

Second Coming Part One

It is fair to say that most people that are aware of Jesus and His teachings have heard the term, “second coming,” which means that Christ will return, or come for a second time. Most of us have heard many ideas about what Jesus’ second coming means. However, have we learned correctly, according to the Bible, what Christ’s second coming means? In this lesson we will use the Scriptures as our guide to understand what Jesus’ second coming is all about. This means we will be putting aside popular ideas, such as those put forth in the “Left Behind” book series, and any other ideas that are not found in the Bible. Hopefully in this lesson we will come to better understand what the purpose of Jesus’ second coming is, and why we need to be prepared for it before it happens. Because there is so much information to cover on this topic it will be broken down into two parts.

The certainty of Jesus’s coming again is taught

Matthew 16:26-27 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew tells us a few things we need to know about Jesus’ second coming. First, we are told that Christ will indeed come again. If the Word of God tells us something will happen, we can rest assured it will happen. We are also told in these verses that when Jesus returns, He will reward everyone according to our works. This means that when Jesus returns it will matter what we have done with our lives. We will be rewarded according to our own works in some manner. So each individual’s actions in life will have a direct impact on what happens to them when Jesus returns. Also, we learn our actions affect our own standing in Christ’s judgment. I will be judged for my actions, not yours. You will be judged for your actions, not mine. We are also told our soul is so valuable that we can give no amount of things to gain it back if we have lost it.

John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John again tells us that Jesus will return, so we can with 100% certainty this will happen. We should also make note that both Matthew and John tell us that Christ Himself has said He will return. So we have the Bible telling us that Jesus Himself said He would return. All thoughts that someone might have about Jesus’ return being something that might, or might not happen should by now be put aside. We are also told Jesus has prepared a place that He will take some people to when He comes back. So we know that whomever Christ is taking with Him will be going with Him to wherever He resides.

Philippians 3:20-21 “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” In this Scripture we learn that we should be looking for Jesus, because we know

He will return. We also learn that that He will change our earthly bodies into something different. Whatever our bodies are changed into, they will be like Christ's body.

James 5:7-8 "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. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." In these verses we are told that the coming of the Lord is drawing nearer but we need to be patient. We don't know when the Lord is coming but we need to get our hearts ready. If we are getting our hearts ready for whenever the Lord shall come that means we are being obedient to God. If we are not being obedient, we are not getting our hearts ready for whenever Jesus comes again.

1 John 3:1-2 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Because of the love of God all Christians can be called the sons and daughters of God. We are told by John that when Christ comes again, we shall see Him as He is and we shall be like Him. No we shall not be a god, but our bodies shall be transformed into whatever form His is. All humans shall be casting off their earthly bodies.

Jude 3-7 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." As many of the Israelites were judged not worthy of the promise land, and Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities around them were judged worthy of destruction. Because of the examples above we can know God expects His laws to be obeyed. Because of the examples above we can know that both obedience and disobedience to God have consequences.

How shall Jesus come the second time?

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:" Whenever Christ does come back, He will be coming in His glory. Remember, the first time Jesus was here, He did not come in His glory but as a man. It appears when Jesus returns it will be quite an amazing sight to see. For all of God's children, what an amazing day it will be. For all that are not God's children, while they will

probably now be believers, they did not prepare their hearts for Christ's return, what a bad day it will be for them.

John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Christ's return will be extraordinary. Everyone that has passed away will be raised from the dead by Jesus. Every grave everywhere will become empty. We also see that Christ's return is the Day of Judgement. All the good that have died will be raised to eternal life, all the evil that have died will be raised to eternal damnation. Notice there are two and only two groups. There is only good and evil, there is no in between or grey area.

Acts 1:9-11 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." In this writing Luke tells us, just as Jesus ascended into Heaven in a miraculous way, when He returns it will also be a miraculous return.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." When Christ returns, He will be taking all of the faithful with Him to Heaven. Regardless as to whether one has passed away or is still alive, Jesus will take all of His people with Him. We also need to understand, this also means Jesus is taking none with Him to Heaven that are not His people whether they are alive or dead as well.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 "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: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." All of the living and the dead shall know Christ has returned when He does. Jesus will descend from Heaven, with a shout, and the trump of God. Everyone, everywhere, will instantly know what is going on, when Jesus returns. No one will be standing around wondering what is going on. Jesus will call forth all of the faithful dead to Him in the air, then the living faithful will join them. Never do we read that Jesus will set foot on the earth. Never do we read that the unfaithful living or dead will join Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." We are simply not told when Christ will return. We know Jesus's return will be sudden and without warning, as a thief in the night. We need to understand, because we will have no

warning about when Christ will return, we must get prepared now if we are not already. We must live each day as if Christ could return today.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” Christ’s second coming is Judgement Day. All people that are not obedient to God, when Christ comes again, are unfaithful, and will face eternal punishment on that very day.

2 Peter 3:9-10 “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. 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.” God loves us, is patient with us, and wants everyone to be saved. However, the Lord’s return, which has been promised to us in the Bible, makes doom for all people that are not obedient to God.

Revelation 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” While we do not know when Christ is coming, we do know that everyone will know when He does come. Everyone, everywhere, no matter what they are doing, when Christ comes again will be totally aware it has happened, there will be no one that does not know the Lord has returned.

When will Jesus come again?

Matthew 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” The answer to the question of, when will Jesus come again, is actually pretty simple. We just do not know. Jesus could come again in seconds or it could be years from now. Anyone that tells you they know when Christ shall come again, is telling a lie. Anyone that makes a prediction about Christ’s return happening on such and such a date will be wrong. The Bible tells us simply we don’t know when Jesus will return. This means of course we must live each day ready for Christ’s return, or risk being unprepared for that day.

Mark 13:32-35 “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Because we do not know when Christ shall return, we need to be watching for Him. To be watching for Jesus’ return means to be doing the work we need to do, in order to be ready, for His second coming. We need to have obeyed the Gospel of Christ and have been living faithful to it, in order to be watching and be ready for Jesus’ second coming. If we have fallen away from Christ, we need to repent and correct our lives before Jesus returns, so we can be watching for Him and be ready for Him.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” Because Christ could come any moment, and when He does it will be in the twinkling of an eye, we must be prepared. When Christ returns it will be too late to repent and get our house in order, we must do that now because tomorrow may be too late. God has warned us to be ready through His Word, the question is are we listening? If we are obedient Christians, and therefore ready for Christ to return, then we gain eternal salvation.

What will Jesus find when He comes again?

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Sadly, when Christ comes again, He will find that most people are not ready. The Bible tells us that most people will choose to walk the path that leads to eternal destruction, and few will walk the path that leads to Heaven. Notice there is not a third or fourth path, there are only two. There is a path to Heaven and a path to Hell, that is all. However, we all have the ability to put ourselves on the narrow path to Heaven, we do not have to be on the wide path that leads to Hell. We each pick our own path and will live eternally with the results of our own choosing.

Matthew 24:36-44 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” When Christ returns, He will find much sin here on Earth. Just as most of mankind was judged to be sinful when God flooded the earth in the time of Noah. Jesus will find everyday life going on with people living their lives as if it were just another day, or as if they had many more tomorrows to come. When Jesus comes again, He will judge mankind that very day. Christ’s second coming is Judgement

Day. Unrepentant sinners will be given an eternity in Hell on that day. God's people will gain an eternity in Heaven that day.

2 Peter 3:3-4 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." When Christ comes again, He will find many that don't believe in Him. Jesus will even find those that mock and ridicule Him when He returns. There is certainly a lot of disbelief in Christ, and even ridicule of His teachings today. While we have no idea when Jesus shall come again, everyone will acknowledge Him when He does. and **Romans 14: 7-12** "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." So in the end, everyone will bow to Christ and confess to Him, as well as give an account for themselves. Would it not be far better to be before the judgement seat of Christ having lived in obedience to Him, rather than being condemned for your disobedience?

Revelation 6:15-17 "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Many people, even "great and powerful," people shall be afraid when Christ returns, because they will know they are lost eternally. A faithful Christian will not only not be afraid, but will be filled with joy to be able to go to Heaven.

Due to the length of information on this topic the lesson Second Coming Part One will conclude at this point. The next lesson Second Coming Part Two will continue and conclude this lesson topic.