

Scriptural Proof of Christ's Presence

Most people in the world who profess to be Christian are not aware that Christ's invisible presence began in 1914. Here we will go over the scriptures that prove that Christ's invisible presence started at the beginning of the last days.

(Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

Regarding the true meaning of the word "*presence*" (Gr = parousias) verses such as this one help:

(Philippians 2:12) Consequently, my beloved ones, just as you have always obeyed, not only during my presence but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

But what about the timeframe? When does the Bible say that Christ's presence will be?

Matthew 24:3 doesn't say that Christ's invisible presence began in 1914, so let's look at every other reference to his presence in the Bible and see what those verses say.

(Matthew 24:27) For just as the lightning comes out of the east and shines over to the west, so the **presence** of the Son of man will be.

Although that verse tells us that his presence will be visible to all, just as lightning that strikes across the entire sky is visible to all, it does not give us a timeframe.

(Matthew 24:36, 37, 39) "Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For just as the days of Noah were, so the **presence** of the Son of man will be.... and they took no note until the Flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be."

Those verses refer to his presence on "*that day*" (Armageddon) comparing it to the day that the wicked were swept away in the flood, so it is not talking about the beginning of his invisible presence from 1914 either.

Let's compare Matthew 24:39 to its parallel verse in Luke:

(Luke 17:30) It will be the same on that day when the Son of man is revealed.

Luke refers to his presence as "*that day when the Son of man is revealed*", referring to Armageddon, so that verse can't be used to show Christ's invisible presence either.

(Acts 2:28) You have made life's ways known to me; you will fill me with great joy in your **presence**.'

In that verse Paul quotes David who is referring to his own resurrection that will occur *"in your presence"*. Paul refers to the same thing in this next verse:

(1 Corinthians 15:23) But each one in his own proper order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his **presence**.

That verse tells us that *"those who belong to the Christ"* will be resurrected *"during his presence"*, but neither that verse nor Acts 2:28 say when that is. And the original Greek actually says *"at his presence" not "during his presence"*. So we don't get 1914 from that verse either. However this next set of verses do identify when that resurrection takes place:

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) For this is what we tell you by Jehovah's word, that we the living who survive to the presence of the Lord will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep in death; ¹⁶ because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet, and those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Afterward we the living who are surviving will, **together** with them, be caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

Those verses describe his presence to be when he descends *"from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice, and with God's trumpet."* That, of course, is referring to Armageddon. We know this because those who belong to Christ and have died are resurrected at that time, and *"together with"* the other *"chosen ones"* (Mt 24:31) who are alive are *"caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air."* (1Th 3:13)

So those verses do not refer to Christ's invisible presence beginning in 1914 either, but refer to his arrival at Armageddon. The chosen ones who survive to that day will not die but will be caught away. If those verses are referring to 1914 then the living *"chosen ones"* (who will be caught away together with the resurrected ones) would have also been gathered in 1914 since both groups are caught away *"together"*. (Mt 24:31; 1Co 15:51, 52) But that didn't happen.

These next verses also refer to those who are gathered to him:

(2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2) However, brothers, concerning the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you ² not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be alarmed either by an inspired statement or by a spoken message or by a letter appearing to be from us, to the effect that the day of Jehovah is here.

Their *"being gathered"* is referring to when the living *"chosen ones"* (Mt 24:31) are gathered to him by being *"caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air" at the same time as the resurrected*

chosen ones. (1Th 4:17) And since those verses are referring to "*the day of Jehovah*" (Armageddon) they cannot be referring to 1914.

(1 Thessalonians 3:13) so that he may make your hearts firm, blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the **presence** of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

When does Jesus arrive "*with all his holy ones*"? At Armageddon. (1Co 6:2; 2Th 1:7-10)

(1 Thessalonians 5:23) May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may the spirit and soul and body of you brothers, sound in every respect, be preserved blameless at the **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That verse refers to those who are "*preserved*" at his presence. That, of course, refers to his coming at Armageddon (1Co 1:8) since the living chosen ones were not "*preserved*" in 1914. They can still lose their status if they do not remain faithful. (Mt 24:13)

(2 Thessalonians 2:8) Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his **presence**.

The Greek word (epiphaneia) translated there as "*manifestation*" means "appearance, appearing, manifestation, glorious display", so this verse is referring to a presence that is seen.

The lawless ones on earth will be done away with at Armageddon, therefore "*the manifestation of his presence*" must also be referring to the day of Armageddon and not 1914.

(James 5:7, 8) Be patient then, brothers, until the **presence** of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until the early rain and the late rain arrive. ⁸ You too exercise patience; make your hearts firm, because the **presence of the Lord** has drawn close.

Patience is only needed "*until*" Armageddon. Those alive after 1914 must continue to remain patient since Armageddon hasn't occurred yet. Therefore the "*presence*" in that verse is referring to his arrival at Armageddon.

(1 Thessalonians 3:13) so that he may make your hearts firm, blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the **presence** of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

That presence refers to when Jesus has "*all his holy ones*", which only happens when they are all caught away to meet him in the air at Armageddon. (1Th 4:17)

(2 Peter 3:12) as you await and keep close in mind the **presence of the day of Jehovah**, through

which the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt in the intense heat!

That verse uses the term "*presence*" to refer to "*the day of Jehovah*" (Armageddon).

(1 John 2:28) So now, little children, remain in union with him, so that when he is made manifest we may have freeness of speech and not shrink away from him in shame at his presence.

The original Greek word (parrēsian) translated as "*made manifest*" means "to make visible, make clear". He will be visible and seen by all at Armageddon. (Mt 16:27; 24:30; 25:31; Mr 13:26; Lu 21:27; Re 1:7) Therefore "*his presence*" in that verse does not refer to an invisible one.

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Well those are all of the verses that refer to his presence. Unfortunately none of them can be used as proof of Christ's invisible presence since 1914 since they all refer identify his presence as his coming at Armageddon.

What about Matthew 18:20 and 28:20? Can those verses be used to show his invisible presence since 1914?

(Matthew 18:20) For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst."

(Matthew 28:20) teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."

Unfortunately no, since in those verses Jesus is referring to the time following his time on earth and not only since 1914. So his invisible presence in that sense has been happening since his death. (1Th 2:19)

What about Matthew 24:3? Can the wording in that verse be used to show that Christ's presence began in 1914?

(Matthew 24:3) While he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying: "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

Unfortunately no, since the disciples asked for a single sign combining both his presence and the conclusion of the system of things, and we know the latter refers to Armageddon. (Mt 13:39)

Are there any verses that indicate that Christ's invisible presence began in 1914? There are none that i can find. So you have a decision to make: Do you continue believing the teachings of the

Governing Body (GB), or the Bible, since all of the scriptures in the Bible tell us that his "*presence*" only refers to his arrival at Armageddon and not to an invisible presence that began at the beginning of the last days.

Of course the GB could never acknowledge that they are wrong (no new light) since they base their claimed position of authority on their teaching that Christ returned in 1914 and gave them that authority. (Mt 24:45; Lu 12:42)—(see my article "Presence")

Why does the Bible refer to his arrival at Armageddon as his presence? Because Christ was on earth before, but not for very long. Someone can "come", or "arrive", but that doesn't mean they won't immediately leave again. The term "*presence*" denotes an extended amount of time. He "*will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet*" (1Th 4:16), and from that time on we will enjoy his continued presence as ruler of earth. Satan, the current ruler of this world, will be thrown into the abyss for a thousand years (Jn 14:30; Lu 4:6; Re 20:1-3), and Christ will begin his 1,000 year reign. (Re 20:6)

See my article "The Governing Body" found at the link below.

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