



Second Coming of Christ!!

One of the central truths that was taught by Jesus Himself was that there would be a day when He will return to the earth in the same way He went. Time and time again the New Testament points to this hope and calls Christians to live in a state of readiness. In the New Testament, 1 verse in every 25 verses deals with the Second Coming and the Lord's return.

It is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament alone. Even though Christians do not agree on the specifics of this return, regarding the order of events, one thing is clear it WILL happen and we all need to be found ready when it does.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is coming again to the earth and will take you to Himself?

Q2) Jesus said many times be ready for His return, what do you think He meant?

Q3) What practical things do you think you can do to keep yourself in a state of readiness?

Point 1 – Jesus taught that He would return to earth.

The belief in the Second Coming is established by Jesus Himself. He made it clear that He will come again to the earth, bring His people to Himself. He will judge all of humanity, separating the believer from the unbeliever. He will destroy forever evil and Satan throwing them into the burning lake of sulphur. The Lord will make all things new, with the creation of a new heaven and a new earth. This Coming would be in the full glory of who He is, “The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” and would establish the full and visible reign of God and His Kingdom for all eternity. Mark 13 v 26, Luke 17 v 22 – 30, Acts 1 v 9 11 _____

Point 2 – His coming will be sudden and unexpected.

Jesus taught His disciples that His coming would be sudden and at a time when the world would not expect. Jesus declares to us that although there are certain signs that will be fulfilled before He comes, His coming will be sudden, like a thief in the night. The signs that Jesus gave us were not meant to lure us into a sense of false security / in that these signs may not have happened yet so therefore I have got time / but were given to quicken our sense of expectancy when we see these signs happening. Today many people believe that by the use of Bible code and interpretation of the signs they can pinpoint possibly the year and month that Jesus will come.

However Jesus when he uses the word for day or hour, He is using words that mean the set period of time, and therefore we should reject any teaching that professes to know the date, even to the year of Christ's return. Acts 1 v7, Mark 13v32 – 37, 1Thess.5 v 1 – 6

Point 3 – When it happens ALL people will know it has happened.

Some people over the years have expressed concern that they might miss Christ's coming and how will they know it is Him. Scripture says we need not worry about missing His coming for although it will be sudden, everyone will know that it has happened. It will be such a cosmic event that all of creation will declare it. We should not be worried about missing it, we should be SURE that we are living ready for it. Mark 13 v 26

Point 4 – Jesus calls us to live in a state of readiness for His return.

The overall sense of what Jesus says about His coming is “BE READY.” Whatever you do, do not be complacent about it, or careless in how you live. For it could happen today, and when He comes you WILL have to give an account of how you are living. Whatever state you are found in will be the starting point from where you are judged. Time and time again Jesus says be watchful, live in a state of readiness as one who will have to give a sudden account to His master. For if we are Christian only in name and not in lifestyle, make no mistake we will be left behind. When He comes again it will be to late to change your mind. Luke 12v 35 – 40, Mark13 v 35

Point 5 – Concepts linked with the Seconding Coming:-Coming of various anti-Christ's finishing with the coming of the lawless one. Scripture tells us that in the last days there will come many who will try to deceive the elect with false teaching and miraculous signs. Alongside of this there will come a man who will be “The Anti- Christ” He will be a man of great power who will try to corrupt and destroy the true church of Christ. He will possibly establish a economy that will do away with money and you will have to receive a mark to buy and sell goods. Other Christians believe these ideas are given not to be taken literal but to symbolise Christian compromise in the last days. 2 Thess. 2 v 1 – 12, Mark 13 v 21 – 22, Revelation 13 v 16 – 18 _____

Signs in the heavens- Scripture declares that just before Christ's return there will be visible cosmic signs in the sky that Christ's return is imminent. Some say this will happen immediately before Christ's return. Luke 21 v 25 – 28

Tribulation – 7 years of terrible suffering on the earth, that would destroy everyone if God had not limited the time. Matt 24 v 15 – 28

Rapture – At the return of Christ, there will be the taking up of the Saints, both living and dead, to be with Christ. Some believe that this rapture happens before the tribulation, so that Christians will not have to suffer, (They have the idea of a secret return of Christ / for the Saints/ before the tribulation – Followed by the world wide visible return of Christ.) 1 Thess. 4 v 15-18

Others believe the Rapture will occur after the tribulation.

Millennium—After Christ' return- visible reign of Christ on earth for a thousand years. Other idea is a reign of the church for a specific period of time. During this time Satan is bound and a world wide revival / possible amongst the Jews will occur. Rev. 20 v1-6

Mass conversion of the Jews – Many believe that linked with Christ's return is the revival of the Jewish people who will at last accept Jesus as their own Lord and Messiah.

