



The Truth about Jesus' Second Coming

INTRODUCTION:

Man wants to know the future. If we know the future, then we can prepare for it. People pay large amounts of money to people who say they can tell them their future. They want to try to avoid bad happenings and enjoy the good happenings.

Only God knows the future. Men can only predict the future. However, God has chosen to reveal some things to His prophets about the future. These prophecies are recorded in His Holy Writings, the Bible.

The next exciting event that the Bible tells us about will be the return of Jesus Christ. He is coming back to take His Church to live with Him in heaven. No man knows the exact day or hour, but His people all feel that it will be very soon.

PROMISES OF HIS SECOND COMING:

The Lord Jesus Christ first came to earth from heaven as a man about 2,000 years ago. He died on the cross of Calvary so that lost men could be saved from the punishment of their sins. After resurrecting from the grave, Jesus spent forty days with His followers and then returned to heaven. When Jesus talked about leaving, His followers became very sad. He comforted them with these words, "I am going away to make a place for you, After I go and make a place for you, I will come back and take you with Me. Then you may be where I am. You know where I am going and you know how to get there" (John 14:2-4 NLT).

This promise is the great hope of the Church. God's people who have repented, been baptized in Jesus' name, filled with the Holy Ghost, and are living holy lives are looking for His return any day now. "We are to be looking for the great hope and the coming of our great God and the One Who saves... Christ Jesus. He gave Himself for us. He did this by buying us with His blood and making us free from all sin. He gave Himself so His people could be clean and want to do good" (Titus 2:13-14 NLT). No matter what problems we face on earth we have a great hope of the day our God will come back for us.

Those of us who are alive will have our bodies changed by God into a body that cannot be destroyed. Christians who have already died will be given new bodies that will live forever (I Corinthians 15:52-54). Those who belonged to God's body, the Church, when they died will rise first, "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud call. God's horn will give its sounds. First, those who belong to Christ will come out of their graves to meet the Lord. Then, those of us who are still living here on earth will be gathered together with them in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the sky and be with Him forever" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17 NLT).

JOY OR SADNESS?

Paul tells the Christians to comfort one another with the words that Jesus is coming back. The Church is like a bride waiting for her husband to come and take her away. It will be a great and happy occasion. Therefore, the Church, Christ's bride, must be beautifying herself so she will be a bride that Jesus will be happy with. We will have to stand before Him holy and without blame (Ephesians 5:27 NLT).

Those who have not made themselves ready for Jesus' coming will be very sad. They will be left behind. They will be judged as sinners and cast into hell, a place of punishment forever. If you miss Jesus' second coming, often called "the rapture," you have no hope.

That is why the Holy Writings warn everyone to be ready. Still, many people do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and make themselves ready. Some people do not believe that Jesus will come back. Other people believe they will be saved without doing all that Jesus said to do. These people have believed false teachings. They do not have the joy of the great hope of the Church. They will be so sad when they discover their mistake, but it will be too late.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ will return. He has promised us that He would, and He does not break His promises. "The Lord is not slow about keeping His promises as some people think. He is waiting for you. The Lord does not want any person to be punished forever. He wants all people to be sorry for their sins and turn from them" (II Peter 3:9 NLT).

If you have not yet turned from your sins, you still may do so. When you do, God will forgive you. Then, when you are baptized in Jesus' name, He will wash away your sins. He will also fill you with His Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. If the same Holy Spirit lives in you, He will give life to your bodies in the same way" (Romans 8:11 NLT). You will have the great hope of Jesus'

returning to take you to heaven.

It is that simple. But still people will be left. "I tell you, on that night there will be two men in the same bed. One of them will be taken. The other will be left. Two women will be grinding grain together. One will be taken. The other will be left. Two men will be working in a field. One will be taken. The other will be left" (Luke 17:34-36 NLT). It is your choice. Jesus wants to take you to heaven. Your job is to be prepared to go when He comes, and He will take you to live with Him forever and ever.