

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 20: Jesus Will Return to Earth

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the tenth and final lesson about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and our Lord and Savior. We will explore what the Bible teaches about Christ's return to earth to judge the world and establish His perfect kingdom. In previous weeks we have studied the person and work of Jesus Christ under these topics:

1. Jesus is Truly God
2. Jesus is Truly Man
3. Jesus is Sinless
4. Jesus is Lord
5. Jesus is Messiah
6. Jesus Preached the Gospel
7. Jesus Performed Miracles
8. Jesus Forgives Sins
9. Jesus Loves His People

MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

The Book of Revelation provides a fitting conclusion for both the Old and New Testaments as it reveals the truth about the glorious King Jesus Christ. It shows how God's grand design for human history will reach its goal when Christ consummates His kingdom and returns to earth as conquering Lord.

1. Jesus Christ will return to earth (Rev. 19:1-21)

A. Christ's praise

Countless voices in heaven will praise the Lord Jesus Christ at His final return to earth. Scripture describes a large choir of voices praising God for the long-awaited final judgment (Rev. 19:1-2). The twenty-four elders (Rev. 19:4) and four angelic beings (KJV "beasts" means living creatures) will all fall down and worship God on His throne. Their shouts of "amen" express their agreement for God's justice on earth, and their cries of "Alleluia" exalt Christ for His work to save sinners. God's victory demands praise from all his servants who fear Him, both small and great (Rev. 19:5). Loud and majestic voices will roar like mighty waters praising God for His omnipotent reign. The time for the marriage of the Lamb (Christ) has come, and the bride of Christ, the church, has made herself ready (Rev. 19:6-8). These visions of the future prompt believers today to worship Christ because He alone is worthy (Rev. 19:9-10).

B. Christ's judgment

When Christ returns to earth He will not only receive praise, but He will also come as King of kings and Lord of lords to judge and make war (Rev. 19:11). During His first coming, He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to demonstrate His humility; however, at His return He will ride a white horse which signifies His power and authority as conquering King. Absolute power and authority will mark the physical return of Christ. He will overcome all enemies including the Antichrist and false prophet (Rev. 19:19-21). At the end of the battle, scavenger birds will eat the flesh of all those who died. All those who reject Christ and follow after the world's religions will die by the hand of Christ, the supreme Ruler and Judge.

2. Jesus Christ will put an end to sin (Rev. 20:7-22:5)

A. The final judgment

At the end of Christ's millennial kingdom (1,000-year reign on earth), He will free Satan from the great chain and the devil will make a final attempt to deceive the nations and gather a massive army (Rev. 20:7-9). Satan will then be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (burning sulfur) to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20:10). Then John reveals his vision of the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). Books are opened, and all the dead come before the throne to give account for their works recorded in the books. The Book of Life is opened and anyone whose name is not written in it is thrown into the lake of fire. This is a horrible judgment for sinning against God. This judgment will be righteous and no sinner will escape.

B. The ultimate blessing

John describes the new heaven and new earth because God has destroyed the first one with intense fire (2 Pet. 3:7-13; Rev. 21:1). The new Jerusalem will come down from heaven in great glory. This city is adorned like a bride on her wedding day (Rev. 21:2). All of redemptive history comes to a grand climax here. God will dwell with men; they will be His people, and He will be their God (Rev. 21:3). God will finally live with His people and will wipe away every tear and remove every hurtful and sad consequence of sin once and for all. The greatest blessing that God gives His people is His own presence (Rev. 22:1-5). When Christ returns, He will restore the perfection that all creation has been longing for since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. This is the triumph of God's redemption!

MEMORY VERSES

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

Revelation 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Titus 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following notes are taken from *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, edited by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, 324-326.

The Greek term *parousia* (Matt. 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 2 Thess. 2:8; James 5:7-8) literally means “presence.” In the New Testament, this term describes the visitation of important people. Thus the word points to a unique and distinct “coming.” The New Testament writers use this term at times to designate the second coming of Christ (it is also used to refer to the rapture in 1 Thess. 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23). Another Greek noun, *apokalypsis* (1 Cor. 1:7; 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7, 13; 4:13), meaning “to uncover or unveil,” also describes the revelation of Christ’s second coming. This glorious return will reveal Christ as King over all.

Jesus will return to earth with divine power and glory to judge the living inhabitants of the earth (Matt. 24:30; 25:31-46; Luke 9:26; see Dan. 7:13; Tit. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:12; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7).... The Father has already given all authority to the Son for the execution of judgment: “and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man” (John 5:27; see Matt. 25:31-32). With that assignment in mind, God provided his written revelation with a grand finale focusing on final judgment. What the final book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, reveals or unveils are the features of Jesus Christ’s return in glory... (page 324).

The paradise of eternity is thus revealed as a magnificent kingdom where both heaven and earth unite in a glory that surpasses the limits of human imagination and the boundaries of earthly dimensions. But the real glory of eternity future rests in the fact that all believers will reside in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. They shall fellowship with the Lord himself in heaven, a glorious communion with God in Christ, which is the perfection of happiness. As believers derive their grace from the Lamb, so they shall derive their glory from him as well (page 326).