

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?

