

## “The Second Coming of Christ”

### Class 20

#### (Basic Christianity)

Introduction and Scope of Tonight’s Topic: The intent of tonight’s talk is to present the subject of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as a historical and redemptive future event culminating God’s promise in His covenant redemption. And, we will seek to present this topic as foundational to the Christian faith. In doing this, we will try to focus on the certainties of the Second Coming of Christ, rather than to speculate on the uncertain matters about which the Scripture does not speak, or speaks more generally. Our view on the biblical teaching concerning the Second Coming of Christ may be summarized as follows: **Jesus Christ is the exalted Lord, ascended in authority back to heaven, and is promised to come again to fulfill God’s promise in His saving gospel; Christ’s second coming puts away evil, reconstitutes fallen creation, and completes salvation through the resurrection leading into eternity. Though many details concerning what happens just prior to the Second Coming remain speculative, the Bible is clear and authoritative in proclaiming that Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will come back again at the right time to finish the application of His victory and complete the saving work of God for all time.**

The Second Coming of Christ and the Exaltation and Authority of Christ (Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:36; Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:17-19)

1. The Second Coming of Christ applies the Lordship of Christ in eschatological terms.
2. The Second Coming of Christ presents Christ’s authority to the entire world.
3. The Second Coming of Christ is a victorious event and a saving event.
4. The Second Coming of Christ is an unprecedented event.
5. The Second Coming of Christ ushers in the completion of the kingdom.

The Second Coming of Christ and the Salvation of the Sinner

1. The Second Coming of Christ and the resurrection/transmutation (Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
2. The Second Coming of Christ and the finished saving work of Christ in believers (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Jude 24)
3. The Second Coming of Christ and the Christian’s eternal home (Psalm 23:6; John 14:1-3; Philippians 1:23; 3:20; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Matthew 6:20; 2 Timothy 4:18)

The Second Coming of Christ and the Re-constituting of Creation (2 Peter 3:10, 13; Revelation 21:1)

1. The Second Coming of Christ reverses the curse on material reality.
2. The Second Coming of Christ establishes a new heaven and a new earth.
3. The Second Coming of Christ dispenses with the fallen creation.

The Second Coming of Christ and the Glory of God (Acts 1:11; Philippians 2:9-11)

1. Jesus will come back in the clouds of God’s glory.
2. Jesus will come back with power and authority.
3. Every eye will see Him when He comes back.
4. Every tongue will confess Him as Lord, and every knee will bow before Him as Lord.

Summary: The Second Coming of Christ and the Christian’s Hope (Titus 2:13)

1. The Second Coming is the believer’s hope for bodily salvation.

2. The Second Coming is the believer's hope for historical salvation.
3. The Second Coming is the believer's hope for eternal holy joy and love.

Clarifications: Affirmations and Denials concerning the Second Coming of Christ

1. **We affirm** that the Second Coming of Christ is real, material, and historical. **We deny** that Christ's resurrection, exaltation, mediatorial reign, and second coming are spiritual in nature only. These are real historical events applying the victory of Christ and accomplishing God's holy redemptive will.
2. **We affirm** that the Second Coming of Christ is the hope of the world, whereby God's saving plan and work is fulfilled in the fullest extent at the end of human history for the glory of God and the completed victory of Christ. **We deny** that there is any other hope in human experience, event, or organization other than the hope we have in the complete victory of Christ. **We deny** that although God works mightily and redemptively in human history in revival and great spiritual awakenings, it is the Second Coming of Christ that will finally at last put all things right.
3. **We affirm** that Christians should live in alertness and preparedness for the Second Coming of Christ. **We deny** that any Christian or church is able to establish the exact time of Christ's return. (1 Peter 1:13)
4. **We affirm** that Christians should be busy for the Lord and the Lord's work while waiting for Christ's return. **We deny** that Christians can hasten the Lord's return by anything we can do. (Luke 12:11-27; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 16:15)

Scriptural Certainties concerning the Second Coming of Christ

1. The Second Coming of Christ will be:
  - 1) Sudden and Unexpected (Matthew 24:44; 2 Peter 3:10)
  - 2) Soon (James 5:8; Revelation 22:20, joyful)
  - 3) Personal (John 14:3)
  - 4) Visibly, Bodily, and Gloriously (Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7)
  - 5) Victoriously (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
  - 6) Redemptive (Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2)
2. Christians waiting for the Second Coming:
  - 1) Christians should live in the joyful and alert waiting for the Second Coming of Christ (Titus 2:12-13; Maranatha 1 Corinthians 16:22).
  - 2) Christians belong to heaven and long to go there, seeing our eternal joy as central to the Second Coming of Christ (Philippians 3:20).
  - 3) Christians do not know the time of Christ's return (Matthew 24:44; 25:13; Mark 13:32-33; Luke 12:40)
3. The clear consequences of the Second Coming taught in the Bible:
  - 1) Judgment of unbelievers
  - 2) Dispensing with Satan, demons, and evil (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
  - 3) Completion of salvation experience in the resurrection and glorification
  - 4) Establishment of new heavens and new earth
  - 5) The consummation of God's kingdom and glory forever

4. Points of disagreement among Christians – all are SECONDARY!
  - 1) Details leading up to the Second Coming
  - 2) Tribulation
  - 3) Millenium
  - 4) The Rapture

Note: Interpreting Apocalyptic and Prophetic Scriptures

1. These are the most difficult passages to interpret, because...
2. There are clear and certain aspects to the gospel message contained in these passages; focus should be given to the clear and certain aspects.
3. Reminder: Just because something is clear to you doesn't mean that the Bible clearly speaks on this; you might have misinterpreted.
4. Difficulty of interpreting the phrase, "The Day of the Lord"
5. Difficulty of interpreting the issue of "kingdom of God"
6. Difficulty of interpreting the historical characteristics of the moment of Christ's return