



The Second Coming of Christ

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Introduction:

I have felt very strongly that I needed to be sharing with you along the lines of Christ's coming back. Jesus has promised to come back and there are many indicators from scripture that His coming is drawing closer. We are living in days when it seems as though prophecies about the signs of Christ's coming are increasing.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the promise of His coming, the preparation for His coming, and the purpose of His coming.

This morning we want to specifically look at the promise of His coming. I'm reading from John 14:1-3

TEXT: [John 14:1-3](#)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

I. I will come back

Jesus' coming back is certain. The promises of God are true and they are unfailing. We should have confidence when we look at the prophecies that came to pass about Christ's first coming, that He will fulfill the prophecies that have been made about His second coming.

When I was a child I used to enjoy going to Grandma and Grandpa's house. When it came time for us to leave, I never wanted to go. I know Grandma and Grandpa were always happy for us to come, but they were happy when we went home as well. To get me to go home, Grandma would often have to say, "If you don't leave and go home, you can't come back." It seemed to always work.

Jesus left this promise that he would come again. He urges us to trust Him in the time He is gone.

It would be easy to feel that we have been abandoned. In 2 Peter 3:4 we read that time will pass and people will say...."Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

Biblical prophecy provides some of the greatest encouragement and hope available to us today. Just as the Old Testament is saturated with prophecies concerning Christ's first advent, so both testaments are filled with references to the second coming of Christ. One scholar has estimated that there are 1,845 references to Christ's second coming in the Old Testament, where 17 books give it prominence. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, there are 318 references to the second advent of Christ - an amazing 1 out of every 30 verses. Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event. For every prophecy in the Bible concerning Christ's first advent, there are 8 which look forward to His second! *Today in the Word, April, 1989, p. 27.*

D.L. Moody once said, "I never preach a sermon without thinking that possibly the Lord may come before I preach another."

Here are some of the signs that help us be aware His coming is drawing near.

- There are the signs with the nation of Israel and the events that are happening in the Middle East. If you study prophecy, you will understand that there will be a peace treaty eventually that will be made in the Middle East. This treaty will come about by a man called the Anti-Christ who will be a world leader that will be empowered by Satan himself.
- There are signs in the heavens. I believe that our weather which has dramatically changed over the past 2 decades, is another sign that Christ's coming is getting closer. We see violent storms, like the tornadoes that went through Oklahoma and Missouri recently. We see storms like hit the Northeast this winter with heavy snows and bitter cold.
- There are the signs of famine. We hear of those who are dying of starvation in Somalia, and we see the effects of drought around the world because of changes in weather patterns.
- There are the signs of war. We in America are currently fighting two wars. We are fighting the war on terrorism, and we are fighting in Iraq. There are wars and rumors of wars. We hear about China arming itself with nuclear weapons. Nations go about preparing to protect themselves and their citizens.
- There are signs of pestilence. The definition of pestilence is disease that destroys. Cancer, aids, SARS, mad cow disease, West Nile Virus, chronic wasting disease, and on and on.
- There are signs of drunkenness and drug addiction which plague our society. Statistics prove that younger and younger children are drinking and taking drugs.
- There are signs of earthquakes. These come in various places, even here in America.

So as the number and intensity of these things happening increase, we have to be aware more and more that Christ's coming is getting closer.

II. I will take you to be with me.

In I Thes 4:13-18 we read about the coming of Christ.

I Thes. 4:13-18

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

When Christ comes back, He is going to take us to be with Him.

There is something about being close to the one you love. There have been a few times through the years when Julie and I have had to be separated because of travel or ministry. At those times, it has been difficult to wait for her to come back to be with me. There was a longing, a desire, to be near her, to see her, to hold her, to hear her voice.

I believe that is the way Christ feels toward us as His church. He longs for us to be with Him, not to be separated by a veil of flesh.

The last verse of How Great Thou Art says this:

"When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art."

It's going to happen and some day very soon. It's going to be quick when it happens and we are going to go HOME! Remember beloved, HOME is where the heart is. This earth is temporary, it is not our final place of residence; we are just passing through here.

There are so many parallels to the Jewish wedding and what we see between Christ and the church. Here are some of them:

- 1) *The match is done by the Father of the groom.*
- 2) *An agent can be used and the desire of the groom is considered*
- 3) *The bride gives her consent.*

- 1) Christ acted at the initiative of the Father, John 5:30
- 2) The Holy Spirit acts as agent of Father in the world today, ICor. 2:10; Gal. 4:6
- 3) Christ chose His disciples, John 15:16.

The Bride Price was required by law in a Jewish wedding. It was paid by the father of the groom and reflects the value of the bride.

Our price was the life of the Son

- 1) The price was required by the Law, Rom. 8:3, 4
- 2) The price was paid, as required, I Cor. 6:20, 1 Pet 1:18
- 3) The value placed on the bride was high, John 3:1

Love gifts were given by the groom to the bride. These gifts were not required but were an expression of love.

Believers are given gifts by the Lord out of love:

- 1) Eternal Life, John 10:22-28.
- 2) Anything, John 14:13-14
- 3) Peace, John 14:27

Dowry given to the bride by her father to equip her for her new life, and this became part of her inheritance.

Believers are given gifts by the Father to equip them for their new life:

- 1) The Holy Spirit, John 14:16, 17
- 2) Spiritual Gifts, 2 Cor. 1:21-22

The Marriage Contract was a written document stating the rights of the bride, and the promises of the groom.

Our written contract stating the rights of the Bride and the promises of the Groom is the New Testament, 2 Cor. 3:5-6, Heb. 8:6

The Betrothal was sealed with the "cup of acceptance". This spoke of purification, undistracted devotion, anticipation.

- 1) Cup of the New Covenant, Matt. 26:27-29
- 2) Christ goes to prepare a place for us, John 14:1-3
- 3) We are "set apart", 2 Cor. 11:2, 1 Pet 15:1
- 4) Purified by "washing". I Cor. 6:11
- 5) We are not to be distracted by:
False Teachers, 2 John 7-11
Worldly Things, 1 John 2:15
- 6) We anticipate Christ's return, Matt. 24:42-44

Nuptials

- 1) Only the Father knows when the Son will return, Matt. 13:32
- 2) We do not know when He will return Mark 1-3:32
- 3) We will be "abducted," I Thess. 4:16-18, Luke 17:34-36
- 4) We will be crowned, 1 Pet 5:4, James 1:12. 2 Tim. 4:8
- 5) He will be crowned, Rev. 14:14
- 6) We will take part in the marriage feast of the Lamb, Rev. 19:6-9
- 7) We will dwell forever with the Groom in happiness, I Thess. 4:17, Rev. 2 1:3

We respond to Christ's love and accept Him (1 Pet. 1:8.) This is the promise of the bridegroom to the bride. In Jewish tradition, the Groom's father decides when the Son may return for the bride. The arrival of the groom was unexpected. The bride was abducted by the groom. She was finely dressed and crowned. There was a marriage feast, and the bride and Groom dwell together in happiness at the home of the Groom's father.

Christ, as the Bridegroom, is coming back for His bride. He longs for us to be with Him in the place He has been preparing in Heaven.

He will come and take us out of this realm that has been cursed by sin. I cannot image the beauty and splendor and radiance, and holy place that will be.

III. That you also may be where I am.

In this promise we see Jesus heart toward those who love and accept Him. Jesus reaffirms the love He has for His followers in that He wants us to be with Him, where He is.

Jesus right now is in Heaven. He is at the right hand of the Father, and the Holy Spirit is there with Him also. Those who follow Him will end up eternally with Him.

CONCLUSION:

So we have the promise that Jesus will be back to take us to be with Him in His Father's house. Until He comes, we need to be busy about the task of sharing the good news with others, and keeping our hearts from fear.