

# JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is going to return some time in the future. It reminds us that history is moving towards a conclusion. This great event affects all of us, when it happens everyone will know about it. Christ is coming as a judge, and we must all appear before Him. James Durham explains what this means for us all.

## 1. CHRIST'S COMING IS CERTAIN

(a) It will be visible: "every eye shall see him, even they that pierced him" (Revelation 1:7). "They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 24:30). The godly shall see Him, being caught up into the clouds to meet Him; and the wicked shall see Him, and not get a hiding-place or shelter.

(b) It will be exceedingly glorious and powerful. "The Son of Man shall come in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30, 31). "He shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, and shall sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). "He shall come in the glory of his Father" (Matthew 16:27).

And this is so certain, that it was known from the beginning. Enoch prophesied, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints" (Jude 1:14); so that this is not a new, but an old truth.

(c) It will be most dreadful. "All the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him" (Revelation 1:7). They shall cry to the hills, "Fall upon us" and to the mountains, "Cover us, for great is the day of his wrath, and who shall be able to stand?" (as it is at the end of Revelation 6).

## **2. CHRIST'S COMING IS FOR JUDGMENT**

### **(a) He will Judge His Enemies**

All His enemies will be made His footstool so that He may stand last on the earth. "To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:15). To take "vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

### **(b) He Will Fulfil His Promises**

He will come to fulfil His promises to the godly, "I go to prepare a place for you, and will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also. And I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you" (John 14:3, 18). And "I will see you again, and your hearts shall rejoice" (John 16:22). He has joined His coming again with the closing of all their misery; therefore it is called "the day of refreshing" and "the times of the restitution of all things" (Acts 3:19,21), and "the redemption of the body" (Romans 8:23).

### **(c) He will Expose Many Things**

He comes to make clear many things that before were not. He comes to clear the godly from many reproaches and imputations against them; he makes it clear that those who have slandered them are liars. He exposes hypocrites, "there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed, nor hid, that shall not be known" (Matthew 10:26). And "every one shall be judged according to their works" (Revelation 20:12). And "he that confesseth him before men, he will confess him before his Father; and whoso denieth him now, will be denied of him then" (Matthew 10:32). Things are in suspense here, and often judgment is not passed according to righteousness; therefore the Lord will have wrong sentences quashed and matters discussed, and all smears wiped off His people.

## **3. CHRIST'S COMING IS SOLEMN**

(a) Fear will take hold of unbelievers and false believers, they shall all wail because of His coming and would shun it if they could. The Scripture is full concerning this. Darkness and anguish shall be upon the earth, perplexity, men's hearts failing them for fear, paleness on all faces, shaking on all loins etc. (Isaiah 8:22; Isaiah 22:5; Luke 21:26; Jeremiah 30:6; cf. Psalm 69:23).

(b) The consummation of all things will take place: "the heavens and earth fled away (Revelation 20:11). "The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the works therein shall be burnt up" (2 Peter 3:10).

(c) Judgment will take place with the setting up of thrones, and calling and assembling all before Him, and sentencing all. The setting up of the judgment is a proof of the coming of the Judge. 4. The sentence will be pronounced. He will call the godly to enter into their Master's joy, and dismiss unbelievers that never accepted His offer, nor made peace with Him, into everlasting fire of hell, as in Matthew 25:30.

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#### **4. CHRIST'S COMING IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY OUR CONSCIENCE**

The consciences of all give their general consent to this truth together with the fears that will overtake wicked people sometimes through fears of this judgment, which they cannot smother. It is said that the gentiles' consciences accuse them when they commit sin "their conscience accusing and excusing one another"- which is spoken with respect to judgment (Romans 2:15). The conscience will say to the man, this and that you must give account for. And in this respect: our Lord Jesus has "not left Himself without a witness;" as the apostle speaks (Acts 14:17).

#### **5. CHRIST'S COMING REPROVES UNBELIEF**

If Christ is coming quickly to judgment, what does this say to most people who do not believe it or else are not thinking about appearing before Him? There have been and are those of whom the apostle speaks, "In the last days shall be mockers, saying, Where is the promise of his coming" (2 Peter 3:3-4)? And the Scriptures has not foretold this for nothing. Are there not many in our day, whose behaviour, if we compare it with the Word of God, will be found among these mockers, and such as do not believe this truth? There are three ways in which this is the case.

##### **(a) Little fear and awe**

The little fear and awe of God that is generally amongst people, the little concern they have about the judgment, the little spiritual affection in the peace they claim to have and the little striving against known sin reveals unbelief. "The wickedness of the wicked saith within my heart, there is no fear of God before their eyes" (see Psalm 36:1) and likewise the conduct of most people says that they have no belief in the judgment. When they are in dire straits in a storm, sickness or some sudden thing happens thoughts of judgment will rise but they quickly vanish. So that most are saying either, "He will not come", or "He will not come quickly", and therefore they take a liberty.

##### **(b) Little preparation**

The little preparation that is made for His coming indicates unbelief. If you believed He is coming, and for such purposes as you have read you would be making ready for it. If you had a letter from a great man, that he was coming to your house, you would prepare for him. Yet though you have Christ's letter that He is coming, but you do not prepare for Him. This says that you believe a man, but not Christ. And I would ask you, if the cry was heard this night, "The Lord comes", what attitude would you be found in? Many of you would be found napping, many in their sin, many settled on their lees (cf. Zephaniah 1:12), and would be shocked, which says that you do not believe His coming, or else that it will not be quickly.

### **(c) Great addictedness to the things of the world**

People take little notice of 1 Corinthians 7:29, “This I say, brethren, the time is short. It remains, that they that have wives, be as though they had none; they that use this world, as not abusing it?” This language would be more in our hearts, and mortification (the work of putting sin to death) would be more advanced, if Christ’s coming and coming quickly were believed. But this addictedness to the world, like that man in Luke 12, this building, and buying, and eager pursuit after these things, says that people do not have a mind to leave them.

From this you would consider: (i) That belief in this is rarer than we take it; (ii) that Christ will not only come, but also quickly, and therefore you should be in readiness to go out and meet him whenever the cry is heard (cf. Matthew 25:6).

## **6. CHRIST’S COMING REPROVES COMPLACENCY**

Believers themselves just like most people who profess to be Christians are reproved by this too. Their conduct and disposition are not suitable for His coming and they are making ready for it so little. Is it suitable for our Lord’s coming if we are unclear in our condition as to whether we have made our peace with Him or not? Is it not unsuitable that we should be fixing ourselves as if this were our rest, not longing or praying for His coming? Is it not unsuitable to have to make our acquaintance with Him at that day? If we have not done that here it will not be done then. It is unsuitable in relation to His coming to be unacquainted with the condition of our hear. If we believe in His coming and our hope is in it as our happiness and have the promise of it we should not be without the joy of it. Neither should we fail to use it as a help to put sin to death and use it spiritually in many other ways. Certainly, our guilt will be greater if we are not considering it.

**If Christ is coming quickly to judgment, what does this say to most people who do not believe it or else are not thinking about appearing before Him?**

## **7. CHRIST’S COMING REQUIRES PREPARATION**

### **(a) Make Your Peace With Him**

Endeavour to have your peace made with God through Christ (Philippians 3:9). The first and great thing is that you may “be found in him” when Christ comes. This is what Peter calls, “to be found of him in peace” (2 Peter 3:14). To be hid with a hill or mountain (Revelation 6:16) will not do it. Your works and endeavours will be to no avail if this settlement is not made. This is what is in the offer, “Whosoever will, let him come, and take of the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17). And “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1). We exhort you not to let this offer pass, but to

yield to it and receive it.

### **(b) Be Sure Your Peace Has Been Made**

“Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). Know that your faith and hope are well grounded so that your confidence is such as will not make you ashamed. Any who are not endeavouring this are not in right posture for Christ’s coming. It is peace with God and clarity in relation to that which will give peace and boldness when the Bridegroom’s voice is heard. It is such who know that He is not a stranger but a friend. This makes the difference between some who in that day will lift up their heads with joy and others that will wail because of Him. They will find that their confidence is rooted out and their hope blown apart because they only had an opinion of their claim and no good grounds for it. Try how it is with you and seek to have all things in readiness to the Lord in all your conduct and the testimony of a good conscience arising from a tender respect for God’s commandments.

### **(c) Be Watchful**

Seek to have a watchful spirit, including all the duties of holiness. “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning” (Luke 12:35). Do not live complacently, but be vigilant and sober. Have your affections in heaven and denied more to the world. People will never be spiritual nor in the right posture for Christ’s coming till their loins are girded and they are denied to earthly ambitions and till their lamps are burning. You must not only have grace but grace in action. The wise were at fault in sleeping when the cry was heard, “the Bridegroom cometh” (Matthew 25:6). Keep faith active, hope lively, love warm, humility exercised and patience having its perfect work.

The following are the three duties that include everything required from a Christian in relation to Christ’s coming: (i) To be in Christ, (ii) To be clear you are in Him and (iii) To be in a watchful frame of mind. This frame and posture will bring boldness and joy at His appearing to those that have it.

**“Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)**