

THE LORD'S RETURN

Message 1

The Promise of His Coming

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5:27; Rev. 21:2; 2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-9; Matt. 24:43, 29-30; Dan. 2:34; 7:13-14; Zech 14:4, 5b; Matt. 26:64; Acts 1:11; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 3:3; 16:15; 22:12, 20; Rom. 8:21-23; Rev. 11:15; Isa. 11:4, 6-9; 32:1-2; 2:4; Ezek. 47:12; Isa. 35:5-6; 33:24; 35:1; Matt. 13:41-42

- I. God's eternal purpose is to gain a glorious bride for Himself on the earth by imparting His life and nature into His believers to make them the same as He is to be His counterpart, His bride—Gen. 2:21-23; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 21:2.**
- II. The Bible contains a wonderful promise of the Lord's return; from the Old Testament through the New Testament, every book touches on the subject of the Lord's return—2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-9:**
 - A. Bible students have counted the number of times that the New Testament speaks of this subject and have told us that one out of every twenty verses in the New Testament speaks of the Lord's return.
 - B. From Genesis to Malachi, the Old Testament repeatedly speaks of Christ's second coming; the same is true in the New Testament; this subject is the greatest subject in the Bible:
 1. The second coming of Christ was promised in the Old Testament—Psa. 72:6-17; 110:1-3; 118:26; Dan. 2:34; 7:13-14; Zech. 14:4, 5b.
 2. The second coming of Christ is promised in the Gospels and Acts—Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:10-11.
 3. The Lord's return is also promised in the Epistles—1 Thes. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:16; 5:23; Heb. 9:28; 2 Pet. 3:9; Jude 14.
 4. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the Lord's return is again promised in an encouraging way—Rev. 1:7; 3:3; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20.
- III. Christ has two comings; His first coming settles the personal sins of man and His second coming settles the sins of the world:**
 - A. In His first coming to earth, Christ died on the cross for the remission of sins; through this, sinners are reconciled to God and partake of His life:
 1. Through His incarnation divinity was brought into humanity.
 2. Through His human living the model of a proper human living was perfected—1 Pet. 2:21.
 3. Through His all-inclusive death on the cross, sin, Satan, and the world were destroyed and His divine life was released—Heb. 2:14; John 12:24.
 4. Through His resurrection and ascension He became the life-giving Spirit and came into us to make us His counterpart, His bride—1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - B. The second coming of Christ will solve all the social problems in the world—Rom. 8:21-23; Rev. 11:15:
 1. When the Lord comes back, the first thing He will settle is injustice; today the biggest problem in the world is injustice; when the Lord comes again, He will execute justice—Isa. 11:4; 32:1.
 2. When the Lord comes again, He will settle all wars; everyone agrees that there should be peace, but there is no real peace; when Christ comes, He will stop all wars and bring in peace—Isa. 2:4.
 3. When Christ comes He will heal all sicknesses; many people pay attention to public health, hygiene, and medical aid, but sickness will never be thoroughly eradicated

- today; when the Lord comes again, the problem of sickness will be solved—Ezek. 47:12; Rev. 22:2; Isa. 35:5-6; 33:24.
4. When the Lord comes again, the problem of famine will also be solved; there will be no more desert, and the thorns and thistles will all pass away—Isa. 35:1, 6.
 5. Educators and philosophers teach men about good and evil and to turn away from evil and to choose good, but no one can solve the problem of sin in man's heart; when Christ comes back again, all will know God, from the least to the greatest—Isa. 11:9.
 6. There are many establishments of sin and evil in this world; many places are hotbeds of sin; when the Lord returns, in an instant He will cleanse the earth of all of them—Matt. 13:41-42.
 7. Today many people say that animals are suffering, abused, near the point of extinction and that we should do something to protect them; when the Lord returns, there will be no more suffering of the creation—Rom. 8:21-22; Isa. 11:6-9.
 8. Every group of politicians in every nation of the world is competing for the center stage, and every nation in this world is trying to take advantage of other nations; there is strife and unrest nationally and internationally; when the Lord returns there will be no more earthly governments—Rev. 11:15; Dan. 2:44-45.