

The Sure Word Bible Studies
Lesson 8

The Second Coming of Jesus

John 14:2,3 - *“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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

Because of the immense importance of His coming, Christ has given warning of deception concerning it.

Matthew 24:3 – 5 - *“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and **shall deceive many.**”*

Verse 24 - *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

This deception is to be continued unto the end, the Bible says in II Timothy 4:3,4 – *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, **and shall be turned unto fables.**”*

Today we see many books written depicting the second coming of Christ and the events surrounding that great event. Though many of these books are best sellers, yet some are “fables,” or “novels” and are not true to the biblical record of His coming.

Rather than reading novels, we need to carefully examine all the texts in the Bible referring to the second coming and get it clear as to what the Bible really says about it.

There are three key points that the Bible makes clear -

First - The second coming of Christ will be literal.

Acts 1:9-11 - *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, 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.**”*

When Jesus went back to heaven after His resurrection, it was not a secret event that only those of faith could experience, but it was a literal and real event witnessed by all those who were there.

Second - Everyone will see Him.

Revelation. 1:7 - *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

Matthew 24:30 - *“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, **and they shall see the Son of man coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

Third - Everyone will hear Him

Matthew 24:30,31 - *“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

I Corinthians 15:51-53 - *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for **the trumpet shall sound**, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

I Thessalonians 4:15-17 *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

Note that all these accounts of the second coming of Jesus are very similar. There is mention of a trumpet sounding, the dead being raised and clouds.

What are the “clouds” He comes with?

Psalms 104:3 – *“Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind.”*

This verse tells us that the “clouds” are His “chariot.” That is a source of travel. What could this “chariot” be?

Psalms 68:17 – *“The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.”*

This verse tells us the “chariots” are angels. The clouds are His chariot and His chariot is thousands of angels. What this is saying is that when Jesus returns, He will be accompanied by thousands of beautiful angels dressed in glowing white, and at a distance they may appear as bright, white clouds.

compare Matthew 25:31 - *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.”*

One may ask - Doesn't the Bible say He “comes as a thief” – meaning secretly? Let's examine those text's that speak of this in their context -

Matthew 24:42-44 – *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he*

would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

In this passage, it indicates that coming as a thief implies coming unexpectedly, not secretly.

I Thessalonians 5:2-5 – “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the **Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.** ³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **then sudden destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ⁴ But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”

This passage tells us that as Christian believers, that day should not come to us as a thief, that is, unexpectedly.

II Peter 3:10 – “But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise**, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

This passage makes it clear that His coming will be a catastrophic event; all the world will be aware of it.

Psalms 50:3 – “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.”

Isaiah 13:9-11 – “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. ¹¹ And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.”

What causes all the devastation and calamity? Is Jesus lashing out in anger as He returns?

In the past when God visited our planet, He usually came veiled in the flesh, but notice how at other times the literal, physical presence of God is described in the Bible as “fire” –

Exodus 24:16,17 - *“And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ **And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.**”*

Isaiah 29:6 - *“Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.”*

Hebrews 12:29 – *“For our God is a consuming fire.”*

The “fire” of God’s literal presence is not physical fire as we know it. The righteous will thrive in it but it will consume sin and sinners. This why God told Moses no one could see His face and live -

Exodus 33:20 – *“And he (the Lord) said, Thou (Moses) canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”*

“See my face” means to stand in the literal presence of God. The Prophet Isaiah asked the question – Who can live in this “fire”?

Isaiah 33:14 - *“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?**”*

This question is answered in the next verse – verse 15

*“**He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil.**”*

The righteous can live in the presence of the “consuming fire.” The Bible tells us believers will be changed when Jesus Comes -

I Corinthians 15:52,53 – *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

The righteous are “*changed*” at His coming and are able to live in the literal presence of God as they are taken to heaven. But what will happen to those “left behind”?

Since “*no man* (in his sinful condition) *can see God and live,*” they will be *destroyed by the “consuming fire,”* by the “*brightness of His coming*” - But, this will not be a willful act of vengeful retaliation, but a consequence of His coming in unveiled power and glory!

Jesus will not come veiled in the flesh when He comes again, but in the power and great glory – a consuming fire!

Matthew 24:30 - *“Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

II Thessalonians 2:8 – *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”*

The second coming described in the book of Revelation –

Revelation 19:11 – 15 – *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

The “*armies in heaven*” are the angels, the “clouds” we discussed earlier (Matthew 25:31). But notice the terms, “*He treadeth the winepress,*” “*He smites the nations,*” and “*rules with a rod of iron*” -

These terms are taken from the Old Testament, which denote destruction.

Psalm 2:7-9 – *“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ⁹ **Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.**”*

Isaiah 11:4 – *“But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and **he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**”*

“Ruling with a rod of iron,” implies ruling over a destruction, not ruling over people as a king.

Lamentations 1:15 – *“The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me **to crush my young men:** the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, **as in a winepress.**”*

Treading the winepress – crushing the grapes, is a metaphor for destruction as well. Revelation 19 tells us what happens to those “left behind.”

Revelation 19:16-21 - *“And the remnant (remaining ones) were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”*

The “remnant” are those who are “left behind”, clearly they are destroyed, they are not left and given another chance to repent, they will become food for the vultures.

Luke 17:26-37 - *“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. ³¹ In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the*

house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. ³² Remember Lot's wife.

³³ Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

³⁷ And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.”

The “eagles” are really vultures and are translated as such in many modern translations – we can see that in the story of Job.

Compare Job 39:27-30 – *“Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? ²⁸ She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. ²⁹ From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. ³⁰ Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she.”*

God shows the prophet Jeremiah a vision of the devastation that takes place at the coming of the Lord -

Jeremiah 25:30-33 *“Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.”*

Jeremiah 4:23-28 - *“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld*

the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.”

Clearly this is a picture of total destruction on the earth as result of the “*coming of the Lord.*” The earth will be “*broken down*” the wicked will be “*slain by the brightness of His coming,*” and the righteous will be gathered by the angels and taken to heaven as Christ promised – “*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 unto myself that ye may be where I am.*”

It is critical for us living in the end times to know Jesus and the manner of His return because before the actual coming of Christ – there will be a great counterfeit. Jesus warned us of false Christs.

Matthew 24:24 - “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*”

The Bible tells us Satan will be transformed into an angel of light -

II Corinthians 11:14 – “*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*”

And the Bible tells us there will be two “comings” -

II Thessalonians 2:8,9 - “*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his (Christ) coming:* ⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”*

Verse 8 is speaking of the coming of the Lord and verse 9 is speaking of the coming of Satan claiming to be Christ. Satan will come as the final and ultimate “Anti-Christ”. The one who wants to be worshipped as God and rule this world.

II Thessalonians 2:4 - *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

Satan will come claiming to be Christ himself, performing great miracles and with great demonstrations of power which will deceive the world.

There is only one way can we be safe from this great deception in the last day. Read the words of Jesus in the gospel of John -

John 17:3 - *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

We must “*know*” God as seen in Christ – we must know the truth about God from personal experience and personal study. The key will be to understand God’s great character of love. Satan cannot counterfeit that! God is not what his enemies have made him out to be! Jesus came to show us that! And when we know the original, we can easily spot the counterfeit!

There will be signs of Christ’s coming that indicate it is near “*even at the doors*” but Jesus said: *“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”*

Though we cannot know the day and hour, we can know when it is near, and in what manner Christ will come. Jesus told His followers - *“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh”.* (Matthew 24:44)

The key word here is “*watch*”, in the original Greek it means a “state of readiness”. That means that everyday we should be doing those things that get us ready.

Those things that get us ready are Bible study, prayer, opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit that He may help us in overcoming our sin and selfishness. Be involved in Christian witness and service,

being actively involved in the ministry in the body of Christ, the Church.

The Church we attend and serve in should be selected with great care. The Bible says that God's Church is "*The pillar and foundation of truth*" (I Timothy 3:15). Therefore we should be careful the church we support is teaching and proclaiming truth and not the fables and speculations of men.

Response questions:

1. It is clear to me that the second coming of Jesus will be –
 - a. literal
 - b. audible
 - c. visibleYes ___ No ___

2. It is clear that at the second coming of Jesus the righteous will be "changed" and taken to heaven. Yes ___ No ___

3. I understand that at the second coming of Jesus those left behind will be destroyed by the "*brightness of His coming.*" Yes ___ No ___

4. I want to do those things that I may be ready for the coming of Christ that I may go home with Him. Yes ___ No ___

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