

THE SECOND COMING



In the closing days of His ministry on this earth, nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus talked about the day when He would be taken and crucified. The disciples of Christ would not allow themselves to believe that such a fate could ever overtake their beloved Leader. Christ knew that they would need an abiding hope in the days to come. He gave them the wonderful promise we find recorded in 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 you may be also."

This place is not on earth. The fulfillment of this promise in the coming of our Lord the second time to this earth, is the world's only hope. Let us see what the Word of God teaches concerning this wonderful event.



HIS WORD SAYS

1. What promise did Christ make concerning His return? John 14:3.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIS SECOND COMING

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works”

— Matthew 16:27.

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

2. Many people talk about the second coming of our Lord being secret, What did Jesus say that his return would be like? Matthew 24:27.

If you have ever sat up at night to watch a storm you will be familiar with how each flash of lightning makes the entire earth glow. When Jesus comes again His brightness will light up earth and sky in such a way that no eye will miss it.

3. What will "all the tribes of the earth" do and see? Matthew 24:30.

Notice how ALL will witness this great event.

4. According to the Book of Revelation, how many will be able to see Christ return? Revelation 1:7.

5. What will be heard when Jesus returns?

1 Thessalonians 4:16. _____

A shout and the blasting of the trump of God indicate to us that Jesus' coming will not be quiet or secret. From these verses we can easily see that this event will shake the whole earth. There will be no question that Jesus has returned for all will know it.



6. What should be our response if we have to turn on the news or travel to another place to see someone claiming to be Jesus? Matthew 24:23-26.

Over the years many people have come claiming to be Jesus. There is a time coming when Satan will attempt to imitate Jesus coming with great power, and he will perform many miracles to deceive, if possible, the very elect. However, Satan will never be permitted to imitate Jesus coming in the way it is described in the Bible. No matter how glorious a being it may be that is before us, if it is truly Jesus we will not need to go out to see him.



7. What did the angelic messengers say concerning the return of Christ? Acts 1:9-11.

Jesus took a physical body with Him to heaven (see Luke 24:39). When He comes again He will have the same physical body that He took up to heaven when He left. The second coming is not a spiritual, but a physical event.

8. Who will accompany our Lord at His coming? Matthew 25:31.

The Bible tells us that there are ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels (Revelation 5:11). Another portion of scripture tells us that they are an innumerable company (Hebrews 12:22). Whatever number of angels there are, they are all eagerly awaiting the final events of this world to play out so that they can be there to greet us on that great day.

9. What is the purpose of His return to this earth? Matthew 16:27.

10. What is the first event to take place at the second coming of Jesus?

1 Thessalonians 4:16. _____

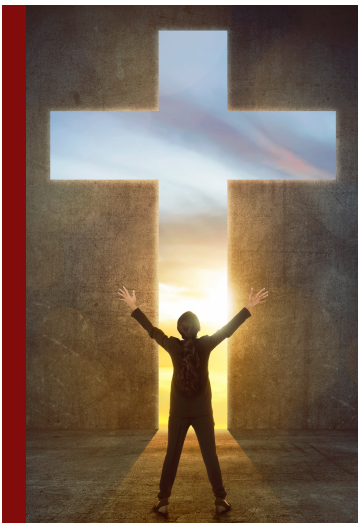
When Jesus comes with His reward, those faithful who have died will be raised to everlasting life. At the time of Christ's return we can expect to be reunited with the faithful of all ages, never to be separated again.

11. What will the angels then do as Christ appears in glory? Matthew 24:31.

12. What will happen to the righteous who are alive at this time? 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

When Christ returns the angels gather together the elect of the whole earth and we meet our Saviour in the air. From here we are taken back to heaven with Him. Any false christ that should come walking upon the earth to set up a kingdom here is not the Saviour we are looking for.

13. How are the righteous changed by the coming of Christ? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.



14. How else is this change described in the Bible?

Philippians 3:20-21. _____

Just as Jesus was raised with a physical immortal and glorified body, the righteous will be changed into the same likeness. Our ascension to heaven will be a real physical experience. Heaven is a place for real tangible people, not floating spirits.

15. What effect will this event have on the wicked?

Revelation 6:14-17 & 2 Thessalonians 2:8. _____

For the righteous, the second coming of Jesus is our greatest hope and expectation, but for the wicked it marks the end to life on this earth and is a day of dread and fear.

16. Does Jesus return before or after tribulation? Compare Revelation 6:14-17 & 16:17-20

The whole earth will shake at the coming of the Lord so that islands and mountains will be moved out of their place (Rev 6:14-17). This shaking of the earth is the result of the seventh plague which will be poured out upon those who have rejected God's call to repentance (Rev 16:17-20). In Revelation 6:14-17 we are reading about the events that occur after the 6th seal is opened. To give perspective, the 7th seal opening is silence in heaven as Jesus and all the angels are coming down to the earth to gather the saints (Rev 8:1). From this we can see that Jesus does not return until after the plagues have been poured out upon the wicked. The righteous will go through the great time of tribulation.



17. How does the Bible describe those redeemed from the earth? Revelation 15:2.

If they have gotten victory over the beast and its image, they must have been here to weather the trial. Although God may call some to walk the path of a martyr, God will be with His people throughout tribulation. See also Acts 14:22, Matthew 24:21 and John 16:33.

18. What promise does Jesus give us as we approach His coming? Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus will not leave us for even a moment. We can be sure that He stands with us through every trial and He will come again to receive us to Himself, that we may be with Him where He is for all eternity.

He which testifieth these things saith,
Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so,
come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20



LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

___ I thank God for His clear biblical description of the events of the second coming. I am looking forward to that day and am trusting in Christ as my Saviour and my strength.

___ I love Jesus and desire to see His coming, but I am apprehensive about the time of the end. Please pray that I will be at peace about this topic.

___ I am not yet ready to make a response concerning the second coming of Jesus. I am still thinking about all that I am studying and learning. Please continue to pray for me.

___ Other _____