

HC 52 –Jesus Second Coming: The Events

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Jesus will return in a glorious 2nd coming at an unknown time!** Don't confuse the signs of the Lord's "coming" to judge Jerusalem in AD70 with the signs of his 2nd coming at the end of the world.

The signs for his coming to destroy wicked Jerusalem were very specific and Christians were warned to flee Jerusalem when they saw the Roman army coming against them. **If they were on their housetops**, they were not to come down but run from one house to the other and flee. **If they were in their fields**, they were not to return to their houses for their clothes, but flee. Moreover, it would be difficult for those who were **pregnant**, had **nursing babies**, if it were **winter**, or on the **Sabbath** for them to flee. **Does that sound like the end of the world?**

On the contrary, **when Jesus returns a 2nd time, he will come as a thief in the night**, like when the **bride did not expect him**, or like in the **sudden appearing of rain in Noah's day**. Today, hear the events of Jesus' 2nd coming and how you are to respond to these events.

Our headings are:

Why will Messiah return?

What will Messiah's return look like?

How must you respond knowing these things?

Our goals are: **That you will live with the hope of heaven while fulfilling your earthly labors and waiting for Jesus to bring judgment on his enemies.**

52. How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

A. In all my distress and persecution **I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await** as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All his enemies and mine **he will condemn to everlasting punishment**; but me and all his chosen ones **he will take along with him into the joy and the glory of heaven.**

Why Will Jesus Return?

1. Jesus will return in order to save you from this world of frustrations and trials.

This world is not your permanent home; you are just passing through. The Lord will come to take you, his elect, away from this world of distress, disease, and death. He will remove the **last vestiges of the curse you inherited from Adam – every ill that came from that curse.**

Philippians 3:20 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly **wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

And the fact a Christian's citizenship is in heaven **was special**, considering **many of the early Christians were slaves**, or **second-class Roman citizens.**

2. Jesus will return to take you into a perfect world.

John 14:1 "Let **not your heart be troubled**; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "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. 3 "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.

Heaven is your home! Don't you yearn for that perfect world?

What will Messiah's return look like?

1. What will Jesus Christ's return look like?

Will there be a secret rapture of the church or will everyone see Jesus when he returns? Will he go away and leave everyone in the world for 7 years and then return later and set up his throne in Jerusalem and then rule the world for 1000 years? That sounds quite interesting, doesn't it? This is a common fantastic story you will hear often on television and from many pulpits.

In hermeneutics (science of interpreting the Bible) you must let the clear passages interpret the unclear passages.

2. So let's look at one of the clearest passages that teaches what Jesus' coming will look like.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, **with the voice of an archangel**, and **with the trumpet of God**. And the **dead in Christ will rise** first. 17 Then we who are alive and **remain shall be caught up together** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we **shall always be with the Lord**. 18 Therefore **comfort one another** with these words.

This wasn't a fantasy...or a desire of Apostle Paul...but the authoritative truth from God. Here is the order of the events.

a. The Lord Jesus will descend with a loud shout of [an] archangel and blowing a trumpet so the whole world will hear.

The "Archangel" is probably Jesus. ("Angel" simply means "messenger.")

b. The dead in Christ will be raised up and caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

c. The living in Christ will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air...

d. All Christians will always be with the Lord from that time onward.

3. There are some other aspects of the Lord's return that are noteworthy.

a. Jesus coming will be glorious. Consider the brilliant scene of angels, bright light, and trumpet being blown. The lights at Jesus' birth will be increased many times.

b. When Jesus returns your body will be changed to an incorruptible eternal body -a body that does not age or feel pain. This is why when people misuse the signs of Matthew 22:1-34, and apply it to the end of the world (where clothes won't matter) instead of applying it to the siege of Jerusalem (where clothes did matter) they make no sense.

1Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality...**

c. Jesus' coming will be public. **The world will see him when he comes with his angels.** There is no secret rapture.

d. Jesus' coming will give comfort to his people. How? Knowing Jesus is certainly coming to take you to be with him forever, you can confidently wait for his return. Fear goes away!

Imagine how this is a comfort for those who have suffered long in sickness, maybe with bodies ravished by cancer, or those who struggle with depression—knowing they will get new bodies and renewed souls. **Imagine how this must comfort those who have fought with sin**, and are frustrated because they have lost the battle so many times! **Imagine how this must give comfort to those who have been persecuted** – knowing it will end...and that all that they do for Christ will be rewarded.

4. At Christ's coming, the wicked ones – dead or alive- who persecuted Jesus or otherwise rejected him, will be destroyed... convicted and condemned to everlasting death in hell and its fires.

2Thessalonians 1:7...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** **These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...**

5. How will this take place?

The Lord will sit on his Great White Throne and show wicked men their faults. He will have a full record of every sin of thought, words, and actions. Because of this full accounting, **no wicked person will be able to claim his judgment is unfair.** The wicked person will then face an irrevocable damnation.

Matthew 25:1 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will **sit on the throne** of His glory. **32** **"All the nations will be gathered before Him**, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. **33** "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. **41** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: **42** 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; **43** 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' **44** "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' **45** "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' **46** **"And these will go away into everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."

No one will escape. **All the nations** will have to appear before him. **Every person** will have to appear before him. **Those who reject God in this life and deny he exists will still have to stand before him** in judgment. **Every knee will bow**- Richard Dawkins and Bill Nye – men who slandered God! Even your nice grandma who doesn't believe in Jesus will have to bow and confess (without hope) Jesus is Lord.

6. The godly – dead or alive - Jesus will take with him to heaven to enjoy all its joys and glory.

You will forever be with the Lord. There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. His presence will confirm you are freed from sin and will enter into eternal life.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to **those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**
35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

4. You, the saved, will be rewarded in heaven according to your deeds.

Jesus said you should store up your riches in heaven (your rewards for good works – worshipping the Lord properly, evangelizing faithfully, caring for the widows, orphans, and foreigners lovingly, etc.). So all Christians will not have the same rewards in heaven. (Good economic principle for this life.) **Every Christian will go to heaven, but not every Christian will enjoy the same degree of blessings.**

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

How well are you storing up for heaven? How full will be your cupboards?

How Must You respond knowing these things?

1. Don't get preoccupied with the end times.

If you get preoccupied with heaven and judgment **you will not be able to fulfill all your duties now.** The end of your groaning in sin will come. God is not behind schedule.

2. Be busy with your duty: Have dominion over the earth.

And learn the right duties you must perform. **Remember, the Devil likes to keep people preoccupied with frivolous things so they don't focus on things that truly matter!**
Everything in your life must be focused on what will bring glory to Jesus.

3. For the details of those duties, look to God's Word.

Learn what good deeds are, how to do good deeds, and how to be prepared to do good deeds.

Philippians 3:20 **For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to **subdue all things to Himself.**

Conclusion:

Messiah will return to take the living and dead who are his to heaven and bring judgment on the wicked. He will triumphantly come in the clouds in a most remarkable view!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Are you living your life with hope and without fear as you wait for the coming of the Jesus from heaven?

Are you waiting to enjoy all the treasures you have accumulated? I hope so.

2. Are you allowing economic burdens, vaccination passports, social unrest, and political instability to make you worry and take your eyes off of the one who holds the future? If you do, **you would hide and become a self-hugger.** If you do, you **wouldn't be able to be effective for the Lord's kingdom.** If you do, you **would become preoccupied with accumulating stuff** for yourself and be **obsessed with paying bills.** And **what kind of response would that be to the one who gave his life for you sins** on the painful and shameful cross? Instead, live for the glory of Jesus! Live like you will win.

Finally, where will your ship finally moor? If you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are safe. You will anchor in heaven. If you don't, you will be damned. That's it. There is no 3rd option. Don't moor in hell.