

Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 22

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING



It had been an unforgettable event in the lives of Christ's disciples. They had just witnessed His betrayal and sacrifice upon the cross. Alone and friendless, the Saviour was condemned to die for sins which He did not commit. As the disciples beheld Him bleeding and bruised, their hearts sank at His apparent defeat. Without Jesus, life was worthless and uncertain. Yet never had they loved their Saviour as they did at that moment.

Uncertainty and doubt filled the disciples' minds as they reflected upon the crucifixion. How quickly they had forgotten the words of Christ when He said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again" (John 14:1-3). Then, just as He had promised, He arose the third day after his sacrifice, and walked and spoke with his disciples. After forty days He was literally taken up to heaven in a cloud, with the heavenly angels. As He ascended heavenward, the disciples were given the promise that in the same manner as He ascended, He would come again to take His children home with Him. Acts 1:9-11

A. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

1. **What was Jesus' first response when asked for a sign of His Second Coming? Matthew 24:3-5; 24:23-26**

2. **What did Christ say would happen on the earth before His return? Mark 13:24, 25; Joel 2:10-11**



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~ **NOTES** ~

NOTE: These physical signs have already been fulfilled in the earth; at the end of this lesson are details of the Lisbon earthquake, November 1, 1755; the Dark Day, May 19, 1780; and the falling of the stars, November 13, 1833.

3. **Will human nature improve toward the last days?**
2 Timothy 3:1-5

4. **Will mankind heed the prophecies of Christ's Second Coming?**
Matthew 24:37-39

5. **What will be men's attitude toward the prophecies of Christ's Second Coming?** **2 Peter 3:3-4**

6. **When shall knowledge be increased?** **Daniel 12:4**

7. **What should we believe when told that Christ has appeared on earth?** **Matthew 24:23-26**

B. THE DAY OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

8. **What is not revealed about Christ's Second Coming?**

Lisbon Earthquake: "Probably the most famous of all earthquakes is that which destroyed Lisbon on November 1, 1755. There were three great earthquakes (the first was the largest) at 9:40 A.M., 10:00 A.M., and at noon. The main shock lasted six to seven minutes, an unusually long duration. Within six minutes at least 30,000 people were killed, all large public buildings and 12,000 dwellings were demolished. It was a church day, and great loss of life occurred in the churches. A fire followed, which burned for six days. A marble quay at the riverside disappeared into the river bottom, laden with people. Alexander von Humboldt stated that the total area shaken was four times that of Europe. Charles Davison concluded that the great damage in places as far apart as Lisbon, Fez (Morocco) and Algiers indicates more than one source.... In Africa, Fez and Meknes were badly damaged, and even in Algiers, 700 miles east, damage was reported. Portions of the coastal cliffs near Lisbon fell into the sea, and there were landslides and cracks throughout the mountains." Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 7, 848

The Dark Day: "Dark Day, The. May 19, 1780--so called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day extending over all New England. In some places, persons could not see to read common print in the open air for several hours together. Birds sang their evening songs, disappeared, and became silent; fowls went to roost; cattle sought the barnyard; and candles were lighted in the houses. The obscuration began about ten o'clock in the morning, and continued till the middle of the next night, but with differences of degree and duration in different places.... The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known." Webster's An American Dictionary of the English Language, 1869 edition

The Falling of the Stars: "The morning of November 13, 1833, was rendered memorable by an exhibition of the phenomenon called shooting stars, which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any similar one hitherto recorded.... Probably no celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with so much admiration and delight by one class of spectators, or with so much astonishment and fear by another class." American Journal of Science and Arts, Vol. 25, 1834.

Matthew 25:13

9. Who alone knows the day and hour of Christ's Second Coming? Matthew 24:36

NOTE: Men may speculate as to when Christ will come again, but it is only God Himself who knows the exact time.

C. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

10. How many will see Christ when He returns? Revelation 1:7

NOTE: All who are living when Christ comes again, universally and at the same time, will see Him come in the clouds of glory. Included among those who will see Christ are those who were directly responsible for His crucifixion: "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth.. awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2

11. Will Jesus' Second Coming be secret, as some say? Matthew 24:27

12. In what shall the Son of man come? Matthew 24:30

13. How does the Psalmist describe the Second Coming? Psalm 50:3

14. How is Jesus attended at His Second Coming? Matthew 16:27

**15. What sound accompanies the Second Coming?
I Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 24:31**

NOTE: The Second Coming of Christ is visible and audible. There is nothing secret about His coming, for every eye shall see Him; every ear shall hear the voice of God and the trumpet sound, even the righteous ones sleeping in their graves; for this is the time that all the righteous come forth to meet their Lord.

16. Where will the righteous meet the Lord? I Thessalonians 4:17

NOTE: Contrary to what many believe, Christ will not set foot upon the earth when He comes the second time. The Word of God tells us that He will meet the redeemed in the air. After this meeting they will ascend with Him to the heavenly home.

**D. CHARACTERISTICS AND REWARD OF THE
RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

17. What determines the reward we receive at Christ's Second Coming? Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10

NOTE: After the judgment is completed for all mankind, Christ will come again and reward every man according to his work.

**18. What will be the final reward of those who choose to live in sin?
Romans 6:23**

19. Why will the wicked perish? 2 Thessalonians 2:10

**20. When will the righteous dead be raised to receive everlasting life?
John 6:40**

21. Who is it that will inherit all things? Revelation 21:7

NOTE: We can overcome fully, and entirely, through the power of Jesus in our lives by faith. His perfect life makes it possible for us to overcome every sin and temptation, and sit down at last with Him in the heavenly home. This is the reward of the righteous.

SUMMARY

God's promise is sure. Soon Christ will come again to take His redeemed home with Him. He has said He will come from the east, with a great shout, which will wake the righteous dead, and every eye will see Him as He comes in the clouds of glory as "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." The wicked will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming, and the righteous will be caught up in the air to meet their Saviour. Praise to the Lord will be upon the hearts and lips of all the saints, as the memories of pain and anguish are swallowed up in the presence of Jesus.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today, realizing the soon coming of Christ, I fully surrender my heart to Him, and ask Him for an opportunity to share this message.

Signed: _____