

Lesson 19: The Return of Jesus Christ

Lesson Introduction



Since the day that Jesus ascended into Heaven from the Mount of Olives, Christians throughout history have been longing for the day when He will return. But as we study Scripture, it seems that there are 2 different returns of Christ.

In this lesson we will examine the differences between the Rapture of the Church, in which Jesus comes in the air for His saints, and the Second Coming, in which He will come to the ground with His

saints.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Testimony in Scripture

Topic 2: What the Second Coming Is Not

Definitions of the Return of Christ

Topic 3: 2 Phases of the Second Coming

The Second Advent

In The Twinkling Of An Eye

Topic 1: Testimony in Scripture

We're going to look at the doctrine of the second coming, first looking at the testimonies of several people in the new testament starting with Christ. He's the first one I want to go to and see what he said. (John 14) The upper room discourse; he's in the upper room. They are literally hours before he is going to be arrested. He is after this, going to walk down to the kidron valley to the garden of gethsemane to pray, in the olive grove, and then he's arrested right there. And these are bad times, because he's predicting a lot of bad things: peter is going to deny him, one is going to betray him, they're all going to flee away from him, he's going to die. they didn't want to hear all this; in the midst of all that Jesus says (John 14:1-3). Those were good words for them to hear, after all the bad news that they had heard, Jesus is saying, I'm coming again, and I'm going to get you. Jesus Christ, in Matthew 24:27, is teaching on the end times, and he says (Matthew 24:27). it's unexpected. You might know that it's really dark and the clouds are really dark, but you don't know exactly when that bolt is going to come out of the cloud And just as lightning comes out of the east, so shall the coming of the son of man be. In other words, it's going to happen, it's going to be sudden, but it's going to happen. Testimony of angels; Angels said it. Acts 1:10, Jesus had just gone back up into heaven, he ascended up to the Father. He had been crucified, risen, there 40 days, taken up. Ascension – off the Mount of Olives. That's where he is going to return to the earth, he'll set his feet back there. But as they were looking up at him leaving, looking stedfast toward heaven, (Acts 1:10-11) So just as he went up, same exact place, he'll come back down, to plant his feet back on the earth. And then we have the testimony of Peter, many places he talks about this. 1 Peter 5:4, 2 Peter 3:4, just because he hasn't come back yet, and since I was a kid I've been expecting him to come back to day, after all these days of my really long life he hasn't come back. So what should I do, say well he's just

not coming? Just because he hasn't come yet doesn't mean he's not coming. He's coming again. So people are going to start saying, and start scoffing, where's the coming of the Lord, and people are starting to do that today. People aren't excited about prophecy anymore. They're not excited about Jesus coming again, but we should be. (2 Peter 3:10) What did Paul say? Colossians 3:4)(titus 2:13) Sounds like an exciting thing, the blessed hope.

Assignment:

- Memorize John 14:1-3

QUESTION 1

Jesus Himself gave _____ that He would return.

QUESTION 2

We will see the times and seasons, but no man will know the day or hour of the _____ of Christ.

QUESTION 3

Jesus will return to the same _____ on Earth from where He left.

QUESTION 4

The Bible predicted that there would _____ mocking the fact that Christ has not returned yet.

QUESTION 5

For those that are serving the Lord, the _____ of His return is a blessed hope.

Topic 2: What the Second Coming Is Not

Now, you've been noticing there's seems to be more than one coming of the Lord. In this verse he's coming with ten thousand of his saints, and then in other verses he's coming for the saints. So how can we understand this? We know he is going to be coming, but it sounds like there is more than one coming. Let's talk about the meaning of the second coming. Now some people have confused the meaning of the second coming, and they have said the verses that describe the second coming are the same thing Jesus was talking about in Luke 21:20 which is the fall of Jerusalem. (Luke 21:20) It continues to talk about the desolation thereof, fleeing to the mountains, to these days of vengeance. Don't be confused that the second coming is the fall of Jerusalem. It was predicted and it has happened. Jerusalem will be under attack again, but Jesus is going to come back before Jerusalem is destroyed. AT the end of Luke 21, it talks about Jerusalem being trodden under Gentiles until the time of the gentiles being fulfilled. So the second coming of Christ was not the destruction of Jerusalem that happened in 70 AD, and that was a continuation of the times of the Gentiles. Since that day, Jerusalem has been trodden under foot of the gentiles. It is in Jewish hands, but the world gets in an uproar when the Jews want to build apartments in Jerusalem. So why can't Israel build in its own capital? Why is the temple mount still not under Jewish control? It is in one sense, they took that area from Jordan, but for some reason they gave that temple

mount back to the Muslim clerics and they really don't have full authority up there. It's really strange. So even today, Jerusalem is trodden down by gentiles until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled. That is yet future. We know the roman empire will come back, the revision of it, in a globally dominant fashion, one ruler will rule, and that will end when the Lord returns. The destruction of Jerusalem is not the second coming. Some people have suggested that the coming of the holy Spirit is the second coming of Christ. It's the coming of the Holy Spirit, and it was promised that the comforter would come in John 14:16. The promise of the comforter, it's not the second coming of Christ, it's the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus went away, the Holy Spirit came. When the church is taken out, the Holy Spirit as well that indwells the body of the believer, Jesus comes for us and it's not the same thing. Some people have suggested the return of Christ is the conversion of a sinner. When a sinner is saved, Jesus is in us. but he's in us with the holy Spirit, and it's not the second coming of Christ as described in all these verses. It's different; so we know what it's not, we know it's not these things, so what is it? What is the second coming of Christ? Well we know from John 14, Jesus says in verse 3, (JOHN 14:3) I will – that's personal. That means he is coming; we believe it to be visible. 1 Thessalonians 4 says the Lord Himself will descend; it's going to be a personal and visible and physical coming of Jesus Christ.

QUESTION 6

Besides the First Advent, Scripture indicates that there will be _____ comings of Christ.

QUESTION 7

Jerusalem will be under _____ again, but Jesus is going to come back before Jerusalem is destroyed.

QUESTION 8

When the Church is taken out, the Holy Spirit will be _____ as well.

QUESTION 9

The return of Christ does not take place when a sinner is _____.

QUESTION 10

The return of Christ will be _____, physical, and _____.

Definitions of the Return of Christ

Parousia is the word that used most of the time in all these verses that we've read, most of them are the coming of the Lord, the word coming is parousia. Parousia is "to be near, alongside." And it refers not just to the presence of Christ, but the coming of the individual person of Christ. So this is a very clear indication that he is coming personally and visibly. Jesus is coming to this earth. It's used in reference to the rapture of the church, its used in reference to the return of Christ with the church. Then another word: apokalupsis – you hear the word apocalypse in that word. It's "to reveal", that's what the book of revelation is. The book of revelation is the revealing of something that was unknown or hidden. So apokalupsis means to uncover or reveal and sometimes when we read about the return of the Lord in scripture, that's the word used. It's mostly parousia but sometimes it's apokalupsis. And that means the

revealing of who? Jesus. Here's an example of referencing his second coming (2 Thessalonians 1:7) that's apokalupsis. That's the Greek word that's translated revealed. We also find that same word referenced as the rapture. So we know both of those events, the second coming and the rapture, are personal visible return of the Lord. Another word, epiphaneia, which means to bring forth light or cause to shine or show. It's like an epiphany. It's in reference to his first coming. In Luke 1:79 it says (Luke 1:79) To give light is revealing, to give light to see something, so we see that word used for the first coming, we also see it used to reference the rapture, which is (Titus 2:13). So we see that word used to reference the rapture, and we also see it used to reference the second coming which is in 2 Timothy 4:1. So those words are used to talk about the return or the coming of the Lord.

QUESTION 11

_____ means "to be near".

QUESTION 12

_____ means "Cause to shine".

QUESTION 13

_____ means "To reveal".

QUESTION 14

Both the Rapture and Second Coming will be _____ visible returns of the Lord.

QUESTION 15

Both the Rapture and Second Coming are a _____ of Jesus.

Topic 3: The Two Phases of the Second Coming

Now as we said, there seems to be two different phases. He is coming again but he's coming in two phases. Number 1, when he comes for the saints in the air, Number 2 when he comes with his saints to the earth. Let's look at the difference between the two. The rapture we know removes all the believers. The saints are caught up in the air. It's the beginning of the tribulation, or soon thereafter. We don't know if the rapture, then immediately the tribulation starts with the peace treaty between antichrist and Israel, we think it's going to happen pretty soon after the rapture. We don't know if it's immediately, but it's probably going to be pretty quick. There's going to be great turmoil with many people disappearing, people are going to say aliens, whatever. There's going to be some explanation of people disappearing. How many are truly saved, truly born again on this earth, I don't know. But either way, we know there's going to be a lot of people, we know lots of born again Christians all around the world, so we know millions of people will disappear. So we know that after that begins the tribulation sometime after that. The Rapture is also imminent; it could happen at any moment. The other phase of Jesus' coming is not imminent. Lots of things have to happen before he returns with his saints to the earth. We know the signing of the peace treaty, the seven trumpets, the seven seals, the seven bowls, the two witnesses, the 144,000, the temple will be desecrated in Jerusalem, a lot of things. So it's not imminent. If you know all

of these things that are going to happen, the devil is going to be indwelling this antichrist for 3.5 years, pursuing Israel into the wilderness, sending forth some sort of flood to destroy, and the earth opens up, we know all of these things. I can tell you almost to the exact minute of the second coming of Christ if I knew the exact signing of the peace treaty – seven years. So there's no surprise there, no immanency. There immanency with the rapture, when Jesus returns in the air, although he's coming, but the real second coming is when he touches the ground in Jerusalem on the mount of olives where he went up. So the rapture is different, but he's still coming in the rapture. We have a message of comfort; comfort one another with these words. This is why we're told about the rapture. Have you ever been to a funeral for a saved person? It's way different than a funeral for a lost person. Why? Because they have no hope. We have hope; we're putting a body into the ground but if that person's saved we're going to see that person again, that body again. Where? At the rapture. That's a lot of hope, it's a message of comfort, a message of hope, it's a program for the church. The rapture is intended for the church. Believers after this are judged. Believers aren't judged whether they go to heaven or hell, believers are judged at the reward seat of Christ. We're all going to have that one on one time with Christ. This happens after the rapture, believers are judged. This leaves creation unchanged. Basically the only change that will happen is you are gone. Will your clothes stay back, if you're in an airplane and you're flying the airplane, you're leaving the airplane behind, so a few things are going to change, if an airplane crashes, the car you're driving crashes. But really nothing is changing on the earth at that moment in time. Israel's covenants are unfulfilled yet, a lot of things happen at the second coming of Christ; a lot of covenants will be fulfilled but not at the rapture. There is a big difference between the two phases. This happens before the day of wrath. We're not appointed unto wrath. The rapture is the expectation of the church, the lord is at hand. And this not the expectation of the church at the second coming, that's different. Then it fulfills his promise to come for his people, he has promised to return and he is coming again, and that's the rapture.

QUESTION 16

Scripture gives clear evidence that the return of Christ will happen in _____ phases.

QUESTION 17

The Rapture is _____ and the Second Coming is _____.

QUESTION 18

The Tribulation will begin soon _____ the Rapture occurs.

QUESTION 19

After the Rapture, believers will be _____ for rewards at the Bema seat.

QUESTION 20

The church has the _____ of the Rapture.

The Second Advent

Then we have the second advent, the second coming. He came the first time where? Bethlehem. Born in Bethlehem. We think right near the tower of the flock, right near where the story of ruth and boaz took

place in the threshingfloor, and where the Passover lamb would have been born. It's an exciting place where he was born in Bethlehem the first time. Then he left, the mount of olives, coming back, mount of olives. The second coming, where he actually comes to the earth, the second phase of his coming. Number 1, it's the manifestation of the Son. The first time he comes for the church, there will be a trumpet, but only the church recognizes this. The world probably won't. They might see people disappear, but I don't know that they'll be able to look up and see Christ in the air. I'm pretty sure they won't. the second coming of Christ, everyone is going to be able to see him, somehow somehow, everyone is going to watch him come back to the earth. IT's the true manifestation of him. Remember palm Sunday? He came in on the donkey as the servant, he's coming back on a white horse; that's the second coming. It's a manifestation of who he is and how he's going to reign. He's going to return to this earth, the millennial kingdom established, the beginning of the millennium, the thousand year rule and reign, where he'll rule on this earth from the throne of David. He will be there personally. It's proceeded by many signs, so we'll know the time. It's a message of judgment when he returns, it's the beginning of the battle of Armageddon. The program for Israel and the world is taking place at that time, there's a lot of differences between the rapture and the second coming. Israel and the world is judged, creation is changed, covenants are fulfilled, it's after the day of wrath – a horrible time the earth has had, he'll come at the end of that. It's the expectation, not for the church, the people of God, but for Israel for the kingdom truly is at hand. And it fulfills his promises to overthrow his enemies. The rapture doesn't do that, but at the second coming he will overthrow his enemies. It's a transliteration of the Latin word raptura, is where we get the word rapture. It's not in the Bible, but we've seen in other places, coming coming coming. We know the concept is in the Bible. The word Bible is not in the Bible, but we believe it's in the Bible. It's the complete book from God to man. So we know that rapture is there the concept is there, but the word rapture is not found there. The rapture is the resurrection of the dead in Christ. The dead in Christ are in the body of Christ, so it's the body that will go up. 1 Cor 12:13 says we are baptized into the body of Christ, and the body is going to go up together. This includes those who have not reached the age of accountability. We would believe at this point that any baby or any child or any person that is before the age of accountability including people that were born mentally handicapped that don't have the ability to believe, that God's special grace upon them they would also go at the rapture, at the same time. We know that this is a renovation of those living in Christ. So the dead it's a resurrection, for the living it's a renovation. It's like this old hous. Those alive in Christ will be caught up and be changed.

QUESTION 21

The second phase of the Second Coming is when Jesus _____ to the earth.

QUESTION 22

At the Second Coming, everyone on earth will _____ Him.

QUESTION 23

At the Second Coming, Christ will _____ His enemies.

QUESTION 24

Though the word "rapture" is not actually used in _____, the event is clearly taught.

In The Twinkling Of An Eye

QUESTION 25

The transformation that will take place for the Church will be in an _____.

QUESTION 26

Christians do not have to fear going through the _____.

QUESTION 27

The hope of the Rapture should cause us to be joyfully abounding in the _____ of the Lord.