



Truth For These Times



4. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

From the time Christ ascended to heaven after His crucifixion and resurrection His followers have anxiously looked forward to His promised Second Coming. The Second Coming of Christ is mentioned more than 300 times in the New Testament. This indicates the deep desire for the glorious event to take place. As this subject is contemplated, it can be seen that it is indeed the blessed hope of the Christian, for it marks the beginning of a new way of life. It is a day of absolute victory. It means the end of this world in its present state, and the beginning of a life that will never end.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will APPEAR A SECOND TIME, apart from sin, for salvation.

Here is the promise of His Second Coming, the end of sin's power and the long looked for day of salvation.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Christ said, "I will come again". Man often makes a promise with every intention of keeping it, but sometimes circumstances do not permit him to fulfil his promise. But Jesus Christ's promises are sure – they WILL come to pass, and if there is one thing absolutely certain, it is the fact that Christ will one day return to this earth.

Jude 14,15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "BEHOLD, THE LORD COMES WITH TEN THOUSANDS OF HIS SAINTS, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Even Enoch, the seventh from Adam, spoke of this event.

Luke 24:39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for A SPIRIT DOES NOT HAVE FLESH AND BONES AS YOU SEE I HAVE.



Here Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, not in spirit form, but as flesh and bone – the same Jesus. Will Jesus return in spirit, or will He be the same Jesus?

Acts 1:9-11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, HE WAS TAKEN UP, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? THIS SAME JESUS, who was taken up from you into heaven, WILL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER as you saw Him go into heaven."

This is the record of the ascension. The disciples saw Him ascend, and the two men in white apparel (probably angels) said “this same Jesus” would return the same way. His ascension was visible; His return will not be secret, but visible.

Matthew 24:30

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING** on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.



Jesus Himself said His return would be visible, not only to the righteous, but also to the wicked.

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.

None will be exempt from witnessing this glorious event.

Matthew 25:31

When the Son of Man **COMES IN HIS GLORY**, and **ALL THE HOLY ANGELS WITH HIM**, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

It will certainly be a most glorious sight – Jesus in all His glory, surrounded by all the holy angels. He comes as a rightful king to sit on His throne.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will **REWARD EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS**.

One of the reasons for Jesus coming is to give each person his reward.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 For the Lord Himself will **DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT**, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST**. Then **WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP** together with them in the clouds to **MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Here is the reward of the faithful – eternal life – forever with the Lord. Notice the event is accompanied by much noise: a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God. There is nothing secret about the Second Coming. Not only will every eye see Him, but every ear will hear as well.



A miraculous event takes place when Jesus returns. The resurrection of the dead in Christ occurs. Many have been in their graves for hundreds of years, but now the faithful are raised to eternal life. Some living at the time of Christ’s return, and who have of course never experienced death, are caught up in the air with the Lord. These now have eternal life, and will never taste death.

Interestingly, at Christ’s return He does not touch the earth. Notice in this text how the resurrected and the living righteous meet Him “in the air”.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED— IN A MOMENT**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised



incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this **CORRUPTIBLE MUST PUT ON INCORRUPTION**, and this **MORTAL MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY**. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory”.

The righteous bodies are not composed of the same flesh they possessed when they first went to their graves. Instead, they are changed in an instant. They are incorruptible. God bestows on them the gift of immortality, Death is then forever banished.

Revelation 6:15-17 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, 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! “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Those who are not prepared for this climactic event are fearful. They find no joy in the presence of the Lord. They seek destruction in order to be hidden from Him.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; *Together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Isaiah 25:9 And it will be said in that day: “**BEHOLD, THIS IS OUR GOD; WE HAVE WAITED FOR HIM**, and He will save us. This *is* the **LORD**; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

In contrast with the wicked, the righteous delight in the Lord’s appearing. They have looked forward to His coming, now their hopes are realised.



Titus 2:13 Looking for the **BLESSED HOPE** and **GLORIOUS APPEARING** of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Without the Second Coming there would be no hope, for this event is the climax of the ages. It is the turning point. It marks the end of death and the problems of this life. It marks a new beginning. It is the realisation of our hopes and prayers. It is the beginning of all we have been striving for. No wonder John the Revelator said:

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming quickly.**” Amen. **EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!**

Friend: There are only two groups on that great day – the righteous and the wicked – the saved and the unsaved. Which group will you be in? Choose Jesus as your Saviour and your Guide today, and you will be ready for Jesus to come.

Review Sheet – The Second Coming of Christ

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. What promise did Jesus give concerning His Second Coming? John 14:3
_____.
 2. Who foretold the Second Coming of Jesus by saying, “Behold the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints”? Jude 14 _____.
 3. When Jesus returns, His coming will be somewhat similar to the ascension scene. How is this described in Acts 1:11?
This _____ who was taken up from you into heaven _____
_____ as you saw him go into heaven.
 4. How many will see Jesus when He returns? Revelation 1:7
And _____.
 5. Who else comes with Jesus the second time? Matthew 25:31
And all the _____.
 6. What is one purpose for His return? Matthew 16:27
then he will _____.
 7. When Jesus returns, what happens to: a) The righteous dead?
b) The righteous living? 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17
and the dead in _____, then we who are alive and remain _____.
 8. The saved at Christ’s coming are changed. What two differences do they “put on”?
1 Corinthians 15:53
a) _____ b) _____.
 9. What do the wicked cry when they see Jesus? Revelation 6:16
Fall on us and _____.
 10. In contrast what will be the righteous ones’ cry when Jesus comes? Isaiah 25:9
In that day, “_____, _____; _____,”
 11. What is the glorious appearing of Jesus to the saved called? Titus 2:13
Looking for the _____.
 12. What will be the prayer of the genuine Christian? Revelation 22:20
Even so, _____!
- Is it your desire to be ready when Jesus comes? _____.