

I Believe Jesus is Coming Again

READ: *Revelation 19:11 – 20:10*

THEME: The second coming of Jesus Christ is a fact, it is imminent, and should therefore greatly influence how I live each day.

INTRODUCTION:

We have been discussing a little statement of faith that goes like this:

(QUOTE IT)

So far we've talked about several key components of what we believe:

We believe in the inspiration of the Bible.
We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, God's Son.
We believe in the Holy Spirit of God.
We believe in the Church, both local and universal.

Let us move on now to discuss the final part of our statement of faith - what we believe about the second coming of Jesus Christ.

"I believe that Jesus is coming again, and I will seek to live today so as to be ready to meet Him at His coming."

I. The FACT of the Second Coming

QUESTION – Let's start with some discussion this morning. Tell me everything that we know about the second coming of Christ?

QUESTION – Why do we believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ?

A. It was foretold.

ANSWER – Why do we believe anything? Because we learn of it in God's Word!

SONG – Jesus loves me this I know (how?) for the **Bible tells me so.**

Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

B. It's timing is unknown

QUESTION – When will Jesus come again?

ILLUS – 88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Occur in 1988

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

C. Though we do not know the time, we DO know that it is IMMINENT.

QUESTION – The apostles' believed that the coming of Jesus Christ was imminent. Were they right?

QUESTION – The early church believed that the coming of Jesus Christ was imminent. Were they right?

QUESTION – The church today believes that the coming of Jesus Christ is imminent. Are we right?

ANSWER – Yes! The coming of Jesus Christ is and always has been IMMIDENT. There is nothing that stands in the way of His return.

Philippians 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord [is] at hand.

Hebrews 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

James 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed [is] he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

D. The second coming has a purpose.

QUESTION – What is the purpose of the second coming? Why is He coming back? What are some of the reasons?

1. The purpose includes judgment.

QUESTION – Who will be judged at the second coming of Jesus Christ?

ANSWER –

Lost (Great White Throne judgement – **READ** - Rev. 20:11-15)

Saved (Judgement Seat of Christ – *Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad.)

Nations (Judgement of the sheep and goats - *Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats:*).

(Because this lesson is an high-level overview of what we believe, I will not go into detail about these individual judgements, but I mention them so that you will know that they are there.)

The fact is, Jesus will return the second time as JUDGE:

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Jude 1:14-15 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

2. The purpose includes reward.

*Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then **he shall reward every man according to his works.***

*1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and **then shall every man have praise of God.***

3. The purpose includes glory for Jesus Christ.

His first coming was in humiliation, and to the world's thinking, defeat. (We know better of course.)

ILLUS – I watched a movie the other day called Amistad. It told the true story of La Amistad, a

Spanish slave ship upon which a group of slaves wrested freedom from their captors, and went on to trial in the United States where they eventually won their freedom before the Supreme Court. Fascinating movie, and based on my research, very true to history. There is a scene in that movie where the young lawyer who was trying to win the right to represent the slaves in court was told that he needed to take the high road in his representation. He should not use any lawyerly tricks to win the case, but should consider the example of Jesus Christ, who for the sake of principle “went willingly to the cross.” Upon hearing this, the young lawyer said with total conviction, “Yes... but Jesus lost.” THAT IS THE VIEW OF THE WORLD ABOUT THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST. THEY VIEW IT AS A TRAGEDY. A GREAT MAN WHOSE LIFE WAS CUT SHORT BY HIS ENEMIES.

His second coming will reverse that thinking... He will arrive in victory, glory, power, splendor, might, and majesty.

*Matthew 16:27 **For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.***

*Matthew 25:31 **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:***

E. The Second Coming should influence how we live our lives.

QUESTION – If we know He is soon returning, how should it influence our lives? Should our lives be different from those of the world as a result of His imminent return? What should that difference include?

1. We should always be ready.

*Matthew 24:44 **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.***

ILLUS – Dog who sat on his owner’s grave until he died.

QUOTE – “I believe that Jesus is coming again, **and I will seek to live today so as to be ready** to meet Him at His coming.”

2. We should live as responsible stewards.

READ – Luke 19:11-27

Note especially vs. 13 *And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.***

3. We should wait patiently and expectantly for His return.

*1 Corinthians 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:***

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

ILLUS – Jack Van Impe’s pin “Perhaps today!”

4. We should live pure and holy lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 6:14 That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

F. The Second Coming will be a time of great joy and reward for Christians.

QUESTION – What can the Christian expect to receive at the second coming of Christ?

1. Honor from the King.

Luke 12:37 Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

2. Fellowship with the King.

READ – *John 14:1-3*

3. Likeness to the King.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

4. Glory with the King.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5. Eternal reward

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

II. The MECHANICS of the Second Coming (i.e. the timeline)

QUESTION – What major events are mentioned in the Bible as being yet future? What is yet to come in Biblical prophecy?

ANSWER – Try and get them to mention Rapture, Tribulation, Millenium, at least.

A. Rapture of the Church

*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our **gathering together unto him**, (2 Thessalonians 2:1 AV)*

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if I go

and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself**; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:1-3 AV)

*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54 AV)*

READ –1 Thes. 4:13-18 (Key text on the Rapture)

1. Jesus will return to the air – 1 Thes. 4:17
2. The dead in Christ will be raised – 1 Thes. 4:16

QUESTION – Who are “the dead in Christ?”

ANSWER – All of the saved who have already died.

3. The living saved will be:

1. Changed

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (1 Corinthians 15:51 AV)

2. Caught up instantly (same verse)

ILLUS – Jesus spoke of the **suddenness** of this event in a parable: *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Matthew 24:38-42 AV)*

3. United with Christ and each other forever

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17 AV)

4. The Holy Spirit will be removed –

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 AV)

QUOTE (Thiessen – Lectures in Systematic Theology) – “(The Holy Spirit) does the restraining of evil, often through the church; for, because of his presence in them, believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). When the church will be caught up, the salt and the light will be withdrawn. For a brief time after the rapture, until individuals turn to the Lord, there will be no saved people on the earth. Evidently the Spirit will withdraw His special ministry of restraining evil. Then corruption and darkness will develop rapidly; then iniquity will abound, and the man of lawlessness will be revealed. The Holy Spirit will continue to be on earth as he was here during Old Testament times, but not in the special sense in which He is here during this age. Satan with his leaders is to have large authority on this earth before the final judgment. Christ’s coming will remove the restrainer to the development of lawlessness in the program of the last days.”

B. Seven Years of Tribulation

QUESTION – What does this refer to?

QUESTION – What is the purpose of the tribulation?

QUESTION – Does the believer need fear the tribulation?

QUESTION – Acts 14:22 says, “... we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Is the tribulation mentioned herein the same as the great tribulation?

ANSWER – NO. In general, tribulation and troubles are part of our lives until Christ returns. The Seven Years of Tribulation is a definite period of time... a definite event prophesied in scripture.

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 12:1 AV)

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matthew 24:21 AV)

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. (Revelation 3:10 AV)

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7 AV)

1. It will start with the Rapture.
2. It will last 7 years.

READ – *Daniel 9:24-27* (This is a protracted subject – one for another day. The Tribulation is Daniel's 70th week, and when considered in light of this passage, and other passages in Revelation, it can be seen that the tribulation is a 7 year period.)

3. It will include one world government and religion

READ – *Rev. 13:1-18*; note esp. vss. 7,8

4. It will include terrible persecution of Christians on earth.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (Revelation 13:15 AV)

QUESTION – Will people be saved during the tribulation?

ANSWER – Yes - *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the*

souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4 AV)

5. It will end with Christ's return to earth at the Battle of Armageddon.

READ – *Rev. 19:11-16*

6. During this time, 2 important things will be happening to us (the raptured saved) in heaven:
 1. The marriage supper of the Lamb

READ – *Rev. 19:6-9*

2. The judgement seat of Christ

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad.)

C. The Millenium

QUESTION – What does this refer to?

READ – *Rev. 20:1-7*

1. It will start with Christ's coming to earth.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (Zechariah 14:4 AV)

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn,

and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30 AV)

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11 AV)

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7 AV)

2. Jesus will establish an earthly kingdom centered in Jerusalem.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3 AV)

3. We will reign with Him.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:20 AV)

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6 AV)

4. Satan will be bound during this period

READ – Rev. 20:1-3

5. It will be a time of peace and harmony.

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes,

neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. (Isaiah 11:2-5 AV)

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD. (Isaiah 65:17-25 AV)

6. It will end with Satan's release and final defeat.

READ – Rev. 20:7-10

D. The Great White Throne Judgement

QUESTION – What does this refer to?

READ – Rev. 20:11-15

1. It occurs after the millenium and Satan's final defeat.
2. It is for the lost.
3. It is a judgement according to works - Rev. 20:13

4. It is a judgement of mens' and womens' response to Christ
– *Rev. 20:15*
5. It results in an eternity in hell – *Rev. 20:15*

E. New Heaven and New Earth – Eternity with Christ

READ – *Rev. 21:1-5a*

CONCLUSION:

“I believe that Jesus is coming again, and I will seek to live today so as to be ready to meet Him at His coming.”

The second coming of Jesus Christ is a fact, it is imminent, and should therefore greatly influence how I live each day.