

What Will Happen in the Future? Lesson 3 – The Return of Christ – Part 2

Introduction:

- Could Christ come back at any _____?
- What are the _____ that precede Christ's return?
- If there are things that must take place before Christ's return, then how could His return occur at any time?

1. The sudden and _____ return of Christ.

A. We are commanded to be _____ for Christ's sudden return.

Matt 24.42 Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matt 24.44 Therefore you also must **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matt 24.50 The Master of that servant will come on **a day when he does not expect Him** and at an hour he does not know.

Mark 13.32-33 But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 **Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.**

1 Thess 5.2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1 Thess 5.6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

B. We are commanded to eagerly _____ for Christ's sudden return.

- Anticipation of His return leads to _____ living.

1 John 3.2-3 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure.**

Titus 2.11–12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,**

Titus 2.13 **waiting for our blessed hope, and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Phil 3.20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it **we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- Anticipation of His return leads to _____ living.

James 5.7-8 Be patient, therefore brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 **You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

- C. We are commanded to _____ one another to be faithful since Christ's return will be sudden.

1 Thess 4.16–18 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

- D. We are _____ to know that Christ's sudden return will be soon.

Rev 1.3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for **the time is near.**

Rev 22:7 "And behold, **I am coming soon.** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Rev 22.12 Behold, **I am coming soon,** bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

Rev 22.20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely **I am coming soon.**" Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!

- The fact that Christ could return at any moment should comfort our hearts instead of making us _____.

2. The signs that _____ the return of Christ.

A. The preaching of the Gospel to _____ .

Mat 24.14 *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Rev 5.9 *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"*

B. The rising up of _____ false Christs and false prophets.

Mat 24.3 *As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*

Mat 24.5 *For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.*

Mat 24.11 *And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*

Mat 24.23–25 *Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.*

2 Cor 11.13-14 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

C. The increase of _____ in the world.

Mat 24.21 *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*

- There will be _____ and rumors of wars.

Mat 24.6 *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.*

- There will be _____.
- There will be _____ in all kinds of places.

Matt 24.7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be **famines** and **earthquakes** in various places.

- There will be _____ of Christians as they are persecuted and killed.

Matt 24.9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

- There will be increased _____.

Matt 24.12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

- There will be what Jesus calls the " _____ of desolation."

Matt 24.15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16

- D. The occurrence of powerful signs in the _____.

Matt 24.29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

Mat 24.30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- E. The appearance of the Man of Lawlessness.

2 Thess 2.3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, **and the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction,

- Some have suggested one of the _____ Emperors, such as Nero, who cruelly put to death many Christians.
- Some say this refers to each of the Catholic _____.
- Some would say that the Man of Sin is a coming world _____ who will be worshipped by all who live on the earth.

3. How the signs of Christ's return _____ to the promise that His return will be sudden and unexpected.

A. It is possible that some or all of these signs have already been _____.

- Could it be said that the Gospel was proclaimed to all nations before the end of the first century?
- Over the centuries haven't there been many false prophets or and false christs who have led people astray?
- Haven't there been many wars and rumors of war?
- Aren't there many places in the world even today that are experiencing famine?
- Aren't there many diseases that kill many people each year?
- Aren't there many reports of earthquakes around the world?
- Are not Christians all over the world hated, persecuted, and even killed?
- The _____ to these questions are part of the reason why Christians have different views about the end times.
 - Some Christians think that _____ of these signs have been fulfilled.
 - Some Christians think that _____ of these signs have been fulfilled.
 - Some Christians think that _____ of these signs have been fulfilled.

B. The _____ began at the first coming of Christ.

*Heb 1.1–2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 **but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

- On the day of _____, Peter understood that he was living in the last days.

*Acts 2.16–17a But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 “**And in the last days it shall be**, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...”*

- Paul told Timothy that the reason he was experiencing so much _____ in Ephesus is because he was living in the last days.

2 Tim 3.1 But understand this, that ***in the last days there will be times of difficulty.***

- Through the centuries the church has _____ believed they were in the last days.

Rom 13.11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. ***For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.***

Conclusion:

- The doctrine of the end times is one of the most difficult doctrines to understand completely.
 - It raises many questions that are difficult to _____.
 - Because many Biblical prophecies are difficult to _____.

Job 11.7 Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?

- It is better to look for _____ to appear than for signs to appear.
 - Looking for certain signs to be fulfilled could bring more frustration than _____.
 - Looking for certain signs to be fulfilled could bring more fear than _____.