

WILL CHRIST COME IN OUR DAY?

At the close of our last study, we had one unanswered question about the second coming of Christ--When will He come? Several Old Testament writers, and almost all of the New Testament writers, have told us about Christ's second coming. But have any told us about the time?

The tendency of the human mind, particularly if the second coming includes the destruction of the wicked and the end to this world in its present wicked condition, is to put such a "doom's day" off into the future. But one who really loves the Lord wants to see Him come, and the sooner the better.

We still need to find how the Bible answers the question, When? Jesus Himself said that He would come. (John 14:1-3.) He urgently tells us to be ready. (Matthew 24:42-44.) As over 1,900 years have passed since Jesus' day, what can we safely conclude about the time when He will return the second time?

1. First, we must be clear that Jesus did not give a date. Rather, He chose to give us "signs" which would indicate that His return is near. He wants us to look for His coming as an event that we are already prepared for. Three of the great "signs" chapters are located in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Jesus gave these signs to His disciples during the same week in which He was crucified. Let us focus on Matthew 24. According to verses 1-3, what two events are the focus of the chapter?

- (a) _____
(b) _____

The first event (a) was fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. Some of the signs of the chapter refer only to that event. Other signs in the chapter refer only to the second event. Some of the signs could refer to both events.

2. Write down some of the signs that Jesus gave in Matthew 24.

- (a) Verses 5,23,24 _____
(b) Verse 6 _____
(c) Verse 7 _____
(d) Verses 11,24 _____
(e) Verse 12 _____
(f) Verse 14 _____
(g) Verse 21,22 _____
(h) Verse 29 _____

Carefully read the clear promise that Jesus made in Matthew 24:30-33.

3. There are other Bible writers who picture the conditions of the world and its inhabitants in the days just prior to Christ's second coming. Summarize the key signs that you find in these passages:

- (a) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 _____
(b) 2 Timothy 3:1-5 _____
(c) Daniel 12:1-4 _____

4. Even while the rest of the New Testament was being written, the Christians of the first century looked for Christ to return in their day.

- (a) Only a few years after Christ's ascension, the Christians at Thessalonica were deeply concerned because some of their loved ones were dying, and Jesus had not returned. What did Paul tell them to bring them hope? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

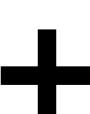
- (b) What is John's last appeal in Revelation 22:6,7,12,20?

5. We have seen many of the second coming signs ourselves. And we ask, Haven't most of them been occurring for a long, long time? Yes, many have. But Jesus took all of these signs, then added the time element of 1780 and 1833 (Rev. 6:12-17), after a long period of tribulation (Matthew 24:21,22,29), and a warning of conditions similar to Noah's day (Matthew 24:37-39). Noah preached the coming flood for 120 years (Genesis 6:3), a long time, but the flood came as God promised it would. The last day signs have been around a long time, too, but Jesus will come as He promised He would. In a day (since 1945) when man could destroy the human race with nuclear bombs and chemical warfare, we can say, He must soon come. The Bible says that Christ will do the destroying, not man.

6. In 2 Peter 3, the apostle Peter stresses some important facts that will greatly help us all, as we seriously consider what he wrote and warned.

- (a) What are we warned to do in verses 1-4? _____
(b) What guarantee does he make in verses 5-9? _____
(c) How does he describe the coming in verse 10? _____
(d) According to verses 11,12, and 14, what should be our condition as we wait?

The Old and New Testaments point to Christ's Second Coming:

1. Old Testament predicts the Christ's First Coming → 

2. Old Testament also predicts Christ's Second Coming → 3. CHRIST COMES AGAIN

4. HOW?

5. Now the Question we promised to answer this time:
WHEN?

The “WHEN?” signs of Christ’s Second Coming:

Matthew 24:3b: "...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?"	Dark Day - 1780 Stars Fall - 1833 1945	C H R I S T O G M E I C O M E S
Three great <u>"Signs" Chapters</u>	Matt. 24:3a Fulfilled in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans	A T A O G M E I C
Matt. 24 Mark 13 Luke 21		
		
	Great Tribulation	

Introduction**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.

Matthew 24:42-44

⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

1. Matthew 24, Mark 13, & Luke 21 – the three great “signs” chapters.**Matthew 24:1-3**

¹Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*”

³Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

1a. Answer: The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

1b. Answer: The sign of Jesus coming and the end of the age.

2a. Matthew 24:23, 24

²³“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it.* ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Answer: False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonder with the intent to deceive even those understood that Jesus is coming again and are looking forward to that event.

2b. Matthew 24:6

⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Answer: There will be wars and rumors of wars that will occur before the end time.

2c. Matthew 24:7

⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Answer: Nations and kingdoms will war against each other and there will be famines, pestilences (plagues) and earthquakes in many places around the world.

2d. Matthew 24:11, 24

¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Answer: False prophets and false christs will perform great signs & wonders with the intent to deceive people, even those who have understood the signs of Jesus coming.

2e. Matthew 24:12

¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Answer: Lawlessness will be everywhere and love for fellowmen will disappear.

2f. Matthew 24:14

¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Answer: The Gospel (the good news that God is trustworthy and He has provided a way to rescue and restore fallen man) will be preached in all the world.

2g. Matthew 24:21, 22

²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Answer: Tribulation (unrest, strife, fighting, oppression, slavery) will overwhelm the world and threaten to destroy the world, but God will intervene for the sake of those who have put their trust in Him.

2h. Matthew 24:29

²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Answer: There will be signs in the heavens (sun darkened, moon not shine, stars fall from heaven) and there will be tornados, hurricanes, storms, hail, rain.

Matthew 24:30-33

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. ³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³²“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

Answer: Jesus gave us signs so we would know the times we are living in and be able to prepare for His 2nd Coming.

3a. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4

¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Answer: Peace and safety will be the message of the world, but at a time most unexpected (like a thief attacking in the dark) sudden destruction will come upon them and they will be shocked and afraid.

3b. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Answer: Men and women will think only of themselves (selfish) and have no respect for others, while putting on the airs of being godly.

3c. Daniel 12:1-4

¹ “At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

³ Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.

Answer: A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.

4a. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵For 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. 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. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Answer: Jesus would descend from heaven with shout and trumpet, and the dead in Christ would rise first and then those who are alive will all together be caught up in the air to meet Jesus.

4b. Revelation 22:6, 7, 12, 20

⁶Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

⁷"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

¹²"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Answer: Jesus would come again and it will happen quickly when it happens.

5. Revelation 6:12-17

¹²I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Matthew 24:21, 22, 29

²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

²³"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

²⁵See, I have told you beforehand.

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. ²⁸For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Matthew 24:37-39

³⁷But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Genesis 6:3

³And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

6a. 2 Peter 3:1-4

¹Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ²that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

Answer: Be mindful (remember) what the prophets and the apostles wrote, which will seem to be countered by scoffers.

6b. 2 Peter 3:5-9

⁵For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Answer: The Lord keeps His promises.

6c. 2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Answer: When Jesus comes He will come quickly and unexpectedly (like a thief in the night).

6d. 2 Peter 3:11, 12, 14

¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Answer: Daily live looking forward to Jesus Coming and live a Spirit led life as Jesus lived His life.

WILL CHRIST COME IN OUR DAY?

Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 11: This lesson could be done in class or at home by the student, completing the (1) promise, (2) manner, (3) purpose, and (4) the time for Christ's coming. Real stress should be placed on making the "signs" meaningful in terms of a soon coming. This is often a weak spot in the presentation of this subject. The signs not only occur with great frequency and intensity, but in a time period since 1780 (thus, in modern times), and since 1945 in a time when man could destroy the human race with nuclear power, while such destruction of sinners is an act that God has reserved for Himself, at His coming. Avoid creating a fear motivation to get ready to meet God, but rather a challenge atmosphere to be daily ready to meet Him in peace. This is part of the Christian hope.

During the study itself: With question 1, explain the danger of setting dates. First, it is not Biblical, and second, it allows for procrastination until the time is near. The Lord wants us always ready. In connection with the two events of Matthew 24, "Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, His prophetic words reached beyond that event to the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity."--DA 628.

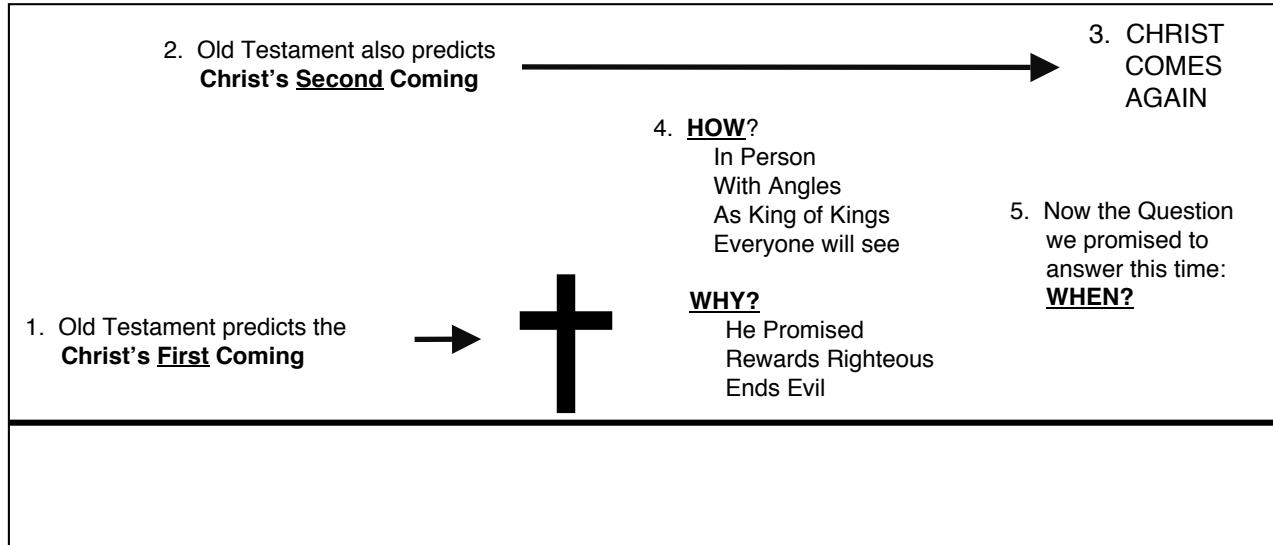
In connection with question 2(h), re-read articles in 9 BC 313-320, on the dark day, and 9 BC 409-417 on the falling of the stars.

Emphasize the primary application of Daniel 12:4 in question 3(c), that the prophecies of Daniel, particularly in reference of time, would come to light in the last days. The running to and fro is second in importance. You might mention that shortly we will be studying from Daniel.

Appeal: Emphasize in this lesson that the signs help us to realize that the second coming is near, thus we need to be daily ready. We do not look for a certain sign as evidence to get ready.

Illustration: It is useful to review the themes of the Old and New Testaments, then use another piece of paper for signs (see below).

Lesson 11 conti



A suggestion for illustrating this study: Review on a blackboard or on a piece of paper.

Illustrate the “WHEN?” signs in the “Will Christ Come In Our Day? study as follows:

