

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Do We Know About the Lord's Second Coming?

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of the Second Coming of Christ. 2 There are 1,845 references to it in the Old Testament and a total of 17 Old Testament books give it prominence.

Of the 260 chapters in the entire New Testament there are 318 references to the Second Coming; or one out of thirty verses. Twenty three of the twenty seven New Testament books refer to this great event. 3

Billy Graham referred to the inscription in the dome of our Capitol Building which reads, “One far-off divine event toward which the whole creation moves”. 4

Around the dial of a clock in a church in Strasburg, Germany is inscribed, “One of these hours the Lord is coming!” 5

Dr. Horatius Bonar’s evening prayers were, “Perhaps tonight, Lord?” In the morning his prayer was “Perhaps today, Lord?” 6

Queen Victoria once said, after her chaplain preached about the Second Coming, “Oh, how I wish that the

Lord would come during my lifetime.” . . . “Because I should so love to lay my crown as His feet.”

So, the Lord’s Second Coming is a real important biblical event! ⁷

What do we know about the Lord’s Second Coming? First Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 13 through 18, give us some insights. ⁸

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ^{1 9}

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in

¹ v13-15.

Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.² 10

I. How Do We Know the Lord is Coming Again?

How do we know the Lord is coming again? 11 **The Lord said He would come!** 12

At His trial in answer to Are You the Christ? was, Yes, it is as you say, But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.³

13

In describing the end times, the Lord said, At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with

² v16-18.

³ Matthew 26:64.

power and great glory. ⁴ 14

The Bible says He will come! 15

At His ascension, the angels said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. ⁵ 16

Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 28, echoes this thought, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. 17

Again, we have in Second Peter, chapter 3, verse 10, But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

So . . . 18

⁴ Luke 21:27.

⁵ Acts 1:11.

II. When Will He Come?

When will He come? ¹⁹

The answer to that is we don't know! No one knows!

The Shakers calculated the date as 1792.

William Miller, the founder of the Advent movement, predicted between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. He later revised his prediction to October 22, 1844.

William Branham predicted in 1962 that it would take place by 1877.

Chuck Smith, the founder of the Calvary Chapel movement, predicted 1981.

The Korean group "Mission for the Coming Days" predicted October 28, 1992.

Radio evangelist Harold Camping predicted September 27, 1994 and, then, revised the date to May 21, 2011.

Sir Isaac Newton proposed, based on his calculations using figures from the Book of Daniel, that it would

happen no earlier than 2060. All of us will be deceased by then so none of us will know. ²⁰

Here is what we do know. ²¹ It will be sudden when it happens! It will be as quick as the lightning flashing across the sky. ⁶ ²² But, then, the Lord said, **No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** ⁷ ²³

The Bible says it will be soon! ²⁴ Philippians, chapter 4, verses 4 and 5 tell us that the reason for our rejoicing is that the Lord is at hand! ⁸ ²⁵

The last verses in the Bible end with this thought, **He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** ⁹ ²⁶

⁶ Matthew 24:27 - For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁷ Matthew 24:36.

⁸ Philippians 4:4-5 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

⁹ Revelation 22:20.

III. Why Will He Come?

Why will He come? ²⁷

The first reason is to judge! ²⁸

He will come in glory with His angels to sit on His throne. ¹⁰ ²⁹ Then, in Matthew, chapter 25, verses 32 and 33, The Lord continues with **All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.** ³⁰

Judgment will be based upon what you have done. ¹¹

³¹

First Corinthians, chapter 4, verse 5, tells us what the judgment is. **Wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.** ³²

¹⁰ Matthew 25:31 - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

¹¹ Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

So He's coming to judge, but also, to reward! ³³

To those who are waiting for Him, He will seat us at His table and serve us! ¹² ³⁴ He is preparing a place for us to be with Him. ¹³ ³⁵

He's going to make our bodies like His glorious body! Philippians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21, **But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ³⁶**

And again, in First John, chapter 3, verse 2, **Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³⁷**

¹² Luke 12:37 - It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

¹³ John 14:2-3 - I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

When the Lord does come again, we will appear with Him! ¹⁴

So . . . ³⁸

IV. What Should We Do While We're Waiting?

What should we do while we're waiting? ³⁹

The Lord wants you to remain faithful to Him. In First John, chapter 2, verse 28, it says, **And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.** ⁴⁰

He also wants you to use what He has given you for His glory. ¹⁵ ⁴¹

He wants you to maintain a devotion for Him and to

¹⁴ Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

¹⁵ Luke 19:13 - So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

live your life blamelessly. ¹⁶ ₄₂

Lord Jesus wants you to remain obedient to His instructions! ¹⁷ ₄₃

The Lord is coming again. Maybe in another week. Maybe tomorrow!

The important thing is to expect Him so you can rejoice whenever He comes!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

¹⁶ | Thessalonians 5:23 - May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁷ | Timothy 6:14 - . . . to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.