



## Christ's Second Coming

*December 27, 2009*

*Pastor David Koch*

### **Introduction:**

We have come through another Advent – Christmas season. Some of you have yet to celebrate with family members in another city or state and you will do that within the next few days or week. We have focused on celebrating more with less this Christmas and this morning I want to tie everything together because the Advent season is truly a season in the Christian year when we prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's coming. However, it is not just celebrating His coming as the Son of God, as the Savior of the world, as the baby born in Bethlehem, but also it includes preparing to celebrate the coming of our Lord as King of Kings and the majestic Messiah.

Today, I want to share the culmination of my series with you. I want to share how Christ's second coming brings all the themes of Advent together. The themes of hope, joy, peace and our Savior come together in Jesus. **Revelation 22:12-14 (NLT)** "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life..."

### **I. Jesus is coming soon.**

Our text written by John from his vision and revelation looks to the future when Jesus will come back and take His followers to be with Him eternally in the place He has gone to prepare for them. These words penned by John should bring great hope and

joy to our hearts and incredible peace to our minds about the future. Jesus is coming again. He has not forgotten nor abandoned us. He will come to save and deliver us from this world that is cursed because of sin.

If we look back to Daniel and Isaiah who were Old Testament prophets, we read their prophecies of Jesus' first coming, but we also read their prophecies about His second coming. What would make anyone think that the prophecies about His second coming would go unfulfilled since the prophecies about His first coming all came to pass?

What a hope that should be to us. Even as the people of ancient Israel were hopeful of the coming of their Savior – Messiah, so we should be hopeful of the return of Christ as the mighty King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus Himself has promised it and it will come to pass.

The Apostle Paul also writes about the coming again of Jesus Christ. In his first letter to the believers in Thessalonica Paul writes these words: **1Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NLT) We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.** These words should further assure believers that we do have hope in Christ and the prophecies about His returning will be fulfilled.

Paul says, by Jesus' own words, the Lord will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. Obviously, this was something that Jesus Himself impressed on His disciples and Paul wanted everyone who read his letter to know that Jesus made this promise. When Jesus comes back, those who have died in Christ will be resurrected, and those who are still alive will be caught up together with those who have been resurrected to meet together with the Lord in the air. And so we will be forever with the Lord.

Paul goes on in His letter in chapter 5 and tells these believers that we don't know the date. We know

that the day of the Lord is going to come as a thief in the night. A thief comes silently, unexpectedly, quickly, not delaying. He does what he came to do and leaves. So that is exactly the way Jesus will come back, but he wants us to be ready, on guard, and not taken by surprise when it happens.

## **II. What signs are indications that He will come back soon?**

Listen to what the gospel of Matthew records that Jesus said about His coming again.

**Matthew 24:3-14 (NLT) Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?"**

Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

**Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

**And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come."**

Here are several indicators that the coming of Christ is close:

1. Increase of wars between nations and kingdoms
2. Increase of global hunger and famine
3. Increase of earthquakes in many parts of the world
4. Persecution will increase all over the world
5. False prophets deceiving many people

6. Sin will be rampant and unchecked
7. Love of many will grow cold
8. Good news about the Kingdom preached in all nations

Often before something happens, there are indications. When you have a string of mini Christmas lights and suddenly all the lights get really bright, it is an indication that they are going to soon burn out. When you get a light on your dash board saying check engine, you know something needs attention and you shouldn't ignore that light. It is a warning that something is about to happen.

There are warnings in life that something is about to happen and the Lord did not want His people in the dark about His coming back, so He said, "Here are some clues to encourage you so you know what it is coming. Don't lose heart."

No one knows the day or hour, so if someone tells you, "This is when Jesus will come back," direct them to scripture.

### III. How do we respond to this message?

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-12 (NLT) Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.**

**For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.**

**For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ**

**died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.**

Paul tells believers to be alert, self-controlled, sober, guarding heart and mind so as not to be deceived or caught off guard. It is possible that believers can live pure lives of holiness unto God where they are separated from sin. It is possible to be sober and self-controlled, so we are not deceived or caught off guard. It is possible for believers to please and serve God with their hearts, minds and strength. It is possible to live for God and let His light shine from your life.

It is also possible for believers to be deceived, for believers to doubt the validity of God's word, to put off obeying God. It is possible for believers to set other priorities above God and loving Him, thus putting themselves in a place of losing out with Christ and not being ready at His returning.

When Jesus comes back for His followers, it will be a magnificent, absolutely glorious moment. The thought of Christ's coming back should not only give us great hope, but it should flood our hearts with incredible joy and peace. For those who are not active in following Christ, there will be great distress, trials, and horrible events that will follow because God's word indicates that judgment will come to earth and to those who are left living here.

God's plan has always been to rescue us from sin and its consequences. However, God is just and He must punish sin, so those who don't look to Him in faith are going to be lost. Since no man knows the day nor the hour when Christ will return, it is critical that we live our lives ready, prepared and obeying His Word and Spirit so when He comes, we will go to be with Him.

Our faith needs to be active when He comes; believing, trusting His promises and the validity of His word. Our witnessing needs to be active when He comes. Our lives must be lived in such a way that people can tell we are followers of Jesus. We also have to seize the opportunities to share verbally as God gives us those opportunities. Remember

Jesus told His disciples after the Holy Spirit came on them they would be His witnesses.

We have to be obedient in following Him and doing His will when He comes. To those who He finds serving obediently He will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.” We must be pure when He comes. Keep yourself pure by staying in God’s word and keeping close to the Holy Spirit. Guard what you listen to, what you see, what you allow into your mind and heart.

### **Conclusion:**

Jesus is coming back again. We know that His coming is getting closer because of the signs that are happening all around us. The challenge to us is to live our lives in a way that we are ready whenever He comes back. Everyone who looks for Christ to return has a reason to live the kind of life that will please the Lord at His coming.

Could Jesus return at any time? Yes, He could. Be ready. If we truly are living our lives with the expectation of Christ’s return at any time, it should cause us to evaluate our lives and activities. **1 John 3:2-3 (NLT) Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.**