To discover the answer to this question, we need to examine the Scriptures.

But first, we need to discuss what the second coming is and what it is not. In order to have a second coming, there must be a first one. Jesus' first coming was His birth, in Bethlehem, to His mother Mary. After a thirty-three-year ministry, Jesus was rejected by the Jewish nation on the order of Pilate then crucified. He then arose, on the third day, to life and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. The true Church is awaiting His return, for the Body of Christ, known as the rapture (see more about the rapture in the book *The Bible - Fact or Myth*). So don't be confused, Jesus' returning for the Body of Christ is not His second coming but the rapture. At the rapture, He comes in the clouds, but never actually sets foot on the earth ([1Thessalonians 4:17](#)). However, after the Tribulation, which spans seven years, Jesus Christ will come back to establish victory and set up His Millennial Kingdom on earth. This is Jesus Christ's second return to earth or His second coming. He will actually touchdown, setting foot on the Mount of Olives, outside the old city of Jerusalem ([Zechariah 14:4](#)).

Now that we have determined what the second coming of Jesus Christ is, let's look at what a saint is. In many verses of the Bible, saints refer to believers in Jesus Christ. An example of this is in 1 Thessalonians.

*To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.***

*1 Thessalonians 3:13 AKJV*

This coming of Christ with His saints, spoken of here, is not the second coming, but the rapture when Jesus returns for His Church. He will resurrect the

deceased saints first and then come with them for the living saints, which is described later in chapter four.

*And the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17AKJV*

Once He has given Christians both the risen dead and those still alive, our new eternal bodies, Christ will present us blameless to the Father in heaven. So, in this instance, the word "saints" refers to believers.

Now let's look at the Scriptures which refer to His second coming. Exactly who does the Bible say will be accompanying Him? This subject is not as straightforward as you might have been made to believe. Take a look at the Book of Jude.

*And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken.*

*Jude 1:14-15 AKJV*

So in verse fourteen, at His second coming, it says the Lord will come with ten thousand(s) of His saints. So who are these ten thousand(s) saints? Can a saint be anyone other than a believer? The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines the word saint as holiness, angel, or one of God's chosen. Saint, referred to here, is the Greek word *hagiais*. The *New Testament Greek Lexicon* defines saints or *hagiais* as holy, set apart; holy things or holy ones. So this verse could be referring to angels instead of believers. In fact, the Old Testament followers were never truly holy; they were called to be holy. Their sins were merely covered, not erased. Likewise, they could never accomplish holiness, because true righteousness is only through salvation from the finished work of the cross. Christ's blood is the only thing that makes us holy (Christ's righteousness, not ours).

In contrast, God's angels are referred to as holy. Upon His second coming, are there actually verses that state these saints who accompany Jesus Christ are angels? Let's examine more Scriptures to find the answer.

*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall **the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.***

*Mark 8:38 AKJV*

*For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the **Son of man** be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*

*Luke 9:26 AKJV*

*When **the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him**, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

*Matthew 25:31 AKJV*

*And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels**, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*2 Thessalonians 1:7-8*

In the four preceding Scriptures, it actually states that Jesus returns with His angels at His second coming. The Greek word here is *angeloi* which is translated as angels. So, according to these four passages, they are literal angels who accompany Jesus Christ in His second coming.

Furthermore, in Jude verse fourteen, it stated ten thousand(s) saints would accompany Jesus Christ in His return. So if this is speaking of the Body of Christ or Christians then we need to ask ourselves a few questions. If this verse actually refers to Christians instead of angels, which ten thousand(s) of us would be accompanying Him? There are a larger number of Christians in heaven than ten thousand, more like millions. Thus, how would God decide who gets to return with Him? On the other hand, angels have specific assigned duties; of which there are guardian angels, warrior angels, worship, and messenger angels along with others mentioned in the Bible. In addition, angels have assignments according to their classifications.

In summary, the majority of the Scriptures actually affirm that angels will be accompanying Jesus Christ as the Tribulation draws to an end. Likewise, we've discovered that saints can be angels by definition, in fact many historical religious writings also refer to angels as saints. Therefore, the facts confirm that angels will indeed be accompanying Him at His second coming when He returns to claim victory and defeat death. Like always, don't take my word for it, study it for yourself!

### **Works Cited**

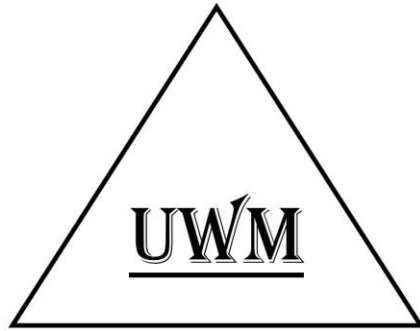
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