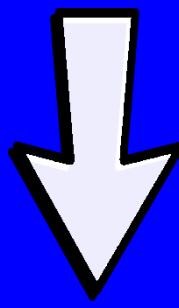


LIVING FOR HIS RETURN



Part 3: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Definition: The second coming of Christ is the sudden, personal, visible, bodily return of Christ from heaven to earth.



The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of believers that God is in control of all things, and is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. In His first coming, Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, just as prophesied. Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, there are some prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has not yet fulfilled. The second coming of Christ will be the return of Christ to fulfill these remaining prophecies. In His first coming, Jesus was the suffering Servant. In His second coming, Jesus will be the conquering King. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In His second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side.

I. HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?

- A. It will be _____ (Matt. 24:42-44; 1 Thess. 5:1-2).
- B. It will be _____ (Matt. 16:27; 25:31)
- C. It will be _____ (Mat. 26:64, Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 19:11-16)
- D. Jesus came first as a _____, he will return as _____.

Jesus' First Coming (Servant)	Jesus' Second Coming (King)
He came in humiliation (Phil. 2:5-7)	He will return in exaltation (Rev. 1:5-6)
He came to serve (Matt. 20:28)	He will return to be served (Rev. 22:3)
He came as the suffering servant (Phil. 3:10)	He will return as the conquering King (Rev. 19:16)

II. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS CHRIST RETURNS?

- A. He will defeat the Antichrist, the false prophet, and the world's nations assembled at Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21).
- B. He will regather, regenerate, and restore faithful Israel (Isa. 43:5-6; Jer. 24:6; Ezek. 11:17; 36:28; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 7:18-19; Matt. 24:31; Rom. 11:25-27).

- C. He will separate the "sheep" from the "goats" (Matt. 25:31-46).
- D. He will destroy all dominion, authority and power--permanently conquer every enemy of God, and take back the earth he created and that is rightfully his, then turn it over to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
- E. He will award those who long for his return (1 Tim. 4:8)

III. WHEN WILL JESUS CHRIST RETURN?

- A. Only God knows when Jesus will return (Matt. 24:36, 42; 25:13; Mark 13:32)
- B. Scripture warns against date setting—it is not for us to know (Acts 1:7).
- C. Believers are to be ready, on guard and alert (Matt. 24:44; Mark 13:33)
- D. The second coming of Christ can be viewed as one transcendent event which has two stages.
 1. Stage 1: Christ's physical return in the air. In the first stage He comes in the air to "catch away" dead and living believers. (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 2. Stage 2: Christ's physical return to earth. In the second stage He returns to earth, with his believers (Acts 1:11; Rev. 19:14).

IV. HOW ARE WE TO WAIT FOR JESUS' RETURN?

"It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" Titus 2:12-13

- A. We are to wait patiently for Jesus' return (Jas. 5:7-8)
- B. We are to live in continuous fellowship with Jesus so that when he returns we will not shrink back from him in shame (1 John 2:28).
- C. The more we are caught up in the business of this life, the less we may long for his return.

V. DISCUSSION QUESTION



What would you say to someone who insists that if Jesus was coming back again he would have done so by now?