

The Second Coming of Christ

Lesson Text: Acts 1:10-11 & 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Holy Bible centers around Jesus Christ and can be summed up in three short sentences.
 - 1. He is coming. (Genesis to Malachi)
 - 2. He is here. (Matthew to Acts 1)
 - 3. He is coming again. (Acts 1:11 to Revelation 2 2:20)
- B. The second coming of Christ ought to be a subject of absorbing interest to each one of us.
- C. The Bible speaks with great emphasis about the certainty of the return of Christ.
 - 1. The Old Testament contains about **280** prophecies about Christ.
 - 2. At least **370** New Testament verses refer to His second coming to judge men.
 - 3. There are **7,959** verses in the New Testament.
 - a. One out of every **25** touches on the theme of Christ's return.
 - b. The doctrine of the second coming of Christ is found in **23** of the **27** New Testament books.
- D. A subject mentioned so frequently in the Bible must not go unnoticed, but rather studied and believed.
- E. For over 1900 years Christians have been searching both the Heavens and the Scriptures looking for the return of the Son of God.
 - 1. I am convinced that the doctrine of the second coming of Christ should sober men into righteousness.
 - 2. Christians should be hopefully aware that Christ could come any day.
 - 3. With that firm conviction deeply imbedded in his faith, he should conduct his life and live everyday as if that were the day before the coming of Christ.
- F. In this lesson we are searching the Scriptures for its inspired teachings on the second coming of Christ.

THE ASSURANCE OF HIS COMING

- A. It was an exciting, puzzling, sad day when Christ left this earth.
 - 1. His disciples had only recently recovered from the shock of His death but were now revived in spirit when He was raised from the dead.
 - 2. Now, all of a sudden He returns to Heaven in a miraculous way.
 - a. The disciples were puzzled and amazed as they stood looking steadfastly toward Heaven as he went up.

b. Their mental questions were answered. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Acts 1:10-11

B. Jesus, Himself, often made reference to the fact that He would return a second time.

1. **John 14:1-3** - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

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."

2. **Matthew 16:27** - "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS."

3. **Matthew 24:27** - "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be."

4. **Matthew 25:31** - "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."

5. **Matthew 26:64** - ". . . Nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

C. Jesus Christ was fully aware that He would die, be buried, be raised from the dead, and ascend back into Heaven.

1. He was also aware that He would come again, and thus He taught His disciples

2. frequently with regard to this subject as evidenced in the verses we have just read.

2. We live between two mountain peaks of history.

a. The crucifixion of Christ.

b. And, the second coming of Christ.

3. One generation of believers will be looking for Him. That generation of people might very well be us.

D. The Bible is God's Word, and it does assure us of His coming.

1. **Hebrews 9:27-28** - "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."

2. In **Acts 1:11**, remember what the two angels told the apostles as the Lord ascended back into heaven – “. . . This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”
 3. **Revelation 22:20** - “He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”
- E. We can rest assured from the Word of God that Jesus Christ is coming again.

CONCERNING THE TIME OF HIS COMING

- A. **No one knows but God.** **Matthew 24:35-36** - “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”

- B. **Matthew 24:37-42** – “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

Be Ready for His Coming "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming

1. The regular routines of life will be going on as usual—eating, drinking, marrying, going to school, going to ballgames, working, shopping, vacationing, etc., when Jesus comes.
2. Some will be prepared and some will be unprepared. We are taught to watch and be ready.

THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

- A. **He is coming in person.** **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** – “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

- B. **He is coming as he went back to Heaven.** **Acts 1:11** – “. . . This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

C. **He is coming in visible form.** **Revelation 1:7** – “BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”

D. **He is coming without warning.** **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3** – “For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”

E. **He is coming with power and great glory.** **Matthew 24:30** – “then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.”

FOR WHAT IS CHRIST NOT COMING?

A. There are many false ideas being circulated around the world concerning the second coming of Christ. Briefly let me refute some of the major ones.

1. **Jesus is not coming to establish His kingdom.**

a. It has already been established.

b. Many Bible passages so indicate that the kingdom is now in existence, and has been for nearly 2,000 years.

a. Daniel 2:44

e. Acts 2:47

b. Mark 1:15

f. Colossians 1:13

c. Mark 9:1

g. Revelation 2:9

d. Acts 8:1

2. **Jesus is not coming to sit on David’s throne.** He was resurrected for that purpose. Acts 2:29-32

3. **Jesus is not coming to restore Palestine to the Jews.** God has already fulfilled every promise He ever made to the Jews concerning Palestine. Joshua 21:43

4. **Jesus is not coming to convert the Jews.**

a. There is no second chance to be converted after this life.

b. If the Jews are to be converted at all, they must obey the gospel of Christ in this life.

1. **Romans 1:16** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

2. **2 Corinthians 6:2** – “For He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is ‘THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,’ behold, now is ‘THE DAY OF SALVATION’”

3. **Hebrews 9:28** – “So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.”
4. **Acts 10:35** – “But in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”
5. **Jesus is not coming to reign on the earth for 1000 years.**
 - a. Christ is now reigning as king.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15:25-26** – “For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
The last enemy that will be abolished is death.”
 2. People are still dieing, therefore death has not been destroyed.
 3. And until death is destroyed, Christ will continue to reign.
 4. Jesus said in **John 18:36** – “My kingdom is not of this world.”
 5. He refused to be crowned as an earthly king.
 - b. But what about the twentieth chapter of Revelation?
 1. Revelation is a highly figurative book.
 2. In studying the Bible, we should never attach a meaning to a figurative passage that is not in harmony with all plain passages on the same subject.
 - c. The twentieth chapter of Revelation is the only place in all the Bible that mentions a thousand years reign.
 - d. After reading the Bible from Genesis through the nineteenth chapter of Revelation, one has read nothing about it.
 - c. The word “millennium” is not in the Bible, but by common use has been given a permanent place in religious literature.
 1. It is a Latin word meaning “a thousand years,” and is used six times in Revelation 20:1-15.
 2. If reference is being made to a distinct period in which Christ will reign personally on the earth, it is remarkable that neither Christ nor any of His apostles in their plain teaching said anything about it.
 - d. Why should so important a matter be mentioned only in a book of symbols and in a highly figurative passage?

FOR WHAT THEN IS CHRIST COMING?

1. **He is coming to raise the dead, both good and bad.**
 - a. **John 5:28-29** - “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

- b. **Acts 24:15** - "Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked"

Please note: "a resurrection" means one resurrection, and not two resurrections separated by a 1000 year period as some falsely teach.

- c. Although the resurrection cover both the good and the bad, the dead in Christ shall rise first. **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17** - "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 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.

17 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."

2. **He is coming for the judgment, to reward the righteous and pass formal sentence against the wicked.** The matter of judgment is mentioned more than 1000 times in the Bible.

- a. **Revelation 22:12** - "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

- b. The judgment day is an appointed day, and Christ is to be the judge.

1 **John 5:22** - "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son."

2. **Acts 17:31** - "Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

3. **Romans 14:12** - "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

a. It won't be a question of what our parents believed, but what we believed.

b. No one can hide behind their parents, children, friends, or minister.

c. Personal accountability implies personal responsibility.

3. **He is going to deliver the kingdom up to the Father when He comes the second time.**

- a. **1 Corinthians 15:22-28** - "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, " All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all."

b. You need to be in the kingdom . . . the church.

THEN COMES THE END

A. A number of times Jesus speaks of the "end of the world."

1. **Matthew 13:40** - "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age."
2. **Matthew 13:49** – "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just"

B. Friends, we are not talking about science fiction now . . . we are talking about the real thing.

1. **This world is going to end . . . it is going to be destroyed.**
2. **2 Peter 3:10** – "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."
3. **For the second coming of Christ everyone should be ready, watching, and praying.** This was taught and emphasized by Christ and His apostles over and over

CONCLUSION:

A. What is the conclusion of the whole matter? Know this . . . that Jesus Christ is coming again whether you are ready for Him to or not.

B. What will happen when that God-appointed time comes?

1. **There will be a great shout from the voice of the archangel.**
1 Thessalonians 4:16 – "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."
2. **The trumpet of God shall blow with a great loud noise.**
1 Thessalonians 4:16 – "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."
3. **The Lord Jesus will appear in the clouds and every eye shall see Him.**
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."

4. Those who were Christians when they died will be resurrected first and will be standing with Jesus in the clouds.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 – “. . . Even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus”

5. **Christians still alive on the earth will then ascend up into the air to join the presence of Christ and the faithful of ages past.**

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – “Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

6. **Concerning those who are not Christians . . .**

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 – “And to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”

7. **Notice what else will happen. The heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements and the earth will melt with fervent heat.**

2 Peter 3:10 – “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

- C. Knowing that all these things are certain . . . they are going to happen . . .

listen to the words of the apostle Peter in **2 Peter 3:11-14** – “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.”

- D. Listen to the apostle Paul in **Romans 14:11-12** – “For it is written, “AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

- E. These things pertain to you, my friend. Do they afford you concern?

1. You are going to be there to see the end of time and the end of the world.
2. Only, and only if you are a Christian will you be able to stand with Christ and then go on to ever be with the Lord.

- F. Jesus is calling to you to come to Him.

7. He is calling those who have never obeyed the gospel.
 8. He is calling for the unfaithful to repent and return or remain as you are and be cast away.
- G. The end of the world is coming whether you are ready for it or not. May this be the hour of your initial obedience and the beginning of your preparation for it.
- H. One final question then the lesson is yours. "Would you be willing for your life to end in the same condition in which your soul is ending this service?"
- I. **God's Plan for man's Salvation**