



The Second Coming of Christ

Key Doctrines for Starting and Finishing Strong

LESSON 8 | Part 1



“The Second Coming is a cardinal doctrine of Christianity. It is the end and goal of God’s purpose on earth, and the divine climax will be as precise and purposeful as every other revelation of God. Those who abandon the hope of Christ’s bodily return have, in effect, abandoned true Christianity.”

DR. JOHN MACARTHUR, JR.

In this lesson, we will study one essential subject:

- What biblical reasons are there for a confident expectation of the return of Christ?

Are the following statements true or false? (circle one)



- There are no clear signs or evidences that Christ is returning. T F
- Our salvation does not require Jesus to come again. T F

Be on the lookout for the answers to these questions as we study the Word of God.

Why Christ Must Return

Nine reasons from Scripture by which we know that Jesus Christ is coming again:

A. The promise of God demands it.

1. What is one of the signs that the last days are here? (Read *2 Pet.3:3-4*).

When you consider the Old Testament alone, you will find that it is full of Messianic promises. Between the first hint of a Redeemer in Genesis 3:15 to the closing chapter in Malachi 4:2, when "the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings," there are at least 333 distinct promises of the Messiah's coming. More than 100 of those prophecies pertain to the first coming of Christ and were literally fulfilled. Here are some examples of prophecies, pertaining to the first advent, that were literally fulfilled:

- He would be born of a virgin. (*Is.7:14; Matt.1:18, 22-25*)
- Bethlehem would be His birthplace. (*Mic.5:2; Matt.2:1, 6*)
- He would be called out of Egypt. (*Hos.11:1; Matt.2:13-15*)
- He would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt. (*Zech.9:9; Luke 19:35-38*)
- He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. (*Zech.11:12-13; Matt.26:15*)

These are just a few of the prophecies concerning His first coming that were literally fulfilled. It stands to reason, then, that the remaining two-thirds of Old Testament prophecies will also be literally fulfilled.

2. Read these Old Testament prophecies and write down the promise that awaits fulfillment at His Second Coming:

- Isaiah 9:6-7: _____
- Micah 4:3: _____
- Jeremiah 23:5: _____
- Zechariah 14:4-9: _____

Scripture says that God cannot lie and that He will not change His mind (*Titus 1:2; Num.23:19*). What He has promised, He will do.

B. The teaching of Christ demands it.

1. What did Christ promise the disciples on the night of His betrayal, according to John 14:2-3?

2. When Christ was on trial, He defended His own deity with a bold declaration concerning His Second Coming. What was it? Read Mark 14:62.

3. How did Jesus describe His Second Coming? Read Matthew 24:29-31.

- Visibly
- Personally
- Gradually
- Physically

4. What did the angels promise the disciples at the ascension of Christ in Acts 1:9-11?

How did He go? _____

5. Jesus described the nature of His coming in several ways in the New Testament. Read the verses below to discover what they are:

- Matthew 24:23-27: _____
- Matthew 24:37-39: _____
- Matthew 24:42-44: _____

C. The testimony of the Holy Spirit demands it.

The Holy Spirit, who is called the "Spirit of Truth" (*John 14:17, 15:26*), is the One who inspired the Bible. Therefore, we can conclude that everything the Bible says concerning the Second Coming is the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Read the following Scriptures and try to figure out what the Holy Spirit instructs us to do in light of the Second Coming:

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18: _____

2. Colossians 3:1-5: _____

3. Hebrews 9:28: _____

4. James 5:7-8: _____

5. 1 Peter 1:13: _____

6. 1 Peter 5:1-4: _____

7. 1 John 3:2-3: _____

D. The plan for the church demands it.

The entire idea of the church, who is called the "bride of Christ" (*Rev.19:6-9*), hinges on the fact that the Bridegroom is coming for His bride. There were three key elements involved in Jewish weddings: the bridal price, the betrothal, and the feast.

The bridal price was arranged between the bride's parents and the husband-to-be. He or his father had to pay this dowry. This ensured the bride's financial security in case her husband died or deserted her. This price also included the cost of gifts for the bride. Jesus paid the "dowry price" for us with His own blood (*Acts 20:28*) and with it came spiritual gifts (*Eph.4:8*).

The betrothal period officially started when the bride and bridegroom met in the presence of witnesses and gave gifts to each other. This ceremony would have looked very similar to a modern wedding ceremony, except that it took place long before the marriage was consummated. During this period, the bride and her husband-to-be returned to their own homes. The groom, while staying at his father's house, would then prepare a new home for himself and his future bride. Once the home was finished, he would come for her. This time, between Christ's First and Second Coming, is like the betrothal period.

Following the wedding, the bridegroom and his friends would go to the bride's house for a marriage ceremony and a great feast (*Matt.25:1-13*). Likewise, the marriage supper of the Lamb and His bride will signal the consummation of God's plan for the church (*Rev.19:6-16*).

Closing:

Application questions: Being a Doer of the Word

- **2 Timothy 3:16**—*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching [what is right], for reproof [what is not right], for correction [how to get right], for training in righteousness [how to stay right]; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*
1. What did I learn ("teaching")?
 2. Where do I fall short ("reproof")?
 3. What do I need to do about it ("correction")?
 4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life ("training")?

Answer Key:

Are the following statements true or false?

- F
- F

Why Christ Must Return

A.

1. mockers will come, questioning the promise of His coming
2.
 - Isaiah 9:6-7: the government will rest on Jesus' shoulders
 - Micah 4:3: end of war
 - Jeremiah 23:5: Jesus will reign as King and execute justice on earth
 - Zechariah 14:4-9: the mount of Olives will be split in two

B.

1. He was going to prepare a place for them and would come back to receive them
2. He is the Messiah and would come again in Glory
4. He would come back just as He left
He was lifted up and a cloud received Him out of their sight
5.
 - Matthew 24:23-27: like lightning
 - Matthew 24:37-39: like the days of Noah
 - Matthew 24:42-44: like a thief in the night

C.

1. comfort one another
2. put to death your flesh
3. eagerly await Him
4. be patient
5. fix our hope on Christ's return
6. be good shepherds
7. be holy

Holy Habits Weekly Devotion



This week's memory verse: **Acts 1:9-11**—"And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'"

This week's holy habit: **Meditation**

Meditation as a holy habit differs vastly from what the world teaches. The world would have you practice meditation to free your mind and body of feeling and thought. How can you *free* yourself of God's word? Why would you? This is in stark contrast to what meditating on God's word means. Meditating on God's word involves filling your mind and mouth with it, so that you will apply it. By reading and studying select verses, you can begin to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of God's character, attributes, promises, and will.

DAY 1 Read 1 Timothy 4:14-15.

- Reflect on the gifts and talents that God has given you. How can you use them to bless others? Call to mind the times when He used them to do way more than you originally intended.

DAY 2 Read Psalm 1:1-13.

- Meditate throughout the day on how God's mercy and grace sustains you. How is your life rooted like that of a tree planted by the water?

DAY 3 Read Joshua 1:8.

- Those in the kingdom have the power of the Living Word constantly at their disposal. What doctrine or promise has God been making apparent in your life lately?

DAY 4 Read Romans 12:2.

- In what area would you like to renew your mind? Seek out one or two verses to read that speak to that area. Meditate on them.

DAY 5 Read Matthew 7:4-24.

- At times, our minds can wander to places that they should not—seemingly out of nowhere. As this happens today, meditate on verses that will counter those thoughts.

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