

The 2nd coming of Christ

The study this fall season for ABC will be on the **2nd coming of Christ**. It is that event to which our whole world is heading. It will be a solemn event, a devastating event, but above all a God-honouring event, and a joyful event for God's people. What will that day be like? What are the signs of the times? What is meant by the anti-Christ? What about the different millennium views? And above all are we prepared for this great event? When we think about this doctrine of the 2nd coming of Christ we have to say a few things: It is...

A forgotten truth. Why is that? Matthew 25:5: "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept."

A prominent truth. Every New Testament books speaks of and points to the return of Christ. Examples: Matthew 16:27, Mark 14:62, Luke 21:28, John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Acts 17:31; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Titus 2:13; Revelation 22. Because of its prominence in the scriptures, it should be more prominent in our consciousness, conversations and in our congregation.

A practical truth. It should stir us to

1. *Self-examination*

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5)

2. *Evangelization*

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Lk. 14:23).

3. *Sanctification*

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Pet. 3:11)

What the Bible says about His 2nd coming

- He is coming certainly.*** His second coming is spoken of some 300 times in the New Testament. Benjamin Franklin said: "we can only be certain of death and taxes." But two men did not die, and some people don't have to pay taxes. But the second coming is absolutely certain. Jesus says it, God says it.
- He is coming unexpectedly.*** His coming is like a thief, who comes unexpectedly, unpredictably. People have tried to make predictions as a date of the 2nd coming. That is the wrong solution. Acts 1:7: "it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put into his own power" (cf. Matt. 24:36).
- He is coming personally.*** We are not just expecting that day, but a Person to come on that day. We are not just expecting a throne of Judgment, but a Person on that throne of judgment. We are not just expecting angels who will accompany Him, but the Lord of angels to come (Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:4).

4. **He is coming visibly.** Jehovah Witnesses claim Jesus returned in 1914 in an invisible way. Some Christians believe in a secret coming of Jesus, but 1 Thessalonians 4 speaks of it as a public and visible thing. “Every eye shall see Him” (Rev. 1:7).
5. **He is coming gloriously.** Christ’s first coming was in humiliation. His second coming will be in exaltation. He will come with power and great glory (Matt. 25:30). Three sounds will be heard (1 Thess. 4:16).
 - a. A shout
 - b. The voice of the archangel.
 - c. The trump of God

Lessons

Revelation 3:11: “Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

Revelation 16:14: “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walked naked, and they see his shame.”

Revelation 22:7: “Behold, I come quickly; blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

Questions for Discussion

1. Can you think of Old Testament passages that speak of Christ’s second coming?
2. Why do we not live with the constant awareness of Christ’s second coming? What is a suitable corrective to this forgetfulness?
3. What questions do you have about the second coming of Christ?