

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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When Jesus Comes Again

2 Peter 3:1-4

History says "Christ has come;" Prophecy declares "He will come again." New Testament Christians longed for the second coming of Christ. They possessed a spirit of expectancy, a hope that we have lost. An attitude of anticipation, even excitement gripped them. They longed for the return of the Lord. Dr. Horatus Bonar, before going to bed would look at the stars and say "perhaps tonight Lord, perhaps tonight." Then in the morning he would say, on rising "perhaps today Lord, perhaps today." This type of anticipation does not belong to many of us. Why?? Could it be: the security we have, the enjoyment of this earth life, or the fact that we have no persecution? Perhaps we have lost our love for the divine, or a keen understanding of bible teaching. What ever it may be, we have suffered a great loss.

I. The Certainty Of His Coming

1. It will be personal: When leave for a trip, I tell my wife "I will be back in a week." She tells her friends that I have gone, but will return. They say "not in person" but she answers "yes, in person". They argue that I will return in the form of my letters. But she knows different. I will personally come back. Thus it was with Jesus. Jno. 14:1-4 "If I go away, I will come again..."

Acts 1:11 "The same Jesus that ye have seen go away will in like manner return..."

2. His Coming Will Be Visible: Rev. 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him..." No matter where we are "we will see him" people all over the world, those in prison, those on the highways, those on vacation, those engaged in activities that are sinful and wrong. ALL will see him.

3. His Coming Will be Sudden and Unexpected: 1Thess. 5:1-3 "...the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." Just as Abraham received an unexpected heavenly visitor who brought a message of the birth of Isaac, so Christ shall some day unexpectedly return.

Moses was surprised by the bush that burst into flames. A message from God to return and "lead my people." The disciples of Jesus were surprised by the appearance of Jesus after his resurrection. So many will be surprised when the Lord comes again.

There are also unpleasant surprises:

The people of Noah's day were caught unprepared, though warned for years by Noah of the coming flood.

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were no doubt surprised when their city burned. They thought they could continue in defiance of all that was sacred and holy, but God showed them differently.

No surprise will be greater than when Jesus splits the clouds and returns triumphant. What a day, what an hour. Men today, are not interested, and turn away from the reality of His return.

4. His Coming Will Be Glorious: "In the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Mt.24:30 The beauties of earth are wonderful to behold: the sunrise, sunset, waterfall, flowers etc. But no event will have more beauty, glory, or splendor than when Jesus comes again. He came in poverty, He will return in wealth. He came alone, He will return with his angels. He came in weakness He will return in power. He came in humiliation He will return in exaltation.

He who was born of a virgin, worked at a carpenters bench, died on a Roman cross, buried in a borrowed tomb, shall return in glory. He who was crucified amid the howling of a mocking mob, will return amid the hallelujahs of the skies.

II. The Meaning of His Coming.

1. It Will Be A Time of Reward: 2Timothy 4:6-8 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand...I have fought a good fight..." All the battles with Satan, temptation, false religions, unfaithful brethren. etc. will be rewarded when Jesus comes again. Paul had also kept the faith. He would be rewarded for not abandoning the truth, guarding the sacred oracles, not selling out for a cheap price or foolish reward. It was Paul who said "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." I finished my course, I staid the course. Fought all the way. Did not quit early or give up the faith in the heat of the battle, when things looked bad and discouraging. Many quit in mid-journey, because they are discouraged. Don't you quit before the prize is awarded. Mt.25:21 "His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

2. It Will Be A Time of Rectifying: All things will be made right. God's justice is often difficult to see in this life. But when Jesus Comes Again all accounts will be rightly and equitably settled. The blood of Abel has been "crying from the ground" low these may years. But when Jesus comes things will be dealt with that have been waiting resolution since they occurred. Those who have dealt carelessly with the truth, those who have persecuted God's people, those who killed the martyrs, will face judgment.

What rejoicing in his presence
When are banished grief and pain
When the crooked ways are straightened

And the dark things shall be plain.

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord..."

3. It Will Be A Time of Peace:

The thing we have talked about, prayed about, hoped for, and sought for so long. Will finally be a reality. Tonight: the earth is crimson with the blood of boys fighting. Lives are being sacrificed on the altar of the god of War. Mothers weep, fathers worry, wives are anxious and children with noses pressed against window panes look for familiar figures to once again come home. Men are in foxholes, misery, suffering, hunger, starvation, bombs destroy, and bullets find targets bringing heartache and death.

Peace, eternal peace, when Jesus Comes.

4. It Will Be A Time Of Singing: Singing lifts the spirit and blesses the soul. One of the outstanding attractions of Heaven will be singing. In life we express our thanks, sorrows, joys, in singing. John Fawcett who wrote Blest Be The Tie That Binds was about to leave a small church for a larger one. They begged him to stay. They couldn't give him the raise the larger one could. But the joy of the work convinced him to stay, and he wrote the song.

Sir John Bowering was in Macao, China and saw a church destroyed, in shambles, nothing but the cross left standing, so he wrote the famous words "In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o're the wrecks of time..."

Sarah Adams wrote Nearer My God To Thee the favorite hymn of the martyred president Wm. McKinley. His Dr. reported that the dying president softly sang "nearer my God to thee" saying "this has been by constant prayer."

In the last minutes of the Titanic Tragedy on Sunday April 14 1912 the ships band played this hymn as it slowly sank.

When Jesus comes, what a singing there will be.

"What a song of delight, in that city so bright will be wafted
'neath heaven's fair dome, How the Ransomed will raise happy songs
in his praise, When all of God's singers get home."

Rev. 15:2-4 "And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of Godsend they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty, Just and true are your ways, O King of the saints. Who shall not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy, For all nations shall come and worship before you. For your judgments have been manifested."

5. It Will Be A Time of Reunion: 1Thess. 4:14 "...those who fall asleep in Jesus will God bring with him..." v. 17 "...we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

When the blest who sleep in Jesus at his bidding shall arise
From the silence of the grave and from the sea
And with bodies all celestial they shall meet him in the skies
What a gathering of the ransomed that will be.

"O think of the saints over there, who before us the journey have trod, Of the songs that they breathe on the air, In their home in the palace of God. Over there, over there, oh think of the saints over there."

I want to meet Paul, and hear him tell of the drama that gripped the court room when he preached to Agrippa. I want to hear Peter tell of the thrill of the day of Pentecost. I want to meet the prophets of Old, and hear Daniel tell, first hand, about that night long ago in a den of lions. I want to hear those three Hebrew children tell of that furnace of fire and the faith that caused them refuse bowing down to an image of stone.

Freedom City located in Miami, Fl is a place where refugees meet who come from Cuba and are reunited with loved ones. A heart warming place. But not to be compared with the reunion in Heaven. Mothers, whose babies were snatched from their arms by the cruel hand of death. Children, who lost parents when they were young, husbands and wives who lost each other. What a great reunion it will be.

6. It Will Be A Time of Separation

The inevitable reality of being lost, must be faced sooner or later by all who reject God. Though we try and put it in the background of our minds, it is always there for us to confront. This life represents a struggle to hold together. We see it in birds and cattle. The same is true for we human beings. Go to any cemetery you will see the same name on tombstone after tombstone. People who were together in life, want to be together in death. But what about eternity?

Notice the parable of the Wheat and Tares in Mt.13:24-30. "Let them both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." Clearly taught is a separation on that Great Day, When Jesus comes again.

Parents will be separated from children and children from parents, husbands from wives and wives from husbands. How terrible the thought of having someone we love be lost. This underscores the importance of coming to Jesus today before it is too late. Are you ready for Jesus to come again?