

Jesus is coming again! This is the great expectation of all Christians. Nothing is more clearly taught in the New Testament. However, the manner of Christ's return has long been a subject of controversy, largely because of speculation about certain prophetic passages. Since the purpose of this course is not speculation, we shall confine ourselves to those Scriptures which are plain statements of fact. Of these there are so many that it will not be hard to determine how Christ will return.

When Christ Will Return

In every age some have boldly predicted the exact time of our Lord's return. Always they have been mistaken. The Bible clearly teaches that no man knows when Jesus will come again. Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matt. 24:36) Paul and Peter both declare that Christ's return will be as "a thief in the night." (I

Thess. 5:2, 3: II Peter 3:10) Therefore none can possibly know when He will come.

Paul declared that the second coming would be preceded by a falling away from the truth. "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (II Thess. 2:3, 4) Peter said that before Christ's return scoffers would ask, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (II Peter 3:4) As a result many will be totally unprepared when He does come. **Since we cannot know when He will come again, the important thing for every person is to be fully prepared.**

How Christ Will Return

The second advent will be seen by all. Some teach that Jesus returned a few years ago but many did not see Him. They ignore the Scripture, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him." (Rev. 1:7) Jesus said, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:27)

Christ will be accompanied by His angels when He returns. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

(Matt. 16:27) Jude adds that He will come back with ten thousand of His saints. (Jude 14)

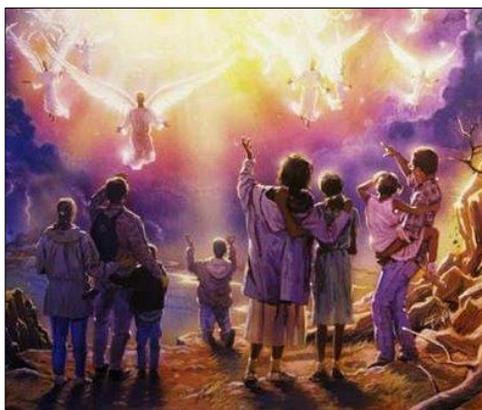
At the second coming the dead will arise from the grave. (I Cor.

15:23) Some teach that the unrighteous will never rise from the grave. Others contend that the righteous and unrighteous will be resurrected at different

times. Jesus proves both ideas wrong when He states, "Marvel not at this: for **the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves** shall hear his voice and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28, 29) So we learn that both the righteous and unrighteous will be resurrected to face the judgment **at the same time**.

Perhaps the clearest explanation of the second coming is found in I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead

in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Notice the sequence of events: (1) **Christ will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God.** (2) **The dead in Christ will arise from the grave.** (3)



After the dead have arisen the living will be caught up with them into the clouds. (4) **They will meet the Lord in the air.**

What will happen to the earth when Christ returns? Peter answers

our question. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up**. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (II Peter 3:10-12) No man will be left to live on this earthly sphere.

The premillennial theory, which asserts

that Christ will reign on the earth in the flesh for a literal thousand years, is clearly erroneous. (1) No passage teaches that Jesus will set foot on earth again. Rather, the disciples of Christ will meet Him **in the air**. (2) The premillennial theory requires that the righteous and unrighteous arise at different times. As noticed, John 5:28, 29 contradicts this. (3) Since the earth will be destroyed when Christ returns, no thousand year reign will be possible.

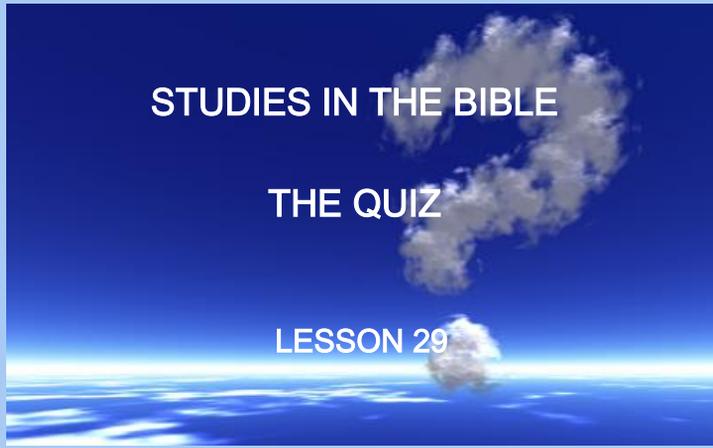
The Judgment

The great judgment will follow the return of Christ. None shall be able to escape it. "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10) As they appear before Christ the judge, the righteous will be set on the right hand,

the unrighteous on the left. The righteous will be rewarded with an everlasting home in heaven; the unrighteous will be consigned to the eternal punishment of hell. (Matt. 25:31-46) Nothing in the Scriptures teaches that man will receive a second chance. After the judgment Christ will deliver up the kingdom to God. Every enemy, including death, will have been overcome, and Jesus, who has been reigning, will deliver up His authority to God, the Father, and will Himself be subject to Him. The righteous will dwell with God in the eternal home of unspeakable beauty. In the next and last lesson we will discuss the places of reward and punishment which are called heaven and hell. It is the hope of heaven that impels the Christian to cry out with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)

Why Jesus is Coming Again

1. **To raise the dead – John 5:25, 28, 29.**
2. **To judge all men – Jude 14, 15.**
3. **To reward the righteous – Matthew 25:31-34.**
4. **To punish the unrighteous – Matthew 25:31-33, 41.**
5. **To destroy the world – II Peter 3:10.**
6. **To deliver the kingdom to the Father – I Cor. 15:24.**



Seek and ye shall find

Write true or false after each statement:

1. The Bible tells us exactly when Jesus is going to return _____
2. He will come when everyone is expecting Him. _____
3. Paul said that Christ's coming would be preceded by falling away _____
4. When Christ returns only a few will see Him. _____
5. He will come alone when He returns _____
6. The righteous will arise when Christ comes back, but the unrighteous will never arise from the grave _____
7. Christ will meet the faithful in the air _____
8. The earth will be burned up after Christ returns _____
9. Only the righteous will be present at the judgment _____
10. No one will receive a second chance _____

Read I Corinthians 15:20-28 and fill in the blanks:

1. All shall be made alive in _____.
2. After those in Christ arise at His coming, "Then cometh the _____."
3. Christ must reign until He has put all _____ under His feet.
4. The last enemy to be destroyed is _____.
5. After all things have been subdued, then the _____ also Himself will be subjected to God.

These five statements are things which will happen when or after Jesus returns. Put them in the order in which they will occur by writing "first," "second," "third," "fourth," and "fifth" in the blanks:

The dead and the living will be caught up in the clouds. _____

Christ will judge the nations. _____

Christ will descend. _____

Those caught up will meet the Lord in the air. _____

The dead in Christ will arise. _____

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Circle the letter representing the correct answer:

1. When the Son of man sits on the throne of His glory, before Him will be gathered: (a) all the righteous; (b) all nations; (c) all the bad people. a b c
2. He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the (a) goats; (b) cows; (c) horses. a b c
3. Those on His right hand will be rewarded with eternal life because they have fed, clothed and visited: (a) nobody; Christ's brethren; (c) those who helped them. a b c
4. Christ will tell those on the left hand to depart into: (a) eternal life; (b) annihilation; (c) everlasting fire. a b c
5. He will say that this place is prepared for: (a) the good people; (b) the atheists; (c) the devil and his angels. a b c

LESSON 29 – ANSWERS

Seek and ye shall find

Write true or false after each statement:

1. The Bible tells us exactly when Jesus is going to return False
2. He will come when everyone is expecting Him. False
3. Paul said that Christ's coming would be preceded by falling away True
4. When Christ returns only a few will see Him. False
5. He will come alone when He returns False
6. The righteous will arise when Christ comes back, but the unrighteous will never arise from the grave False
7. Christ will meet the faithful in the air True
8. The earth will be burned up after Christ returns True
9. Only the righteous will be present at the judgment False
10. No one will receive a second chance True

Read I Corinthians 15:20-28 and fill in the blanks:

1. All shall be made alive in Christ.
2. After those in Christ arise at His coming, "Then cometh the end."
3. Christ must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet.
4. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
5. After all things have been subdued, then the Son also Himself will be subjected to God.

These five statements are things which will happen when or after Jesus returns. Put them in the order in which they will occur by writing "first," "second," "third," "fourth," and "fifth" in the blanks:

The dead and the living will be caught up in the clouds.	<u>Third</u>
Christ will judge the nations.	<u>Fifth</u>
Christ will descend.	<u>First</u>
Those caught up will meet the Lord in the air.	<u>Fourth</u>
The dead in Christ will arise.	<u>Second</u>

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Circle the letter representing the correct answer:

1. When the Son of man sits on the throne of His glory, before Him will be gathered: (a) all the righteous; (b) all nations; (c) all the bad people. (b)
2. He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the (a) goats; (b) cows; (c) horses. (a)
3. Those on His right hand will be rewarded with eternal life because they have fed, clothed and visited: (a) nobody; Christ's brethren; (c) those who helped them. (b)
4. Christ will tell those on the left hand to depart into: (a) eternal life; (b) annihilation; (c) everlasting fire. (c)
5. He will say that this place is prepared for: (a) the good people; (b) the atheists; (c) the devil and his angels. (c)