LESSON 22

Christ's Second Coming

Read: Matthew 24; 1 Thessalonians 4 &5; 2 Peter 3; Matthew 13:36-50

All throughout the New Testament, we read about the solemn and blessed truth that Jesus Christ will come again. Christ Himself frequently spoke about His second coming and so did the Apostles.

From what the Scriptures teach us, we may conclude that the event will be indescribably impressive. When He first came into this world it was in the remote little town of Bethlehem, but His second coming will be with unsurpassed majesty.

When Christ was here on earth men were able to reject and despise Him. Now that He has returned to heaven, sinful men may do the same or even worse. However, when He comes again it will not be possible to ignore the reality of the infinite grandeur of His Person.

A countless host of mighty angels will be His attendants. These angels are called mighty on account of their inconceivable strength. At Christ's return they will be sent to separate the righteous from the unrighteous. They will cast the wicked into hell and usher the godly into heaven.

See Matthew 13:49, 50.

The majesty of Christ's appearance will be greatly enhanced as He will be surrounded by "flaming fire".

See Daniel 7:9, 10.

The world on which we now live shall be on fire, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the entire earth shall burst forth in one vast worldwide blaze of fire.

See 2 Peter 3:10.

Human language cannot express and human imagination cannot conceive how fearful this scene will be. The Bible gives a fitting description of that day as 'the great and very terrible day of the Lord'.

See Joel 2:11.

1. Q. After Jesus ascended into heaven, what did the angels promise the disciples? (Acts 1:11)

   A. That Jesus would _ _ _ _ again in the same manner as they saw Him ascend into heaven.

2. Q. When will Jesus return from heaven?

   A. No one but God knows that _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ . (Matthew 24:36)

3. Q. How will Jesus come again?

   A. He will come “in the _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ _ , with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

4. Q. Will Jesus return alone? (Matthew 25:31)

   A. No, He will be accompanied by all _ _ _ holy _ _ _ _ _ _ .

5. Q. Will the return of Jesus be visible to all mankind?

   A. Yes it will be.

   “Behold, he cometh with clouds and every _ _ _ shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).

It is said that the return of Jesus Christ is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament. Truly, the return of Jesus Christ is the great hope and expectation of the Church. In the past, dates have often been set when Christ would return, but thus far always to the confusion of those who did so. Although no one but God knows when Jesus will return, God has given us certain signs by which we may know when His coming is near. Some of these signs display the grace of God. Other signs denote opposition to God. And again, other signs are tokens of divine judgment.

I. The Signs Which Will Precede Christ’s Return

1. Q. Before Jesus comes, what must Christians first do with the gospel? (Matthew 24:14)

   A. The gospel must be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in all the _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Q. Of what will there be a great increase before Christ comes? (Matthew 24:11)

   A. Many _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ shall arise.

3. Q. What shall they do? (Matthew 24:11)

   A. They shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

4. Q. What did Daniel write about the end of time? (Daniel 12:4)

   A. “ _ _ _ _ shall _ _ _ to and fro, and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ shall be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .”

5. Q. Which two names are given to “that wicked one” who will come before Jesus returns? (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

   A. “that _ _ _ of _ _ _ ” and “the _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .”

6. Q. How will he exalt himself? (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

   A. He will exalt himself above all “ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .”

7. Q. What will the Church experience before Christ returns? (Matthew 24:21a)

   A. A period of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

   ‘Tribulation’ means great distress or misery, as from oppression.

8. Q. What question did Jesus raise as to the religious conditions at that time? (Luke 18:8c)

   A. “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .”

II. The Manner of Christ's Return

1. Will Christ's return be sudden?
   (a) It will be "in such an _ _ _ _ as ye _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ " (Matthew 24:44).
   (b) That day will come as a " _ _ _ _ _ in the _ _ _ _ _ " (1 Thessalonians 5:2).
2. Q. Who will accompany Jesus at His sacred coming? (Matthew 16:27)
   A. All His _ _ _ _ _ _ will be present.
3. Q. In which three ways will His coming be announced? (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
   A. His coming will be announced by:
   (a) a _ _ _ _ _ or a loud command;
   (b) the voice of the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ;
   (c) the _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ .
   The word 'trump' means 'trumpet call'.

III. The Occurrences at Christ's Second Coming

1. What will happen to:
   (a) the sun? The sun shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (Matthew 24:29)
   (b) the moon? The moon shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (Matthew 24:29)
   (c) the stars? The stars shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (Matthew 24:29)
   (d) the heavens? The heavens shall _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ with a great _ _ _ _ _ . (2 Peter 3:10)
   (e) the earth? The earth shall be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (2 Peter 3:10)
2. Q. Why will the heavenly lights be no longer needed? (Revelation 22:5)
   A. "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ giveth them _ _ _ _ _ ."
3. When all the people of the earth will see Jesus, what will they do?
   (a) " _ _ _ _ _ " (Matthew 24:30)
   (b) " _ _ _ _ " (Revelation 1:7c).

4. Since no one knows the exact time of His return, what exhortation has the Lord given to us?

   (a) "Therefore be ye also _ _ _ _ _ : for in such an _ _ _ _ as ye think not the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ cometh" (Matthew 24:44a).

   (b) " _ _ _ _ _ ye _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ " (Luke 21:36a).

5. Q. What has the Lord promised to His people? (Matthew 10:22b)

   A. "He that _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to the _ _ _ shall be _ _ _ _ _ ."

The Old Testament contains numerous promises regarding the coming of the Redeemer from sin. The first coming of the Saviour was clearly foretold. Abraham and others with him rejoiced to see Christ's day. There are also many references in the Old, but especially in the New Testament, concerning the second coming of the Lord.

His first coming was in lowliness; His second coming will be exceedingly glorious. At His second coming, the redemption of the righteous will be completed and the wicked will be punished.

The redemption of the righteous will be completed. Who are these righteous? The only people that will be saved are they who have believed in Christ and have been sanctified by His Holy Spirit.

The salvation of the soul of the believer is complete at the day of the believer's death and the soul departs to be forever with the Lord. The body reposes in the grave until the final day. Then it will be raised an incorruptible body.

Blessed spirits will be reunited to glorified bodies. Soul and body will be joined anew in a perfect indissoluble union. Thus, salvation will be completed in eternal perfection.

On the Day of days, the wicked will be punished. Christ will take "vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Mere theoretical knowledge, however sound it may be, will be of no avail on that great day. We need an experiential knowledge of the grace of God as it has been made known to us in the gospel.

We must know our dependence on Christ as our only Saviour and Redeemer. All who do not cordially embrace the gospel will perish forever! We must flee to Jesus, the only Refuge and Hiding Place! While He offers peace and pardon let us hear His voice today.

Evaluator: _____