

HC 52 – Part 2–Jesus' Second Coming: The Events

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The last time you heard why Jesus will return and when he will return. He will return to comfort his people and he will return at an unknown date. You must not therefore confuse the signs of the Lord's return to judge Jerusalem (very specific signs), with his return to judge the world (very vague signs). Instead, you must be concerned about faithfully carrying out your responsibility in your home, church, and country without whimsical 异想天开 distraction. Today we will go further into eschatology and hear what the Messiah's return will look like and what events will take place when he returns.

Our headings are:

What Will Messiah's Return Look Like

What Will Messiah's Judgment Look like

What must I be Looking at Right Now.

Our goals are: That you will live your life with hope and without fear and wait for Jesus to bring judgment on his enemies and faithfully fulfill you earthly labors.

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

A. In all my distress 苦难 and persecution 迫害 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.

What will Messiah's return look like?

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

Will there be a secret rapture 破裂 or will everyone see him when he returns? Will he go away and leave everyone in the world for 7 years and then return afterwards 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.

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 teach what Jesus' coming will look like.

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede 先行 those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend 下降 from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel 天使, 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.

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

a. The Lord Jesus will descend with a loud shout from the archangel. (The angel had earlier said: This same Jesus will return in like manner.

b. The Archangel will loudly blow the trumpet of God – so loud that the world will hear. This Archangel might be the Lord himself. The voice may not come from a created angel.

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

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

e. We will always be with the Lord. There is no more returning to earth...which is especially clear when you join it with John 14, where Jesus said he will come and take you to be with him, that where he is there you would be also.

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

a. Jesus coming will be glorious. Consider the brilliant scene of angels, bright light, and trumpets being blown. The lights at his 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 围城 of Jerusalem, when clothes did matter, it makes 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 凡人 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 behold 看哪 him when he comes with his angels.

d. Jesus' coming will give comfort to his people. How? Because Jesus is certainly coming to take you to be with him in heaven forever, **you can confidently wait for him to return**. This is a blessed hope. Imagine how this is a comfort for **those who have suffered long in sickness**, maybe with bodies ravished 肆虐 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 so many times! Imagine how this must give comfort for **those who have been persecuted** – knowing that it will end...and that all that they do for Christ will be rewarded.

What will Messiah's Judgment look like

1. 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 复仇 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**, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2. How will this take place?

The Lord explained the nature of his judgment on the wicked. **He 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 that his judgment is unfair. The wicked person will then face an irrevocable damnation 诅咒.

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. Those who reject God in this life and deny that he exists will still have to stand before him in judgment. Every knee will bow...even Richard Dawkins and Bill Nye – men who slander God!

3. 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. One wrote: "There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the Judge and His robes still bear the bloody stains of the death of redemption and resurrection of reconciliation." His presence will confirm that 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.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

4. You 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? Will your cupboard be bare!

What must I be looking at Now?

1. What should you be looking at now, if you are not to be preoccupied with Jesus` return?

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

2. What are those duties: Have dominion over the earth. Remember, you will be rewarded according to the deeds you do now...how well you serve the Lord and your neighbor. And learn the right duties you must perform. **Remember, the Devil likes to keep people preoccupied with frivolous 轻浮 things so that 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 –meditate 沉思 on it- to know 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:

If the Bible does not say something about Christ`s returning, don`t guess. What does the Bible say? Christ will return in the clouds for the living and the dead believers, take them to heaven, and reward them according to their good works. He will judge the wicked fairly – with evidence in front of them- and send them to hell.

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 Lord Jesus from heaven?

2. Do you allow economic burdens, social unrest, political instability, or a desire for social advancement to make you worry and take your eyes off of the one who holds the future?

3. If you do, then you will hide...and you would be 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 that would be to the one who gave his life for you sins on the painful and shameful cross? Instead, live for the glory of Jesus!

Finally, where will your ship finally moor 泊? If you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you are safe. If you don't, you will be damned. That's it. There is no 3rd option. Choose the right one.