

CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN

Jesus once walked on this earth – down its dusty footpaths, into some of its man-made towns, among people who had all sinned against Him and His Father. Some of those people killed Him. For them came a terrible condemnation, but for Him it was the climax of a life of victory without one sin. He arose, returned to heaven, there to act as High Priest to represent man and offer him forgiveness for his sins, and hope for the future.

How important it is for us to know and love our Lord. For the Bible promises, in many places, that He will return to this earth in person to gather His people to live with Him forever and ever. Can you imagine that? The Holy Spirit, is always present, to help us to be ready to meet Him. Then Christ will come, and we will see Him in person.

No wonder the hymn writer penned, "Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring; Jesus is coming again! Cheer up, ye pilgrims, be joyful and sing; Jesus is coming again!" What does the Bible say about this great event? How will He come? When will He come? What happens when He comes? This is an exciting study!

1. The great theme of the Old Testament was that Jesus would come, in person, to this earth. This He did long ago. We call it His first coming. What do these verses tell us about that coming?

(a) Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29 _____

(b) Isaiah 55:7; Matthew 1:21 _____

Many refer to Jesus' first coming, with His death for sinners, as the establishing of the "kingdom of grace."

2. It is also interesting that the inspired writers of the Old Testament on a number of occasions were shown by God the second coming of Christ, long before even the first coming had taken place. They were permitted to see, not only the coming kingdom of grace, but also in the more distant future, the coming of the "kingdom of glory." Read and summarize these samples. We will include more in later lessons.

(a) Psalm 50:3-5 _____

(b) Isaiah 65:17; 66:15 _____

3. Now, read Hebrews 9:28. Note how it uses the fact of one event, to guarantee the occurrence of another event. Summarize.

4. We could correctly say that the New Testament has two main themes. First, that Jesus had come to earth in fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies, and to become "the" sacrifice for man. Second, that this same Jesus Who went back to heaven, would come to earth again to give His reward to those who have accepted Him as their Saviour. Questions 5-8 will develop this second theme.

5. In the New Testament, note how Jesus clearly promised that He would come back. What is the key line in John 14:1-3?

6. That brings up the question, How will He come? What do these Scriptures tell us about the How?

(a) Acts 1:9-11 _____

(b) Matthew 16:27 _____

(c) Revelation 19:11-16 _____

(d) Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:26,27,30 _____

7. Our next question is, Why must Jesus return the second time? John 14: 1-3 helped to answer this--He wants us to be with Him. What else does the New Testament teach about why He must come?

(a) Matthew 25:31-34 _____

(b) 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 _____

(c) 2 Timothy 4:7,8 _____

8. Meditate on Jesus'challenge to all of us in Mark 13:32-37. How can I be sure that I am ready?

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">A Perfect Creation</div>	2. _____	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">+</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Kingdom of Glory</div>
Great Theme of the Old Testament: 1a. _____ 1b. _____	The FALL	N.T. Predicts 2 nd Coming: 5. _____ 6a. _____ 6b. _____ 6c. _____ 6d. _____	_____ _____ _____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Deterioration</div>	3. _____ _____ _____ _____	7a. _____ 7b. _____ 7c. _____	_____ _____ _____

1a. Isaiah 53:7

⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

John 1:29

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Answer: Jesus' First Coming – He came as "a lamb" for the purpose of dealing with our sin problem.

1b. Isaiah 55:7

⁷Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

Matthew 1:21

²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Answer: Jesus came to save us from our sin problem

1. Additional Text. Titus 2:11-14 the "**Kingdom of Grace**" = Jesus 1st Coming

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

2a. Psalms 50:3-5

³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent;
A fire shall devour before Him,
And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.
⁴ He shall call to the heavens from above,
And to the earth, that He may judge His people:
⁵ "Gather My saints together to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

Answer: Jesus 2nd Coming ("kingdom of glory") – Jesus will come to judge and gather His saints (friends).

2b. Isaiah 65:17; 66:15

^{65:17}“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

^{66:15}For behold, the Lord will come with fire
And with His chariots, like a whirlwind,
To render His anger with fury,
And His rebuke with flames of fire.

Answer: Jesus will also create a “new heaven and a new earth” at that time (His 2nd Coming).

3. Hebrews 9:28

²⁸so 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.

Answer: Because Jesus dealt with our sin problem at His First Coming, He can save us from this damaged world when He comes at His Second Coming.

4. No Texts**5. John 14:1-3**

¹“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In 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. ³And 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.

Answer: Jesus said “if I go”, “I will come again” for the purpose of taking us with Him to the place He has prepared for us “in (His) Father’s house”.

HOW does Jesus come at His Second Coming?

6a. Acts 1:9-11

⁹Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who 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.”

Answer: The disciples “saw” with their own eyes Jesus go up into heaven and they will see with their own eyes Jesus return to this earth.

6b. Matthew 16:27

²⁷For 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.

Answer: Jesus will come with “glory” and with “His angles”.

6c. Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Answer: Jesus 2nd Coming will be a spectacular event – He will be coming as KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS with all the attending glory and power evedent.

6d. Revelation 1:7

⁷Behold, 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.

Matthew 24:26,27,30

²⁶“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. . . ³⁰Then 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.

Answer: Jesus 2nd Coming will be see by “every eye” – everyone will know what is happening, even those who killed Him on the cross. It will NOT be a secret, hidden event

7. John 14:1-3

¹“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In 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. ³And 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.

WHY does Jesus come the second time?

7a. Matthew 25:31-34

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. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: . . .

Answer: At the 2nd Coming, the wicked and the righteous will have declared their position and God will honor their decision and separate the two groups – the goats = wicked – placed on his left hand (condemned) and the sheep = righteous – placed on His right hand (honored). The righteous will “inherit the kingdom” which He has prepared for them since the sin problem invaded this world.

7b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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.

Answer: Jesus comes to gather His friends, both those who have died (they are raised) and those who are still alive, and together they all are taken to be with Jesus forever.

7c. 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Answer: Jesus comes for those who are looking for His return and He will give them a “crown of righteousness” for being faithful in living for Him.

8. Mark 13:32-37

³²“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴*It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— ³⁶lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Answer: Jesus expects us to be doing the work He has assigned to us on this earth and to watch for His 2nd Coming, which will happen when least expected and quickly, so “WATCH!” (stay awake).

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Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 10: To this point in the series, there is a sequence of three ideas: (1) Jesus walked the earth, in person, in fulfillment of the Old Testament need for the supreme Sacrifice and Messianic prophecy; (2) He left the Holy Spirit to be here on this earth, in person, to lead people to Christ and to be restored to His image; and (3) Jesus will come again, in person, with His reward for those who are His adopted sons and daughters. Lesson 10 attempts to make the second coming truly personal--the climax of the Godhead's personal appearances.

During the study itself: Make clear the idea of a first and second coming, also the idea of the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. Comparisons help people to learn and remember. In question 7(b), surrounding verses are omitted where some difficult points are involved. At this point, the idea of the coming new earth is the important truth. Emphasize, in question 6, that His coming will be personal, visible, glorious, with the armies of heaven, and seen by every eye. You may want to take time to look up the comparison text in Matthew 24:27,30 to add strength to Rev. 1:7. Let the Bible dispel the rapture idea, without developing an argument. Make it clear that the "when" of the second coming will be discussed in lesson 11. You could study lesson 11 in your next study, or let the student do it on his own, and you review it briefly with him when beginning lesson 12.

Appeal: Question 8 provides a powerful appeal from the Lord Himself. You might want to add 1 John 3:2.

Illustration: Let it add simple clarity to the study. Arrows might be used pointing from (1a) and (1b) to the cross, and from (2) to (4), for emphasis.

