

"CONSIDER THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST"
ACTS 1:1-11

INTRO: Over the past several weeks we have been focusing on the FIRST ADVENT of Jesus Christ into the world during the CHRISTMAS SEASON. But the SECOND ADVENT of Jesus Christ into the world is just as real and, from the perspective of the Word of God, could happen at any moment. As Christians, we look backward to the FIRST COMING OF CHRIST with GREAT JOY. And we should look forward to the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST with JOY as well. This will be our study for today.

I. THE PROMISE OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

NOTE: The doctrine of the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST is spoken of in both the Old and the New Testaments. One great Old Testament passage that teaches about the second coming of Christ is Zechariah 14. But for our study this morning let's just take a look at the teaching of Christ Himself from John 14:1-3 that was given just a short time before His crucifixion.

NOTE: In John 14:1-6 Christ's teaching on His SECOND COMING was given for a three-fold purpose:

A. To Avoid a Troubled Heart - Vs. 1

1. Christ was telling His disciples that He was going to leave them soon (Cp. 13:31-36), but that they should not be troubled because HE WOULD COME AGAIN. They needed this encouragement because a great time of loneliness and trouble would be soon coming their way. (Cp. John 16:33)

2. In the midst of troubled times it is a good thing to look forward to the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST - James 5:7,8

B. To Anticipate a Future Eternal Home - Vss. 2,3

C. To Announce the Way to be Ready for His Return - Vss. 4-6

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

A. To Take Believers Into the Presence of the Lord - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

B. To Unlock Other Future Events (There are many, but note just a few)

1. The Great Tribulation - Revelation 6-18

2. The Judgments of God

a. The Bema Seat Judgment - 2 Corinthians 5:10

-For Believers Only

b. The Great White Throne Judgment - Revelation 20:11-15

-For Unbelievers Only

3. The Millennium (1000 year reign of Christ on Earth)

-Revelation 20:6

4. The Destruction of Satan - Revelation 20:10

5. The Eternal State - Revelation 21:1-22:21

C. To Pour Out the Wrath of God

1. The Rapture in the Air

-The Great Tribulation Period - Matthew 24:21; Revelation 6:15-17

2. The Return to the Earth

-The Eternal Lake of Fire - Revelation 20:10;15

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PRESENTATION OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

NOTE: The Second Coming of Christ is presented many times in the Old and New Testaments. Consider the New Testament presentations. It is obvious that God wants us to know as much about it as we can since He included so much teaching about it in His Word.

A. In the New Testament

1. One out of every 30 verses in the New Testament mentions the Second Coming of Christ. VERY SIGNIFICANT.

2. Of the 318 chapters in the New Testament 216 of them mention the Second Coming of Christ. VERY SIGNIFICANT.

B. In the Book of the Acts

-The Second Coming of Christ is mentioned right away - 1:11. VERY SIGNIFICANT.

C. In the Pauline Epistles

1. All but two of Paul's Epistles contain one or more references to the Second Coming of Christ. **VERY SIGNIFICANT.**

2. All together there are at least **FIFTY REFERENCES** to the Second Coming of Christ in the Pauline Epistles. **VERY SIGNIFICANT.**

D. In the Book of the Revelation

1. The entire Book of the Revelation focuses on the Second Coming of Christ. **VERY SIGNIFICANT.**

2. The greatest of all encouragements regarding the Second Coming of Christ is seen in Revelation 22:12. **VERY SIGNIFICANT.**

NOTE: With that many mentions, it is important for us to focus a lot on the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE PROCESS OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

TWO STAGES SEPARATED BY AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS

A. The Rapture in the Air - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. It could happen at any moment - **It is Imminent!**

2. It will usher in the Great Tribulation Period

3. It will occur before the Judgment Seat of Christ

B. The Return to the Earth - Revelation 19:11-21

1. It will occur after the Tribulation and before the Millennium

2. It will result in Satan's destruction

3. It will culminate at the Great White Throne Judgment

ILLUSTRATION:

V. THE PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

A. By Knowing Christ - 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

B. By Serving Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:10,11

C. By Loving Christ - 2 Timothy 4:8

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION

The **FIRST STAGE** of the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** could occur **NOW!** No prophecy must be fulfilled before the **RAPTURE.** Make **CERTAIN YOU ARE READY FOR THE RAPTURE!** **ARE YOU?**