

The Kingdom of God #9: The Second Coming of Christ

One of the central beliefs of Biblical Christianity is that Christ will return, and yet many modern, liberal churches either deny or ignore it. The people in those pews have no knowledge of it. How can we be ready for something we are not expecting?

Why do we believe this?

1. Christ said he would return.

- a. Mt. 16:27 – For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he reward every man according to his works.
- b. Mt. 24:27-31 - the coming of the Son of man will be like the lightning of heaven ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened ... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- c. Mt. 25:31-34 – When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him
- d. Mt. 26:63-64 – Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven
- e. Jn. 14:1-3 – I will come again, and receive you unto myself (and to the habitations prepared for us)

2. Angels said he would return, when he ascended to heaven.

- a. Ac. 1:9-11 - ... Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

3. Paul taught it

- a. 1 Cor. 1:7 – So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
- b. 1 Cor. 4:5 - ... until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: then shall every man have praise of God.
- c. Phl. 3:20-21 – our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body ...
- d. Col. 3:4 – When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
- e. 1 Thess. 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:23 – (the end of every chapter refers to some aspect of the second coming)
- f. 2 Thess. 1:7-8 - ... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- g. 1 Tim. 6:14 – That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- h. 2 Tim. 4:1 – the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom
- i. Tit. 2:13 – Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

4. Other NT authors taught it

- a. Jas. 5:8 – Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of our Lord draweth nigh.
- b. 1 P. 5:4 – when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
- c. 1 Jn. 2:28 - ... abide in him that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
- d. 1 Jn. 3:2 – Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- e. Jude 14-15 – ... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all that are ungodly ...

So in summary, his coming is and will be

- one of our great motivations to faithfulness and godly living
- immediately after the great Tribulation
- accompanied by great wonders in the heavens (sun darkened, moon “turned to blood”)
- sudden and universally recognized
- from heaven, in clouds
- in power and great glory
- in connection with the resurrection and “change” of our bodies
- with the angels
- with the (resurrected) saints
- in flaming fire, and bloody vengeance on the ungodly
- followed by judgment of the nations, living and dead, with punishment for the wicked and rewards for the righteous
- to receive His people unto himself and their heavenly habitations