

LESSON #39

"CHRIST IS COMING FOR HIS CHURCH"

TEXTS: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; II Thessalonians 1:7-9

INTRODUCTION:

Thru the centuries, these words (**I WILL COME AGAIN**) have dispelled the darkness of fear, and brought hope to millions. This is one of the most important and exciting subjects in the Bible the second coming of Christ.

In the four accounts of the Gospel, Jesus is quoted as speaking of His second coming more than 30 time), and in the New Testament it is referred to almost 200 times. The apostles and other New Testament writers spoke of Christ's coming so much that some in the early church got the mistaken notion that His coming was to be imminent.

Down through the centuries numerous individuals and religious sects have gotten so "wrought up" about the second coming, they have set dates when it would occur.

1. The forerunner of the Seventh Day Adventist, William Miller, set a date in 1843 that the return would be in 1844.
2. Everything was going as said. The year came, the month, the week, the day, and hour. ALL BUT JESUS CAME.
3. He claimed he made a one-year error in his calculations.
4. The following year, ALL BUT JESUS CAME.

LET'S GO TO THE BIBLE AND SET FORTH AS CLEARLY AND AS SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT IS WRITTEN IN RELATION TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

(Chart)

1. WHY IS CHIRST COMING AGAIN?

A. To gather His faithful followers unto Himself, to take them with Him to that eternal home (John 14:1-3).

I Peter 1:4 - place reserved in heaven.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - gathering together unto Christ.

B. The purpose of Christ's coming is actually three-fold:

1. To raise the dead --- all the dead --- righteous and wicked.
2. To hold a final judgment --- when all will give account.
3. To gather all of the redeemed --- of the ages unto Himself.

II. WHAT WILL BE THE MANNER OF HIS COMING?

A. Jesus says that conditions will be much the same as in the days of Noah. Matthew 24:37-39

I Thessalonians 4:15

II Thessalonians 1:8

II Peter 3:10

III. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

A. Hebrews 9:27

B. Acts 17:30, 31

C. Acts 24:24, 25

D. Matthew 25:32-46

E. Revelation 20:11-15

IV. WHAT LIES BEYOND?

Heaven or hell --- the choice is ours.