



Part 1 (Lesson 14)

The Second Coming of Christ

I. The Promise

- A. What did Jesus promise us in John 14:1-3? **(He would come again to receive us to Himself so that we would be with Him in a place He has prepared for us.)**
- B. What did the angel tell the disciples in Acts 1:9-11? **(That Jesus would return and come back in the same manner they had just seen Him depart to heaven.)**
- C. In 2 Peter 3:3-4 what response do we see there will be from many people concerning the return of Jesus Christ? **(They will mock the idea of Jesus coming back again and say that everything just continues the same as it has been since the beginning.)**
- D. In 2 Peter 3:9 what do we see is God the Father's reason for not sending Jesus back again yet? **(He is patient toward us and is not willing that any should perish but wants all to come to repentance and be saved.)**

The second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned more than 300 times in the New Testament. Paul refers to it in his epistles at least 50 times. Whole books (1&2 Thessalonians) and chapters (Matthew 24; Mark 13) are devoted to it. It is without a doubt one of the most important doctrines of the New Testament.

- E. In Titus 2:13 what is the return of Christ associated with? **(It is the blessed hope of the believer)**

II. The Manner of His Coming

Many view Jesus' coming in 2 parts. The first part being a time when He comes in the clouds and takes all of His believers out of this world in a moments time. This event is called "the rapture" which means, "the catching away". Those who view Jesus' coming in 2 parts view "the rapture" separate from the second part of Jesus' coming, when He actually comes all the way to the earth and sets up His kingdom here on earth. Others view "the rapture" of the church as a part of the return of Christ to the earth to establish His kingdom here on earth. Though the specific timing of the rapture is not clear, the fact that it will happen is abundantly clear in Scripture.

A. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 give us good descriptions of the rapture. What do we see will take place at this time?

(The dead in Christ will rise first and be caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds. Then immediately, those who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will also be caught up together with them to meet Jesus in the clouds and to forever be with Him. This will take place with the shout of the archangel and the sounding of the last trump.)

B. In Revelation 19:11 – 20:6 we see a description of what will take place when Jesus returns. Describe these events in your own words.

(Jesus will return in great power with His saints and He will defeat the armies that are gathered to battle against Him with the sword from His mouth (His Word). He will begin to reign and will set up His Kingdom of righteousness here on earth.)

C. 2 Thessalonians 2 deals with "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him" (see verse 1). In verse 8 what do we told Jesus will do what when He returns? **(He will destroy the lawless one with the breath of His mouth and the glory of His appearing!)**

D. In Matthew 24:24-31 what are we told will happen when Jesus returns?

(The sun and moon will be darkened. The heavens will be shaken. Jesus will appear in power and great glory! He will gather His elect from the four winds of heaven.)

III. The Signs of His Coming

A. List signs of the coming of Christ you see in the following scriptures.

1. Matthew 24:3-14 **(False christs misleading many) (Wars and rumors of wars) (Earthquakes and famines in various places) (The hatred of and persecution of Christians) (Christians being martyred) (Many falling away, betraying one another) (False prophets misleading many) (Increase of lawlessness) (The gospel preached to all nations)**
2. Matthew 24:37-39 **(People going about their everyday lives, ignoring all the warnings of the coming judgment of God)**

B. What does Matthew 24:32-36 tell us the world will be like at the time of His coming?
(There will be many signs and indicators that the coming of Jesus is near but no one will know the day or the hour of His coming)

C. What period of time will come about in conjunction with the return of Christ?
(Matthew 24:21) The **(“great tribulation”)** period.

D. Who will come into power on earth just before Jesus Christ returns to set up His Kingdom? (2 Thessalonians 2:8-9) **(The lawless one – often called the antichrist)**

E. Global Economic System – What are we told regarding this in Revelation 13:16-18?
(There will be technology and a global governance and economic system in place that allows for people all over the world to be affected by the mark of the beast.)

(Note – We may not see this fulfilled but can already see the development and advancement of a system capable of this.)

In addition to these things we know from Daniel 2, 7, and 8 that there will be a one-world government in place when Jesus returns to earth. We should be aware that our world today has already taken many steps toward a one-world government and economic system. Some of these steps are being taken openly and some behind the scenes.

III. The Time of His Coming

God has given us many signs to signify to us that the coming of Christ is very close. The exact time none of us knows. One question many have is when will the rapture take place in reference to the great tribulation (e.g. before, in the middle, at the end, or after). The answer to this question is not clearly given in scripture and is debated regularly by Bible scholars. This lesson will not attempt to probe deeper into this question. There are a few things we know for sure – (1) Jesus Christ will Return , (2) There will be Catching Away (“Rapture”) of true followers of Christ, (3) There will be difficult times in the last days, including a time the Bible refers to as the “Great Tribulation” period. With these things in mind there are 2 things that every believer should be prepared for. (1) The Rapture – To be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air at any time. (2) Difficult Days – To be ready to face persecution and to even give up your life for your faith in Christ. (Many believers have already done so and many are facing these circumstances today.) If we are prepared for both of these things we will be ready to face whatever situation we may face in the coming days, whenever the rapture takes place.

Supplement for Part 2 (Lesson 15) – “The Second Coming of Christ”

Scriptures to Study Regarding The Return of Jesus Christ (Optional)

Jesus Christ will Come Again - John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; James 5:7-8; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:3; Revelation 1:7

“The Day of the Lord” - Joel 2:1-14; Joel 2:28-32; Joel 3:14-21; Isaiah 13:6-9;

1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:9-15

“Rapture” - 1 Thess. 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 51-53; Revelation 14:14-16;

Matthew 24:29-31 - (There is debate as to whether or not this speaks of the same gathering)

Daniel 12:1-2; 2 Peter 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; Titus 2:13 – “The Blessed Hope”

The Great Tribulation - Daniel 9:24-27; Daniel 12; Matthew 24:15-22; Revelation 12-13

Millennial (1,000 Year) Reign of Christ - Revelation 20:7-10; Isaiah 11:1-9

The Final Conflict (After the Millennial Reign) - Revelation 20:7-10

The Judgments - Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11-15; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:8-11

New Heaven & New Earth - 2 Peter 3:3-13; Revelation 21 & 22