

The Savior's Coming

Messages in the "Second Coming" Series:

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

CHRIST OUR HOPE

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Text: Acts 1:11

Introduction: Everyone who is a believer in Jesus Christ knows that one day Jesus will come and each of us will be called to stand before Him. It is my hope and prayer, that I be found doing the work He gave me to do. As one preacher said, "Many years ago I made preparations to be accepted when He returns. But I also want to make preparations to be acceptable when He returns".

For some the second coming of Jesus is frightening. Reuters News June 6, 1996 produced a nationwide scare in Columbia and produced a wave of baptisms in the Roman Catholic Churches. June 6 was the sixth day of the sixth month of a year that also ends in six - a coincidence of the calendar producing 6-6-6, feared as the sign of Satan. The wave of baptisms took place before the date because of rumors that the anti-Christ would put the mark of the beast on any child who had not been baptized.

Thoughts about future events and the second coming of Jesus can be terrifying to others. It is so alarming because people, saved and lost, are not ready for His return. If one is unprepared, the thought of the future and that Jesus could come back today, should move them immediately to be prepared.

In the OT, we have the types of His coming. In Matthew through Jude, we have the truth of His coming. In the Book of Revelation, we have the thrill of His coming. Notice four things about the second coming of Jesus Christ:

I. THE SAVIOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT (Jn. 14:1-6)

- A. It is personal (1)
- B. It is promised (will)
- C. It has a purpose (come again, receive you unto Myself).

II. THE SCRIPTURE'S AFFIRMATION (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

- A. A return
- B. A resurrection
- C. A rapture
- D. A reunion
- E. A rejoicing

III. THE SAINTS' ANTICIPATION (1 Thess. 1:1-10)

- A. Waiting for Christ
- B. Waiting for the change (1 Cor. 15:51-53).
- C. Waiting for the celebration (Rev. Chs. 4-5)

IV. THE SINNER'S AWFULNESS (2 Pet.3:3-4)

- A. They scoff at it.
- B. They shun it.
- C. They are scared of it.

Conclusion: Notice what will happen some wonderful day:

1. The Savior will descend
2. Satan will be destroyed
3. Sin will be done away with
4. The Shadows will be dispelled
5. Saints will be delivered
6. The Sinner will be doomed.

1 Thessalonians – Christ Our Hope!

The personal coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ is the hope of the Church and the main subject of both these epistles, being mentioned in every chapter.

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 1:9, 10

Christ's coming as an incentive to conversion. This was mainly a Gentile church and they turned to God from idols to serve the Living God and to wait for His Son from Heaven.

Chapter 2:19-20

Christ's coming as an incentive to faithful ministry. Paul's conduct had commended his preaching, the Thessalonians became an eager missionary church.

Chapter 3:12-13

Christ's coming as an incentive to Christian love. They were already "taught of God to love one another," 4:9, but Paul's prayer for an increase of that love was answered, 2 Thes 1:3

Chapter 4:13-16

Christ's coming, the ground of comfort in bereavement when Christ comes, those who have fallen asleep believing in Him will be first to rise to meet Him. The majesty of His coming is set forth. Cp. 1 Cor 15:51-52

Chapter 5:4-6

Christ's coming as an incentive to watchfulness. Compare Mark 13:33-37

Chapter 5:23, 24

Christ's coming as an incentive to holiness. Compare 2 Pet 3:14

The Rapture of the Church

The word rapture is not found in the Bible. It's meaning is there. The word means—to catch up—seize or catch away.

Jesus is coming again for THREE reasons:

- (1) To bring glory to His church.
- (2) To bring restoration to Israel
- (3) To bring judgment to the world.

I. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING:

- A. If He does not come the Bible is not true. Charles Smith president of Association for Advancement of Atheism had printed across his headquarters, "The Bible is a lie."
- B. The first time the word SURELY is used in the Bible is in Genesis 2. Whatever the word means there it will mean throughout the Bible.
 1. Thou shalt surely die (Gen. 2:17 - But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.) - man died.
 2. Surely I come quickly (Rev. 22:20) - He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.) - Jesus will come.
- C. Eve thought Cain was the promised one. (Gen. 4:1 - And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.)
- D. Enoch said He is coming: (Jude 14 - And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.)
- E. Job said He is coming: (Job 19:25 - For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.)
- F. David said He is coming: (Psalms 24:7 - Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.)
- G. Zechariah said He is coming: (Zec. 14:4 - And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and he mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.)
- H. Malachi said He is coming: (Mal. 4:2 - But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.)

- I. The Ages—Billows of Restless Sea—Brooks across a thousand hillsides—Angles in Glory—Saints of all ages with the Church say HE IS COMING.
- J. Despite all the scoffing He will come: (II Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned.)

II. THE PERSON OF HIS COMING

- A. Many would have us believe that a scientific breakthrough or the spread of the Gospel is His second coming. Let Paul say:
 - 1. I Thess. 4:16 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
 - 2. James 5:7 - Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
- B. We shall see the one we longed to see. (I Peter 1:8 - Whom having not seen ye love in whom though now ye see him not yet believing ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.)

III. THE POSTPONEMENT (DELAY) OF HIS COMING

- A. The early Church used the word for cemetery which we get our word “inn” from because they believed Jesus would soon come and take them to Heaven.
- B. His first coming at Bethlehem had been anticipated thousands of years yet He came.
- C. His delay comes from a heart of Love. (II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.)
- D. His long-suffering is compared to Noah s day. (Matt 24:37 - But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.)

IV. THE PERIL OF HIS COMING

- A. Jesus asked the question: (Luke 18:8 - I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?)
- B. People are looking for better retirement, for better government, but not for Jesus.
- C. Multitudes will be left behind at His coming.
 - 1. Luke 12:39-40 - And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.
 - 2. I Thess. 5:2 - For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
 - 3. II Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
 - 4. Rev. 16:15 - Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.
- D. The story of the ten virgins will become a reality at His next event. (Matt. 25:11 & 12 - Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I KNOW YOU NOT.)

V. THE POTENTIAL OF HIS COMING

- A. We are to be faithful in our stewardship. (Luke 19:1 2& 13 - He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered the ten pounds, and said unto them, OCCUPY TILL I COME.)
- B. We are to be separated. (I John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.)
- C. We are to hold fast our profession. (Rev. 2:25 - But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.)
- D. We are to be patient in waiting. (Heb. 10:36&37 - For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.)

THE COMING OF CHRIST

That Christ has come is in perfect accord with human history and with the record of divine inspiration. His first coming was prophesied as early as Gen. 3:15, when sin had but entered the Edenic scene. Prophets and psalmists spoke and sang of this coming till at last the angel announced the event to the terrified Shepherds.

There is no doubt as to His first coming. His second coming, however, is seriously questioned. Our minds can enjoy rest as to the certainty of this event because He has made the promise. This promise was made to His own.

1. Under the shadows of Gethsemane and Calvary. John xiv. 1=3.
2. On resurrection soil as the divine Conqueror. John xxi. 22.
3. As the Man of Eternal Glory. Rev. xxii. 20. The coming of Christ for His people may be looked at in the following way. His coming will be

I. Premillennial.

He will return for His redeemed ones and translate them to the glory before He returns with them to set up His Kingdom. It is certain that at the inauguration of the kingdom He will be seen in company "with all His saints" (1 Thess. iii. 13), coming in array like a warrior host (Rev. xix. 14), and with all His angels (Matt. xxv. 31). They must ascend to Him ere they can descend with Him. We may be furnished with types from the catching up of Enoch the taking away of Methusaleh (Gen. v.) the deliverance of Lot from Sodom's judgment (Gen. xix.) and that of Rahab's from Jericho's doom, (Josh. ii. 16) concerning the rapture of the saints. They all illustrate, with shades of differences, profitable to understand, the salvation of saints from coming tribulation and wrath.

II. Personal.

The Saviour said "I will come again (John xiv. 3), Paul declares "The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven," etc. (1 Thess. iv. 16). The two heavenly ones spake thus "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner" (Acts i. 11). A threefold cord is not easily broken. We conclude therefore that the One who came from heaven to die at Calvary for us the One who lives upon the throne making intercession for us is the very Same One who is coming again for us.

III. Positive.

No doubt need be entertained. He never yet broke His word indeed it is impossible for Him to lie. Call to remembrance His various promises promised to those who accept Him as Saviour and to those who are His own and immediately all fear will be dispelled.

IV. Punctual.

God's purposes are immutable. He never needs to alter them in the slightest. He appointed a time for the birth (Gal. iv. 4) death (Ex. xii.), resurrection (John ii. 19), ascension and glorification of Christ (Acts i.), for the day of the coming down of the Spirit (Acts ii. 1), in order that the church might be formed ; for the day of judgment to begin (Acts xvii. 31-32), and assuredly He has appointed a time for the coming of Christ for His own. Now it behoves all men to be ready since we know not the day nor the hour of His coming.

V. Private.

Only His disciples saw Him go up to Heaven and His coming has to be in like manner (Acts i. 11). The world therefore will be unaware of the triumph and translation of the saints. We will be called secretly into His presence. What bursts of joy will break forth from us as we travel upwards, heavenwards, homeward, and Christward !

VI. Presently.

It may be at any moment. His last words were " Surely, I come quickly " (Rev. xxii. 20).

VII. Powerful.

When He comes the dead will be raised ; the living will be changed, and together we will rise to meet Christ. (1 Thess. iv. 16-17). All the laws of gravity will be superseded. Divine power will change our bodies and translate us to Heaven itself.

*He and I in that bright glory, One deep joy shall share ;
Mine, to be for ever with Him, His, that I am there."*