

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 73: THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.” - 2 Peter 3:10

Main Idea: The doctrine of the Second Coming incites our joy, holiness, and eager expectation for the return of the King.

I. Why Study the Doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ

- A. Scripture places heavy emphasis on this doctrine
- B. General neglect/oversight of this doctrine
- C. It is our blessed hope and a great incentive to holy living (2 Peter 3:17)

II. Common Terms Referring to this Doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ

- A. The Apocalypse – Revelation or Unveiling
- B. Parousia – the Presence/Coming of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2)
- C. Epiphany – an appearance or manifestation
- D. Day of the Lord (variants: last day, the great day, the day of wrath, day of judgment)
(1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10)

III. The Manner or Nature of the Second Coming

- A. Christ will appear in His personal nature
- B. Christ’s second coming will be physical (Matt. 26:64, Acts 1:10-11, Heb. 9:28, Rev. 1:7)
- C. Christ’s second coming will be visible (Acts 1:11)
- D. Christ’s second coming will be sudden (Matt. 24:27, Matt 24:43, 1 Thess. 5:2)
- E. Christ’s second coming will be glorious (1 Cor. 15:52, Titus 2:13)

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IV. Concerning the Time of His Second Coming

- A. Our concern is more for holiness than it is about times and dates (1 John 3:3)
- B. The specific day and time is a mystery (Matthew 24:36)
- C. Principles for Reading Verses about the Second Coming of Christ
 - i. Consider the time of His return from God's vantage point (2 Peter 3:8)
 - ii. Recognize that the Last Times or the Last Days includes the time between His First coming and His Second Coming
 - iii. Prophetic Foreshortening (Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13, Luke 21)

V. Signs of the Second Coming of Christ

- A. Scripture is definite about the things that must happen before Christ comes
- B. The calling of the Gentiles (Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10)
- C. The gathering of all of Israel (2 Corinthians 3:15-16, Romans 11:25-29, 1 Peter 2:9)
- D. The apostasy (falling away) will happen (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)
- E. The antichrist—the man of sin—will be revealed (2 Thess. 2:3-4)

VI. Apocalyptic Scriptures and Their Interpretation

- A. Apocalyptic Scriptures: The Books of Daniel and Revelation (Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation)
- B. The *Preterist* view – (Preterism)
- C. The *Historicist* view (Historicism)
- D. The *Futurist* view (Futurism)

VII. Application: How to Study the Doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ

- A. Study this Doctrine with Right Motives and toward holiness (1 John 3:3)
- B. Live with joyful longing for His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)