

## QUESTION: What does the Bible say about the Second Coming of Christ? (Part 1)

The Word of God speaks in vivid and clear language about the nature of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. For us to contemplate this important event, in light of the Scripture, is an extremely serious task.

Jesus Christ was said to be a “spiritual Rock” that followed the Israelites in the wilderness (1 Cor 10:4). The comparison is to the actual rock from which God provided them refreshing water to drink (Exo 17:6). Christ provided them spiritual water, through Moses, to sustain their souls. However, when we speak of the *first* coming of Christ, we generally mean that time when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), i.e., the birth and life of Jesus of Nazareth who was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom 1:4).

His *coming*, in general, is mentioned in several ways in the New Testament. For example, Jesus *came* in judgment upon Jerusalem (Matt 24:1-34 -30-). He also *came* when He established His kingdom in the hearts of obedient believers. Jesus told His disciples that some of them “shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man *coming* in His kingdom” (Matt 16:28; Mark 9:1) – and either His kingdom is established or there are some very old people living on the earth today. In the same passage, Jesus speaks of a time when He “will *come* in the glory of His Father with His angels, and...will reward each one according to His works” (Matt 16:27; Mark 8:38). It is this coming of Christ that is the focus of our study.

The *second coming* of Christ has to do with His *visible return* in which He will judge the living and the dead (Rev 1:7; Acts 17:31). This event is mentioned numerous times in the New Testament. As the disciples stood and watched the Lord’s ascension, they were advised, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so *come* in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

The apostle John concurs when he states that Jesus “is *coming* with clouds, and every eye shall see Him...” (Rev 1:7). Paul informs us that, on the resurrection day, Jesus “will *descend* from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God...” (1 Thess 4:16). In the next chapter he warns that Jesus will *appear* quickly and suddenly, “as a thief in the night” (1 Thess 5:2). Much earlier Jesus Himself had informed the disciples that He will *come* “at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Matt 24:44). No one knows the schedule for the Lord’s return. Jesus said, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is *coming*” (Matt 25:13). “Blessed are those servants” Jesus said, “whom the Master, when He *comes*, will find watching” (Luke 12:37).

Each one of us must prepare for that time by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ, because He is *coming* “from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not obey” His gospel (2 Thess 1:7-8). If you believe in Him, will you not do what He calls you to do? **Repent** of a life of sin and turn to Him in **faith** (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30); **confess** your faith in Him before others (Matt 10:32; Rom 10:9-10); and be **immersed** in water for the removal of your sins so that Jesus may add you to His body the church, and save your soul (Acts 2:38; 2:47; Eph 5:23).

If you will obey these simple commands and live faithfully to Him until the end, then His promise is directed to you, “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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3).

Study your Bible and search the Truth on the subject of the Lord’s *second coming*. Next month we will have a second article on this subject! Stay tuned and thanks for reading!

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