

The Sure Word Bible Studies
Lesson 8

The Second Coming of Jesus

John 14:2,3 *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Jesus is coming back! Because of the immense importance of this event, Christ gave a warning of deception concerning His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:3 - 5 *"Now 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?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**"*

Verse 24 *"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to **deceive, if possible, even the elect.**"*

Deception will continue until the end. The Bible warns us -

II Timothy 4:3,4 *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*

Today we see many books written depicting the Second Coming of Christ and the events surrounding that great event. Though many of these books are best sellers, yet many of them are "fables" or "novels" and are not true to the biblical record.

Rather than reading novels, we should carefully examine all the texts in the Bible referring to the Second Coming to get it clear as to what the Bible really says about it.

There are three key points that the Bible makes clear -

First - The Second Coming of Christ will be literal.

Acts 1:9 - 11 *"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**"*

When Jesus went back to heaven after His resurrection, it was not a secret event that only those of faith could experience, but it was a literal and real event witnessed by all those who were there.

Second - Everyone will see Him.

Revelation 1:7 *"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him."*

Matthew 24:30 *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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."*

These texts are clear as they are written and there is no reason for them to be understood in some figurative manner.

Third - Everyone will hear Him

Matthew 24:30,31 *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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. And He will send His angels **with a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

I Corinthians 15:51 - 53 *"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For **the trumpet will sound**, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."*

I Thessalonians 4:15 - 17 *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven **with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

Note that all these accounts of the Second Coming of Jesus are very similar. There is mention of a trumpet sounding, the dead being raised and clouds.

The Bible says at the second coming of Christ the heavens will be rolled back as a scroll, so where do these clouds come from? The Bible tells us that too -

Psalms 104:3 *"He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind,"*

This verse tells us that the "clouds" are His "chariot." A chariot is a mode of travel. The "clouds" are representative of thousands of angels who accompany the Lord -

Psalms 68:17 *"The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place."* (KJV)

Matthew 25:31 *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory."*

The clouds are His chariot and His chariot is thousands of angels. This is saying that when Jesus returns He will be accompanied by thousands of glorious angels dressed in glowing white. At a distance they will appear as bright, glowing white clouds in the sky.

But many say He "comes as a thief?" Meaning He comes secretly. Let's examine those texts used to support this in their context -

Matthew 24:42 - 44 *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

In this passage the expression, "coming as a thief," clearly implies coming unexpectedly and not secretly.

I Thessalonians 5:2 - 5 *"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness."*

This passage tells us that as Christian believers that day should not come to us as a thief, that is, unexpectedly, we should know when it is near.

II Peter 3:10 *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."*

This passage makes it clear that His coming, rather than being secret, will be a catastrophic event; It will not be secret, the entire world will be aware of it. Note the following texts that make support this -

Psalms 50:3 *"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him."*

Isaiah 13:9 - 11 *"Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."*

What causes all the devastation and calamity when Christ returns to this world?

In the past when God visited our planet, He usually came veiled in the flesh because as the Lord told Moses, *"no man can see my face (that is, stand in His literal presence) and live"* (Exodus 33:20). But note how the literal, physical presence of God is described in the Bible as "fire" –

Exodus 24:16,17 *"Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel."*

Hebrews 12:29 *“For our “fire” God is a consuming fire.”*

The that is seen accompanying God’s literal presence is different from fire as we know it that burns fuels such as wood and gasoline. The fire that surrounds the presence of God is something we have never seen or can explain exactly what it is.

The Prophet Isaiah asked the question – Who can live in this “devouring fire”?

Isaiah 33:14 *“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath seized the hypocrites: Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”*

This question is answered in the next verse –

Verse 15 *“He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:”*

Since only the righteous can live in the presence of the “consuming fire,” the literal presence of God, the Bible tells us that the believer will be changed when Jesus Comes -

I Corinthians 15:52,53 *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

The righteous are “changed” at His coming and are thus able to live in the literal presence of God as they are taken to heaven. But what will happen to those “left behind”?

Since “no man (in his corrupt, sinful condition) can see God and live,” they will be destroyed by the presence of the “consuming

fire,” that is by the “*brightness of His coming*” (II Thessalonians 2:8).

Jesus will not come veiled in the flesh when He comes the next time, but in power and great glory – a consuming fire! But, this will not be a willful act of vengeful retaliation, but simply the consequence of His coming in unveiled power and glory!

II Thessalonians 2:8 *"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."*

The Second Coming as described in the book of Revelation –

Revelation 19:11 - 15 *"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

The "armies in heaven" and the "clouds" are holy angels who accompany the Lord at His return as we discussed earlier (Matthew 25:31). But notice the wording, "He treads the winepress," "He strikes the nations", and "rule with a rod of iron." These terms are taken from the Old Testament, with each one denoting destruction. The following are examples -

Psalms 2:7 - 9 *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall **break them with a rod of iron**; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "*

Isaiah 11:4 *"But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; **He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.**"*

These texts imply Christ is ruling over the act of destruction, not ruling over people as a king over a nation.

Lamentations 1:15 *"The Lord has trampled underfoot all my mighty men in my midst; He has called an assembly against me To crush my young men; **The Lord trampled as in a winepress The virgin daughter of Judah.**"*

Treading the winepress and crushing the grapes, are a metaphor for destruction. Revelation chapter 19 confirms what happens to those "left behind."

Revelation 19:16 - 21 *"And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. **And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**"*

In this passage the "rest" are those who are "left behind" at the Second Coming. Clearly they are destroyed, they are not left and

given another chance to repent, they become food for the vultures. Jesus spoke of this -

Luke 17:26 - 37 *"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left." And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."*

The “eagles” are vultures or other birds of prey. That can be seen in the book of Job.

Job 39:27-30 *"Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high? On the rocks it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold. From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar. Its young ones suck up blood; And **where the slain are, there it is.**"*

God shows the prophet Jeremiah visions of the devastation that takes place at the coming of the Lord -

Jeremiah 25:30 - 33 *"Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily*

against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise will come to the ends of the earth-- For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD." Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground."

Jeremiah 4:23 - 28 *"I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger. For thus says the LORD: "The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it."*

Clearly this is a picture of total devastation upon the earth as result of the “*coming of the Lord.*” The earth will be “*broken down,*” the wicked will be “*slain by the brightness of His coming,*” and the righteous will be gathered by the angels and taken to heaven as Christ promised. “*If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that ye may be where I am.*”

It is critical for those living in the end times to know Jesus and the manner of His return because before the actual coming of Christ – there will be a great counterfeit.

Matthew 24:24 *"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."*

The Bible tells us Satan will be transformed into an angel of light -

II Corinthians 11:14 *"And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."*

And the Bible tells us there will be two "comings" -

II Thessalonians 2:8,9 *"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His (Christ) coming. The coming of the lawless one (the Anti-Christ, Satan posing as Christ) is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,"*

Verse 8 is referring to the coming of the Lord and verse 9 is referring to the coming of Satan claiming to be Christ. Satan will come as the final and original "anti-Christ," the evil one who wants to be worshipped as God.

II Thessalonians 2:3,4 *"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."*

One day soon Satan will come claiming to be Christ himself, performing great miracles and with great demonstrations of power which will deceive the whole world. There is only one way we can be safe from this great deception in the last day. Read the words of Jesus in the gospel of John -

John 17:3 *"And this is eternal life, **that they may know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

We must "know" God as seen in Christ – we must know the truth about God from personal experience and personal study. The key will be understanding God's great character of love. Satan cannot

counterfeit that! God is not what his enemies have made him out to be! God is like Jesus! Jesus came to show us that! And only when we know the original, can we easily spot the counterfeit!

There will be signs of Christ's coming that indicate it is near, "*even at the doors*" but Jesus also said: "*But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*"

Though we cannot know the day and hour, we can know when it is near, and in what manner Christ will come. Jesus told His people - "*Watch therefore: for you do not know what your Lord is coming.*" (Matthew 24:42)

The key word here is "*watch.*" In the original Greek it means a "state of readiness." That means that everyday we should be doing those things that get us ready.

Those things that get us ready are Bible study, prayer, opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit that He may help us in overcoming our sin and selfishness. This normally leads to being involved in Christian witness and service, being actively involved in the body of Christ, the Church.

The Church we attend and serve should be selected with great care. The Bible says that God's Church is "*The pillar and foundation of truth*" (I Timothy 3:15). Therefore we should be careful that the church we attend and support is teaching and proclaiming truth and not fables and speculation.

Response questions:

1. It is clear to me that the Second Coming of Jesus will be –
- a. literal
 - b. audible
 - c. visible
- Yes ___ No ___

