

## The Second Coming

Many think of the first coming of Jesus, but what about His second coming? Today, we're exploring what will \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus comes again. There's much \_\_\_\_\_ about the second coming, and that's why we turn to the Scriptures for answers.

Though some are skeptical, we need not \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus will come again. We have God's assurance! Acts 17:31 says that God "has fixed a day on which he will \_\_\_\_\_ the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to us by raising him from the dead." The resurrection of Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us of the appointed time when Jesus will judge us all.

The Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ a second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus promised, "And if I go and prepare a \_\_\_\_\_ for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3). The angels said to the disciples who were watching Jesus ascend, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into \_\_\_\_\_? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the \_\_\_\_\_ way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). First Thessalonians 4:16 assures us, "For the Lord himself will \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God." Hebrews 9:28 agrees: "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will \_\_\_\_\_ a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ will appear again in the clouds. Our task is to be \_\_\_\_\_ for Him. We don't want to be caught unaware and spiritually unprepared. On that day He will come with all \_\_\_\_\_ and will judge us all. Are you prepared?

### **Our reading today is from the Acts of the Apostles 1:9-11.**

Since the Lord is coming again, it's only right to ask \_\_\_\_\_ will happen and \_\_\_\_\_ will He return. The Scriptures clearly \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus will come openly, and everyone will know it. He won't be concealed, secret, or invisible. As we've read, Jesus will come again \_\_\_\_\_ in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11). Just as He was visible and rose up in the clouds, He will come \_\_\_\_\_ visibly in the clouds.

When Jesus appears, He will not come \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 16:27 says, "For the Son of Man is going to come with his \_\_\_\_\_ in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done." Matthew 25:31-32 explains, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious \_\_\_\_\_. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will \_\_\_\_\_ them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." Not only will Jesus bring angels with Him, He'll also bring back the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. First Thessalonians 4:14 says, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus." He's bringing these departed spirits back so that He can \_\_\_\_\_ them from the dead.

When Jesus appears, He'll come in flaming \_\_\_\_\_. Second Thessalonians 1:7-9 says, "the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

When Jesus appears, \_\_\_\_\_ will see Him. Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold, he’s coming with the clouds, and every \_\_\_\_\_ will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” When those who have \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus see Him, they will wail and mourn. But the Christian who believes and loves Him has a great \_\_\_\_\_. First John 3:2-3 says, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears that we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who has this \_\_\_\_\_ in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

When Jesus appears, His coming will be unmistakable. First Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ will rise first. And then we who are \_\_\_\_\_ and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in the air, so we shall always be with the Lord.” Yes, we’ll \_\_\_\_\_ the voice and the trumpet of God. Each of these will call our attention to what is happening. Did you notice that we will be caught up into the \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the Lord? The Lord Jesus won’t set \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth. Instead, He’ll be in the clouds; and we will meet Him there. When He comes again, we have to \_\_\_\_\_ this earth for a very good reason.

We do need to know, however, that this audible \_\_\_\_\_ of His appearance will come suddenly and unexpectedly. The Scriptures teach that the Lord’s coming will be “like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:2 and we simply don’t know when Jesus will come again; we know that He will come but not \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 3:10). God has not revealed the \_\_\_\_\_. Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are \_\_\_\_\_ belong to us and to our children forever.” The Lord Jesus Himself reveals that the day of His second coming at the end of the world is a \_\_\_\_\_. Only the \_\_\_\_\_ knows when He will come again.

The Lord said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my \_\_\_\_\_ will not pass away. But concerning that day and hour \_\_\_\_\_ knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the \_\_\_\_\_ of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the \_\_\_\_\_ they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and \_\_\_\_\_ them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:35-39). Sadly, some today \_\_\_\_\_ what the Lord said and imagine they know exactly when this second coming will happen. They imagine they know \_\_\_\_\_ than Jesus. Many have predicted a \_\_\_\_\_ time and deceived others in the matter; and when the time passes unchanged, they show themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ prophets, they simply don’t know.

Many people apply things found \_\_\_\_\_ in Matthew 24 to the second coming. People frequently speak of things that actually \_\_\_\_\_ to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and that includes the destruction of the temple. The passage, Matthew 24, clearly speaks of what is to happen \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem and \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem, and not what’s to happen worldwide. Jesus prior to verse 35 reveals numerous things to happen to people that were alive at that time and the need to \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem. On the other hand verse 36, speaking of the destruction of the heavens and earth begins with the word “but,” and is followed by an uncertainty of time. The destruction of Jerusalem is \_\_\_\_\_ the destruction of the world.

Three things will happen when Jesus comes again. First, Jesus will resurrect every person, good or evil, from the \_\_\_\_\_. John 5:28-29 says, “Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when \_\_\_\_\_ who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done \_\_\_\_\_ to the resurrection of

life, and those who have done \_\_\_\_\_ to the resurrection of judgment.” The resurrection mattered to Paul, and he spoke of its importance before the governor Felix. He said, “But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they (that is, the Jews) call a sect I do \_\_\_\_\_ the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men (that is, the Pharisees) cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous and the wicked. In view of this, I also do my \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men” (Acts 24:14-16). Paul wanted to be right with God at the resurrection.

Death is the separation of the body from the spirit (James 2:26), but resurrection is when the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ the dead, after which He will give them a new body. First Corinthians 15:50-52 explains, “I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a \_\_\_\_\_. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be \_\_\_\_\_, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” At the resurrection, we’ll receive bodies designed for \_\_\_\_\_.

Second, when Jesus comes again, the earth and its works will be \_\_\_\_\_ up. We will leave this earth, because God has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ it. Second Peter 3:7 says, “But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for \_\_\_\_\_, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.” Again in verse 12 Peter notes, “the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will \_\_\_\_\_ with intense heat!” As we noted from 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Jesus will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those that do not know God and those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. Revelation 21:1 speaks of John’s vision, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had \_\_\_\_\_ away, and the sea was no more.” All that we know of the present heaven and earth will have vanished, destroyed by fire and intense heat.

Third, when Jesus comes again, He will make a final \_\_\_\_\_ on all people, the good and the bad. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his \_\_\_\_\_ in the body, according to what he’s done, whether good or bad.” The Lord Jesus Himself taught, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He’ll sit on His glorious \_\_\_\_\_. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will \_\_\_\_\_ them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He’ll put the sheep on His right, and the goats on His left” (Matthew 25:31-32). In verse 46 he clearly shows their \_\_\_\_\_ destiny: “These (goats who failed to serve the Lord) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Lord Jesus proclaimed, “He who \_\_\_\_\_ Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the \_\_\_\_\_ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). You and I won’t be judged by our culture, by the creeds of men, or by human traditions. We will be judged by the words of Jesus found in the New Testament. Some think the words of Jesus only appear in \_\_\_\_\_ letters, but we can consider \_\_\_\_\_ the words of the New Testament as God’s teaching. Paul said, “If anyone thinks he’s a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I \_\_\_\_\_ to you are the Lord’s commandment” (1 Corinthians 14:37). The written word will be found at the Judgment. Revelation 20:12 says, “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were \_\_\_\_\_ from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”

If our final destiny will be decided at the second coming, shouldn't we get \_\_\_\_\_ for that day? Shouldn't we think about the destruction of the world and of our \_\_\_\_\_ destiny? Second Peter 3:11 says, "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in \_\_\_\_\_ conduct and godliness?" Do you look forward to the coming of Jesus or would you mourn at his coming? Revelation 1:7 says, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and \_\_\_\_\_ eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen." People who don't know Him, people who don't believe in Him, and people who don't love Him will \_\_\_\_\_ at His coming.

I would rather be like Paul who said, "For I am already being poured out (that is, he is close to the time when he would die) as a drink offering, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of my departure has come. I've fought the good \_\_\_\_\_ (have you), I've finished the \_\_\_\_\_ (have you), I've kept the \_\_\_\_\_ (have you); in the future there is laid up for me the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have \_\_\_\_\_ His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Will you love His appearing? Will you receive that crown?

First John 2:28 says, "Now, little children, \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in \_\_\_\_\_ at His coming." The Lord Jesus said, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26). If we wish to \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of heaven we cannot be ashamed of Him or of His words. We must love Him, obey Him, and abide in Him.

There is a difference between being "\_\_\_\_\_" Christ and "out of" Christ. Many people have rejected or \_\_\_\_\_ believing in Christ Jesus. Others have bought into a \_\_\_\_\_ gospel and failed to follow the Scriptures. Such people will be \_\_\_\_\_ on judgment day when they won't be allowed to enter heaven. The wise hear the words of Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ them; the foolish hear the words of Jesus but \_\_\_\_\_ to do them. The wise will \_\_\_\_\_, but the foolish will \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 7:24-27).

So be wise and \_\_\_\_\_ for the second coming of Christ. You must be holy and blameless at His coming. By God's grace through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ you can be right with God. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-27 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." To be children of God we must be baptized into Christ, immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins. Then we must be faithful to the Lord till the end. If you've quit the Lord, or maybe you've quit His church, it's time to come back, to return.

Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everyone needs a church family. There's probably a church of Christ near you. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be glad to help you find one.