

The Second Coming

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Introduction: We need to clearly see what lies ahead for each of us.

- A. When rooted in our hearts the second coming gives us purpose and strength to live for the Lord. **(1 Jn 3:1-3)**
 - 1. Jesus gave this promise before He died. **(Jn 14:28)**
 - 2. An angel of God repeated the promise after He ascended. **(Acts 1:9-11)**
- B. We must not confuse the warnings of the destruction of Jerusalem with passages about the second coming.
 - 1. One has signs while another has none. **(Mt 24:15-22; Lk 21:20-21; Mt 24:36-39; 1 Thess 5:1-3)**
 - 2. One is given specific action for a specific place the other has nothing but to be ready!
 - 3. What if you were unprepared for the destruction of Jerusalem? ..the 2nd coming?

I. The second coming will come as a complete surprise

- A. Jesus will come as a thief in the night. **(1 Thess 5:2; Rev 3:3, 16:15)**
 - 1. Only the time should be a surprise to Christians and not the event itself.
 - 2. How can I know if I really believe this promise of Jesus? How am I living now?
 - 3. Those who have heard the promise but are unprepared are likened to one who slept. **(Mk 13:35-37; 1 Thess 5:4)**
 - 4. Are you awake? (Ex. WWII – “I shall return”)
- B. There will be some things that must occur before the 2nd coming.
 - 1. There must be a falling away. **(2 Thess 2:1-8)**
 - a. This may have occurred already.
 - b. We must oppose all forms of evil today and not be deceived.
 - 2. The purpose of God must be completed.
 - a. All who can be saved will be saved. **(2 Pt 3:9)**
 - b. This is not the same as the destruction of Jerusalem. **(Mt 24:14; Col 1:23)**
- C. Many will mock and laugh. **(2 Pt 2:4-5)**
 - 1. Do not be intimidated by those who cry “myth!”
 - 2. We live in a world that is very hostile to accountability to God.
 - 3. Sadly these each one day will see “shock and awe” that will last for an eternity.

II. Elements of the Second Coming

- A. There will be something heard. **(1 Thess 4:16)**
 - 1. While no one has ever heard these things before there will not be a one who fails to recognize it.
 - 2. Concurrent with this will be a weeping a wailing unlike anything we have ever seen. Will it be your tears?
- B. There will be something seen.
 - 1. Everyone will look up and see Jesus coming on a cloud. **(Mk 14:62; Rev 1:7)**
 - 2. This was the way He left! **(Acts 1:9-11)**
 - 3. Do you know what Jesus looks like? You will, and there will be no doubts.

- C. There will several things experienced.
 - 1. The dead in Christ will be raised first. **(1 Thess 4:16)**
 - 2. If you are alive in Christ you will experience “rapture.” **(1 Thess 4:17-18)**
 - 3. If you have died then you will experience a resurrection. **(Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)**
 - a. By this time you know your destiny. It cannot be changed.
 - b. There is only one resurrection that you want to experience!
 - 4. There will be a host of angels assisting in gathering men. **(Mk 13:26-27)**
 - a. Angels are spoken as assisting the righteous after they die. **(Lk 16:22)**
 - b. In the midst of confusion, helplessness and despair there are those who are comforted and elated.
 - 5. The earth will be burned up along with the universe. **(2 Pt 3:9-12)**
 - a. Will it look like this? **(Rev 6:12-17)**
 - b. Can you imagine the utter destruction of all of creation?
 - 6. All men will receive a new body.
 - a. Those who died and are raised will have a physical body. **(Lk 24:39)**
 - b. All then will have their physical bodies changed. **(1 Cor 15:50-52)**
 - c. For the righteous there will be no more of the pain that is associated with this body!

III. The aftermath of the second coming

- A. There will be wrath. **(Rom 2:8-9; 1 Thess 1:10; Eph 2:3)**
- B. There will be glory. **(1 Thess 2:19-20)**
 - 1. Likely there will also be recognition.
- C. All will appear before God to hear their verdict. **(Mt 25:21-22)**
 - 1. There will be a chance to appeal to God however none will succeed.
 - 2. There will be a final separation of the just and the unjust for all eternity.
- D. What should this mean to me?
 - 1. Let each of us be ready and stay ready. **(Lk 12:35-40)**

One day in 1789, the sky of Hartford darkened ominously, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end was at hand. Quelling a clamor for immediate adjournment, Davenport rose and said, "The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought."

- 2. Learn to see the world from its end and because of this develop right priorities. **(1 Thess 3:13; 5:23-24; Jas 5:7)**
- 3. Work to keep this knowledge fresh and new. **(1 Jn 2:28-29)**
- 4. Warn others to prepare! **(Heb 10:37-38)**
- 5. Remember that the world will hate you for this act of kindness!
 - a. Those who warned of His first coming were persecuted. **(Acts 7:52-53)**
 - b. There will be a few who will thank you in eternity.

Conclusion: Do you believe this?

- A. If you knew He was coming in 24 hours you would change.
- B. Why does the time cause you to act differently? **(2 Pt 3:11-13)**