

SECOND COMING OF THE LORD

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

Ever since the Lord ascended into heaven, His return has caught the interest of mankind. The Apostles gazed into heaven wondering. The Thessalonians were encouraged by the promise and surety of his return. The Corinthians had some doubts about the possibility of a resurrection. False teachers upset some Christians in Thessalonica with their beliefs. Throughout the centuries, Christians have labored, suffered, and died in hope of the second coming of the Lord. As with every major Bible teaching, many fanciful theories have been put forth causing much confusion. *A clear understanding of the Scriptures is necessary to cull out the error, and glean the truth.*

FACTS CONCERNING HIS COMING

There will be a general resurrection when he comes. Joh.5:28-29, Act.24:14-15

The resurrection to judgment is for all people. Heb.9:27

The Lord will sit on His throne judging all men. Rev.20:11-15

His Coming is described:

As thief in night: unannounced and at an unexpected time. 1Th.5:1-6, 2Pe.3:10

He will come "in the clouds (visible)." Rev.1:7

The heavens and the earth will pass away. 2Pe.3:10-12

Death will be destroyed. cf. Rev.20:14

(1) Death is the last enemy for the Lord to overpower. 1Co.15:25-26

There will be a separation of the saved and lost. Mat.25:31-34, 41

This will be the final victory for believers. 1Co.15:51-58, 1Th.4:14-18

This will be a time of destruction of all unbelievers. Rev.20:15

The Lord will take vengeance on those who know not, and obey not. 2Th.1:7-10

THE CHRISTIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Our hope in Christ, based on our faith in the Word of the God, enables us to know and be assured that there will be a resurrection.

Jesus is said to be the "first-fruit" (our assurance of our resurrection). 1Co.15:20-23

Our partaking of the communion reaffirms such faith. 1Co.11:26

Our commitment to live for Him declares it also. For we labor with expectation.

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 2Ti.1:12

The sure promise of His return provides comfort for our souls.

The prospect of the resurrection produces joy within us.

The fact that things will be changed gladdens our hearts.

Our perishable earthly body will be changed. 1Co.15:51-54

There will no more death and the accompanying agony. Rev.21:4

We will dwell in a new abode (new heaven and earth). 2Pe.3:10-13

His projected return promotes peace and patience (endurance) within us.

It helps us endure trials. 1Pe.4:12-16, 1Pe.6-9

It puts our fear of men in its proper perspective. Mat.10:28-32

A number of admonitions to Christians are linked to the Second Coming.

"Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1Th.4:18

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." 1Co.15:58

"And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." 1Jo.3:3

"Be diligent, be on guard . . . grow in grace, knowledge." 2Pe.3:14-18

"He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son." Rev.21:7

"And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming." 1Jo.2:28

TWO VIEWS OF HIS COMING

The faithful eagerly wait for it. Phi.3:20-21, 2Ti.4:8

They anticipate being like Him. 1Jo.3:2

They look forward to an incorruptible inheritance. 2Pe.1:3-4

The non-believers and unbelievers hope there is no God. And, if there is a God, they hope He will be merciful to them.