

25. The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous die. The almost complete fulfilment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.

Christ will return literally and visibly to reward the righteous and punish the wicked.

- Jesus promised to return. John 14:1-3
- Christians look forward to Christ's return as the blessed hope. Titus 2:13
- Christ will return literally, and all mankind will see Him. Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 26:63-64
- There will be no secret rapture which only some people know about or experience. Matthew 24:27; I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- His return means salvation for Christians. Hebrews 9:28
- The righteous, resurrected and living, will receive eternal life at His coming. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 2 Timothy 4:8
- The unrighteous will die. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 14:14-20, 19:11-21

Nearly all of the events that Christ and the prophets said would occur before the Second Coming have occurred. The present condition of our world gives further evidence that Christ will return soon. We should be ready at all times to welcome Him.

- The prophesied events have occurred. Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21
- As prophesied, evil has greatly increased. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- We cannot know the specific time of Christ's return. Matthew 24:36
- We should be prepared at all times for His return. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; 2 Peter 3:11-14; Matthew 24:44

Personal Application

-  Why does Jesus want to return?
-  How should I react to a modern teacher who claims to be Christ?
-  What does it mean to "watch and be ready"?
-  Because I trust in Jesus and abide in Him daily, I can look forward to His return as I would to the return of a long-time friend. The prospect of spending eternity with Him fills me with eager anticipation.

Commitment

- Father, I look forward to the second coming of Christ. Help me to live each day in expectation of Jesus' return. How glorious it will be to live with You for all eternity!