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Second Coming - If Jesus told them to hold on until He came, does that imply His coming was in their lifetime (Revelation 2:25)?



By Dan Maines

If Jesus told them to hold on until He came, does that imply His coming was in their lifetime (Revelation 2:25)?

Yes, Jesus telling them to hold on until He came (Revelation 2:25) strongly implies His coming was expected within their lifetime. This wasn't a general instruction for future generations, but a specific charge to the believers in Thyatira during the first century. This matches the overall time-sensitive language throughout Revelation:

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1), and

"for the time is near" (Revelation 1:3).

If His coming was meant to be thousands of years later, the urgency of that command makes no sense. Why would He tell them to "hold fast" if the fulfillment wouldn't happen for millennia, long after they were dead?

This also aligns with Matthew 16:27-28, where Jesus said,

"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels... Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

It is echoed again in Matthew 24:34,

"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

Revelation is consistent with that time frame. The command to hold on is a call to remain faithful through tribulation, not centuries of church history. It was a promise of vindication and reward for those enduring the trials and false teachings of their day, especially with judgment approaching.

Jesus' coming in judgment, just as He said, was imminent for them. Revelation is a letter of hope to first-century believers, urging them to stay faithful just a little longer, because the age-changing judgment on the Old Covenant system was near. And by 70 AD, He did come in judgment, just as He said He would.

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