

What Does the Bible Teach About the Second Coming II Pet. 3:10-13

Introduction:

In the religious world today, there are several different doctrines concerning the Second Coming of Christ. The overwhelming belief that is taught among many denominations is that Jesus will come back to the earth and reign for 1,000 years in Jerusalem. Today, we are going to notice what the Bible teaches about His return.

Some have said that there are over 1,000 references to the Second Coming of Christ in the Bible. Tom Holland notes that one in every twenty-five verses in the New Testament refer to His coming.

***Throughout this lesson, we will refer to the return of Christ. We know, by looking at the Scriptures, that Christ will not actually set His foot on this earth again. When we refer to His return, we are speaking of the day in which He will come and take us to be with the Lord.

I. The day of the Lord is coming (3:10).

- A. Peter reminds the brethren “that scoffers will come” (3:1-4).
 - 1. These scoffers will say that because things continue as they always did, Jesus is not coming again.
 - 2. However, remember that the purpose of Peter writing this portion of this letter is to remind the brethren that Jesus is coming again.
 - a. Notice what he goes on to say in 3:5-9.
 - b. Christ is coming, and they needed to be reminded of this great day.
 - 3. Just as there were doubters in the day of Peter, so there are doubters in our day as well.
 - a. Today many will not say that Christ is not coming at all.
 - b. However, many will say that when He comes, He will establish His kingdom in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years.
 - 1) This idea is only taught in Rev. 20:4-6.
 - 2) Upon careful examination of this passage, it is clear that it is figurative, just like much of the book of Revelation is figurative.
- B. There has never been any doubt that Jesus is coming again.
 - 1. Jesus Himself told that he would come again.
 - a. Jn. 5:28-29 - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice {29} and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.
 - b. Jn. 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. {2} In My Father's house are many mansions;

if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- c. Jesus warns His disciples repeatedly that He will come when they are not expecting Him (we will look at this idea in a moment).
- 2. Others have also foretold of His coming.
 - a. **Acts 1:9-11** - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. {10} And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, {11} who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
 - c. **Heb. 9:28b** - To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
 - d. **I Cor. 11:26** - For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
- C. Not only will that day come, but it will come unexpectedly.
 - 1. Peter says that it will come "as a thief in the night" (**3:10**).
 - a. The idea that Peter is giving us is that this day will happen unexpectedly.
 - b. Jesus Himself also used this analogy.
 - 1) **Lk. 12:39-40** (Parable of the Faithful and Evil Servants) - But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. {40} Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
 - 2) **Mt. 24:42-44** - Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. {43} But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. {44} Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
 - 2. The main idea is that this great day will come suddenly.
 - a. **Mt. 24:36-39** - But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. {37} But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. {38} For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, {39} and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
 - b. **I Thes. 5:1-4** - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. {2} For

you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. {3} For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. {4} But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

II. We are told of what will happen when the day of the Lord comes (3:10).

- A. Peter tells us of the destruction that will occur when Christ returns.
 - 1. Peter tells us that everything will be destroyed.
 - a. The heavens will pass away, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.
 - b. **II Pet. 3:7** - But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
 - 2. It had always been known that the earth will be destroyed one day.
 - a. **Mt. 5:18** - For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
 - b. **Mt. 24:35** - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
 - c. **Rev. 21:1** - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.
 - 3. There will be a great destruction when Christ returns.
- B. We read more details about His Second Coming in **I Thes. 4:13-18**.
 - 1. While Peter tells of the destruction of the earth, Paul tells of the reward to the Christian.
 - 2. Christ is going to “descend from heaven with a shout” and take us up with Him to live eternally.
 - 3. “And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (**4:17b**).

III. Therefore, we should be ready for that day (3:11-13).

- A. Peter tells us how to conduct ourselves (**3:11**).
 - 1. Our conduct should be holy.
 - a. Peter talks a great deal about being holy.
 - 1) **I Pet. 1:13-17** - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; {14} as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; {15} but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” {17} And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

- 2) **I Pet. 2:5** - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 3) **I Pet. 2:9** - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- b. We know that we should live holy lives.
- 1) “Holy” means “sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated)” (Strong’s).
 - 2) **Rom. 12:1-2** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - 3) **I Cor. 3:17** - If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is **holy**, which temple you are.
 - 4) **Eph. 1:3-6** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and without blame before Him in love, {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.
 - 5) **Col. 3:12** - Therefore, as the elect of God, **holy** and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
2. We should also live godly lives.
- a. “Godliness” means “piety, or well-reverent” (Strong’s).
 - b. **I Tim. 4:7-8** - But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward **godliness**. {8} For bodily exercise profits a little, but **godliness** is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
 - c. **I Tim. 6:11** - But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, **godliness**, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
 - d. We gain godliness only through God and His word.
 - 1) **II Pet. 1:3** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
 - 2) We must study His word to obtain that godliness.
- B. We live this way because we are looking forward to this great day (**3:12-13**).

1. Twice in this passage, Peter tells us that we look forward to this day.
 - a. “Looking for” literally means, “to anticipate” (Strong’s).
 - b. “Hastening” literally means, “to urge on, or wait eagerly” (Strong’s).
2. This is the time when all of our suffering will end.
3. This is the day that we will realize what we have worked for: **OUR HOME IN HEAVEN!**
4. We look ahead and anticipate this great day.
5. We live holy and godly lives because of this day.

Conclusion:

- I. Christ is coming.
- II. We know what will happen on that day.
- III. Because of this, we should live holy and godly lives in anticipation of that day.

The question we ask ourselves is:

Are you ready for the day of the Lord?

Rev.22:20 - He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Can we say the same thing?