**The Second Coming of Jesus Christ**

**John 14:1-3** -- “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.”

**Acts 1:10-11** -- “And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 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.”

Historically, there are at least four different views reflecting the details of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are: Historic Premillennialism – Premillennial Dispensationalism – Amillennialism – Postmillennialism.

The primary reason for this is the fact that many of the prophesies concerning the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ are viewed through different interpretation methods. Another reason is that various prophecies are emphasized while others are minimized or ignored. Some emphasize one aspect of the second coming while others emphasize other aspects of the second coming.

**Orval Heath**: In spite of all the differences in these different views, there are also some important similarities that each view holds in common. These similarities are as follows:

1. Each view accepts all scripture as the inspired word of God; therefore, each believes their view to be based upon Biblical teachings.

2. Each view believes that Jesus Christ is the promised Son of God, that He is God, and that He died as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

3. Each view teaches that there will be a future, visible, and bodily return of Christ.

4. Each view holds that every human being will at some time receive a resurrected body which will live eternally in either Heaven or Hell.

5. Each view holds that the difference in belief comes from the lack of ability to interpret the Bible properly rather than from a lack of loyalty to the Bible.

6. Each view acknowledges that the other views are held by able conservative and evangelical scholars.

It is not my intention in this message to set forth the different views concerning the return of Jesus Christ. It is simply my desire to show that Scriptures teach two appearances or comings of the Lord Jesus Christ. His first coming has been fulfilled and we wait for His second coming.

**The First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ in one text**:

**Hebrew 9:26 and 28 –** “(26) For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world **hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself** … (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**.”

**According to the apostle Paul**: The purpose of the first appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ was to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself – to save sinners – to bring sinners life – and all this according to the will of His Father in heaven.

**I Timothy 1:15** – “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**; of whom I am chief.”

**Jesus said**:

**John 10:10** – “…**I am come that they might have life**, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

**Luke 19:10** – “For **the Son of man is come to seek and to save** that which was lost.”

**John 3:17** – “For **God sent** not **his Son** into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved**.”

**John 4:34** – “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is **to do the will of him that sent me**, and to finish his work.”

**John 6:38-40** – “(38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**Note**: We should put away any idea that the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was for any other purpose than to do His Father’s will in offering Himself as an acceptable sacrifice to His Father on behalf of His people.

**According to the apostle Paul** in **Hebrews 9:28** - “…**shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”** **-** The purpose of the second appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ is to complete the salvation which began in eternity past and was accomplished in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The full salvation which began in eternity included the salvation of the body at the resurrection of the dead - of those who were saved.

**Note**: Those who are saved are described as those – **who look for him** – those whose hearts longed for the return of their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:23** – “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body**.”

**John Gill**: “this is to be understood of Christ's visible and personal appearance on earth, which will be a glorious one; he will appear in his own glory, and in his Father's glory, and in the glory of the holy angels, and in the glory of his power, to the joy of saints, and to the terror of the wicked … the end of his first appearance was to obtain salvation for his people, and he has obtained it, and there is a comfortable application of it made unto them by the Spirit of God; but **the full possession of it will be hereafter** …”

**As our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven to take His place upon His throne, two men in white clothing told His followers that He would return.**

**Acts 1:10-11** -- “And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men … 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.”

**This text teaches**: He shall come as the same person - with the same glory of deity – the same glorified human body – The same God-Man in His glorified body - being able to be seen with the physical eye!

**The Lord Jesus promised His followers that He would return.**

**First: John 14:1-3** -- “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.”

**This text teaches**: He shall come the second time in order that His people may be with Him. It is important to understand that the whole purpose of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was the He would come into possession of all those for whom He died and that they might be with Him where He was.

**John 17:24** – “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory …”

**II Corinthians 5:8** – “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

**Second: Matthew 25:31-46** – “(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: (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**: (33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. (34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (35) For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: (36) Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. (37) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? (38) When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? (39) Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? (40) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (42) For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: (43) I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. (44) Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? (45) Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. (46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

**This text teaches**: The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in glory with His angels. It will result in the sheep entering into eternal glory and life with their Saviour. It will also result in the lost being cursed and being sent into everlasting punishment for their sin.

**The apostle Paul refers to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in several of his epistles.**

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

**I Corinthians 11:26** – “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death **till he come**.”

**Note**: The Lord’s Table is not only a time to remember the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of His people, it also is a time to remember that His children are looking forward to His second coming.

**John Gill** – “… this assures of the certainty of Christ's second coming; as it **leads back** to his coming in the flesh, suffering and dying in our stead, and thereby obtaining redemption for us; it **leads forward** to expect and believe he will come again, to put us into the full possession of the salvation he is the author of; when there will be no more occasion for this ordinance, nor any other, but all will cease, and God will be all in all.”

**I Corinthians 15:22-24** – “(22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming**. (24) **Then cometh the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.”

**Note**: It is difficult to put away the preconceptions of systems of thinking relating to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each of us have this problem.

This text teaches that the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is also associated with the end of all things relating to time – verse 24 says, “**then cometh the end**.”

Like **Matthew 25:31-46**, this text teaches the second coming of Jesus Christ ushers in the end of all things.

**I Thessalonians 2:19** – “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ **at his coming** ?”

**I Thessalonians 3:13** – “To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father**, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** with all his saints.”

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18** – “(13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto **the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep. (16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) 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. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

**II Thessalonians 1:7-10** – “(7) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed** from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (10) **When he shall come** to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

**This text teaches**: The revelation of Jesus Christ (v.7) and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (v.10) are the same event. It also teaches that the coming of Jesus Christ is associated with two results: (1) the punishment of those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ (v.8) and (2) that Jesus Christ will be glorified among those who are true believers (v.10).

**The apostle James also wrote of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:**

**James 5:7-8** – “(7) Be patient therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. (8) Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for **the coming of the Lord** draweth nigh.

**The apostle Peter also wrote of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:**

**II 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.”

**Note**: Peter, like The Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 25) and the apostle Paul (I Corinthians) also associates the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with the final judgment of all things.

**His Second Return is also called His Appearing or His Revelation:**

**The Apostle Paul:**

**II Timothy 4:8** – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also **that love his appearing**.”

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

**The apostle Peter:**

**I Peter 1:7 and 13** – “(7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at **the appearing of Jesus Christ** . . . (13) Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at **the revelation of Jesus Christ**”

**I Peter 4:13** – “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed**, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

**I Peter 5: 4** – “And when **the chief Shepherd shall appear**, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

**The apostle John:**

**I John 3: 2** – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when **he shall appear**, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

**I 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**.”

**Note**: Some try to teach the use of the word “appear” or “revelation” is meant to teach different aspects of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ than what the word “come” teaches. However, John uses both “appear” and “come” to refer to the same event – the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The several verses that we have looked at teach us several things concerning the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They teach:**

The return of our Lord Jesus Christ will be literal and not figurative.

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in His glorified person – as the glorious God-Man - in His glorified physical body.

The return of our Lord Jesus Christ will be visible for both the sinner and the Christian.

The return of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorious for the believer and fearful for the sinner.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be a time of judgment for the lost and a time of reward for the saved.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be the end of this present time as we know it and the beginning of our eternal existence.