

January 28, 2023

This is in response to the “The Second Coming of Jesus” pamphlet. The questions are worded as they appear and have not been altered even though inaccurate concerning their context.

The Second Coming of Jesus: Lesson 13

1. What promise did Jesus make to the human family before He went to heaven?

What Jesus told His disciples in Jn 14:1-3 had to do with the coming of the glorified church which is to arrive after the judgment (*Rev 21*). This is also in reference to the “place” He said He was going to “prepare” for them. This same Greek word for “place” (*Gk.5117*) is found in *Rev 12:6* as the “woman” (*the Messianic community*) represents the N.T. church (*the O.T. [Act 7:38] looked for the Messiah to come whereas the N.T. community looks for His return*). Jesus ascended back to Heaven, sent the church/kingdom on Pentecost (*Act 2*) and will return for her to present her to Himself (*Eph 5:27*) and then to His father (*1 Cor 15:24*) “as a bride adorned for her Husband”(*Rev 21:2*).

2. How does the Bible describe the return of Jesus?

True; according to *Titus 2:13*, the day Jesus returns will be “glorious”.

3. For how long have people been looking forward to the return of Jesus?

There are many suppositions as to where the book of Job fits in Old Testament order but to say it “is the first book of the Bible to be written” I would have thought the writer would have given a reference to back such a statement. Even though there are many instances in the Old Testament where the word for “redeemer” is used (*Heb.1350*), it would have to have been by inspiration that Job used it here if he was referring to Christ. The coming of the Messiah was first prophesied in *Gen 3:15*.

The “sign (*Gk.4592- indication*) of the Son of man” in *Mat 24:30* has to do with God’s judgment on Jerusalem (*in 70 AD*) for not accepting Christ’s Messiahship and His “coming in the clouds of Heaven” is indicative of Christ’s divine authority to execute it. The same phrase He used again in *Mat 26:64* shows He has such authority given to Him from Heaven. His audience there was the high priest whom He was warning about what was to transpire shortly (*about 40 years*) thereafter. There are different “comings” (*visitations*) in both Testaments that only refer to “coming in judgment” (*Exo 32:34-35; Rev 2:5*). It has nothing to do with His coming again on the last day. Context demands correct interpretation.

4. What great hope does the return of Jesus promise the world?

Rev 21:4 is a message of hope to the faithful saint who looks forward to taking part in the glorified church in which God will once again be among the sanctified as He once walked among Adam and Eve in Eden before the fall of man. Once Jesus returns, this glorified state of the church will end the stewardship of the church on earth along with the church victorious in the Hadean realm of Paradise.

5. When will Jesus come back to this world?

In Matthew 24:4-34 Jesus prophesied the fall of Jerusalem by giving His disciples the indication of events that preceded that occasion, ending with “this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled”. Those things did come to pass in 70 AD with the fall of Jerusalem. But when He stated He didn’t know the date “heaven and earth [would] pass away” (*vs. 35-36*) He changed the subject from the fall of Jerusalem to the end of time.

6. Is it possible to know when Jesus’ return is near?

Through the “parable of the fig tree”, Jesus stated how they knew its buds showed how “summer is near”. The same thing went for the signs they were shown concerning the fall of Jerusalem, “all these things” having to do with the total combination of the things He had just told them. He didn’t give them an exact date even though He must have known it since He went on to state that He **didn’t** know the exact date the world would end. He gave His disciples indications (*of Jerusalem’s fall*) and they passed them on to other disciples so that when they saw the signs coming into fruition they fled the city (*Mat 24:17-20*). Concerning the time of the end, we have not been given an exact date but, we do have signs to look for that would indicate when the end is near (*Rev 20:7-15*).

7. What will Jesus’ return be like?

It is true that Jesus will “come in like manner as [His disciples saw] Him go into Heaven” (*Act 1:9-11*). But at the resurrection He will not set foot on the earth since “we (*Christians*) which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (*the risen saints*) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever (*Gk.3842- every when, that is, at all times*) be with the Lord” (*1 Thes 4:17*). This passage indicates the saints spending that time forward in Heaven with Christ as part of the glorified church and does not allow for a future occupation on earth.

8. Will the return of Jesus be witnessed by people on the earth?

True, “the return of Jesus will be witnessed by people on the earth” but the context of Rev 1:7 and Mat 24:30 are not speaking of that event. Rev 1:7 concerns “all kindreds (*Gk.5443- race or clan*) of the earth” with reference to the kingdom of Rome along with the satellite nations under Rome, and how they mistreated the saints in their respective countries in order to appease the Roman Empire. The Matthew account, again, is in reference to the fall of Jerusalem and the “tribes” mentioned here are metaphorically referring to the tribes of Israel, the Jews. The Jews were punished for Christ’s crucifixion through the destruction of Jerusalem and ending the sacrificial system whereas the Roman Empire, including the satellite nations under it, was punished for the persecution of His church (*Mat 25:40*).

9. Will the return of Jesus be heard by people on earth?

True, 1 Thes 4:16 states that Christ’s return will be heard by all, both the living and the dead (*Jn 5:28-29*).

10. What will the return of Jesus look like?

According to Jn 1:1, Jesus is God. When Ps 50:3 states “our God shall come” it is referring to Jesus when He comes on the Day of Judgment.

11. What great event will take place at the Second Coming of Jesus?

1 Thes 4:16 and Jn 5:28-29 are not teaching two separate resurrections. These two passages speak of the same event. Those who have done “good” will be raised at the same moment as those who have done “evil”. In the passage Jesus states nothing about a gap between them and to teach that is only adding to (*Rev 22:18*) what the Bible does not sanction. And to state that “the dreamless sleep of death will come to an end, and the sleeping saints of God will rise to be with Him and die no more” the writer needs this “soul sleep” doctrine to prove this false teaching of “two separate resurrections”. Another look at Jesus’ statement to the repentant thief (*Lk 23:43*) shows a measure of awareness for the thief to know where Jesus said they would be that day. Also, Lk 16:19-31 shows a level of awareness because of the conversation between Abraham and the rich man. There will be no “rapture” of the good for 1,000 years (*a first resurrection*) and in the meantime a second chance for those who remain behind to repent (*for redemption in a second resurrection*). No passage of scripture can be manipulated to prove such as many have tried in order to give this doctrine some semblance of truth.

12. What incredible transformation takes place in the living saint at Jesus’ return?

True, 1 Cor 15:52-53 teaches that physical beings at the time of Christ’s coming need to be prepared for Heaven (*or Hell*) by being transformed into that which will be immortal; unable to die.

13. What warning did Jesus give in relation to His Second Coming?

Sad but true that many will be lost “as in the days of Noah” (*Mat 24:37-39*).

14. What did Jesus mean when He said that when He returns, one would be taken and another would be left?

It’s not a 50/50 proposition concerning the saved and the lost nor does it agree with the false doctrine of a future “rapture” as though those left behind will have to endure another millennia on earth before Jesus once again makes His supposed ‘last’ return. Paul’s words expose that false assumption in 1 Thes 4:16-17. It is correct that Mat 24:40-42 speaks of Jesus coming on a day when people will be about their normal business and the faithful Christian (“*only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life*”- *Rev 21:27*) will be separated from anyone whose “name [is] **not** found written in the book of life [and who will be] thrown into the lake of fire” (*Emp. added- Rev 20:15*).

15. Is the return of Jesus going to be a secret?

To use Mat 24:26 to explain that Jesus’ return will not be in secret is again taking that passage out of its original context where it isn’t even necessary. True, it won’t be in secret. This context however has to do with how imperative it was for the disciples living in Jerusalem (*pre 70 AD*) to not trust “false christs” who would “lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (*v. 24*). Jesus has not “specifically stated we should not believe that His return will be a secret event” as the context doesn’t state such. This verse is to be taken in

the setting of what Jesus said in verse 34 concerning how that generation would “not pass away until all these things [would] take place”.

16. What does the Bible say will precede the Second Coming of Jesus?

It is amazing to me how the writer here, as in so many other places, has taken passages out of their original settings to prove a point that isn't even necessary. Rev 16:14 has to do with a spiritual battle that happened (*past*) between the saints and Jerusalem which was a puppet of Satan. This, along with Mat 24:24 is again taking scripture out of original context in order to prove a false claim that “Satan will work with great power to deceive as many people as he can” before “the second coming of Jesus”. Persecuting the church into submission the Roman Empire used false miracles in order to expose those who did not believe in deifying the Caesars. Archeologists have found busts of pagan gods with piping systems from the mouths which reverberated from an area beneath them where cult priests of Rome would speak and had the citizenry fooled into bowing down to them. (*Gospel Advocate- April 2007*) This exposed Christians who didn't practice such idolatry because of belief in the one true God. (*The Eternal Kingdom- A History of The Church by F.W. Mattox*)

2 Thes 2:9 is not speaking of Satan but one “whose coming is **after** (*Gk.2596- Thayer: “through, on account of, from, owing to*) the **working** of Satan” (*Emp. added*). The “whose” here is not referring to the Lord Who would supposedly come once Satan had worked his deception, but that the “Wicked” (*v. 8*) entity in question (*the Roman Empire via the Caesars personified*) would perform these acts that represent something Satan would do. The age of the miraculous has come and gone shortly after the early church's infancy (*1 Cor 13:10*) so anything after that would amount to nothing more than a “sleight of hand” type ‘miracle’ and not something where natural law is suspended by Deity. The “coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” is not saying it was eminent at that time (*Mat 24:36*) as much as it was stated as a warning to be ready at all times since we know, even today, that His coming, being well known as it is, could occur at any moment. The apostle even qualified that comment by stating how they weren't to be “soon shaken... (*as if*) the day of Christ [was] at hand” (*v. 2*).

17. What urgent advice does Jesus give us in reference to His Second Coming?

True; both Mat 24:44 and Mk 13:37 are warnings for the Christian to be ready for Christ's imminent return.

18. How can a person be certain they will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns?

John stated in 1 Jn 5:13, “These things have I written unto you that believe (*Gk.4100- to entrust [especially one's spiritual wellbeing to Christ]*) on the name (*Gk.3686- authority*) of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe (*Gk.4100*) on the name of the Son of God.” Jesus told His disciples in Mat 28:19 that they were to “teach all nations, baptizing them in the name (*Gk.3686*) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (*v. 20*) teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you (*specifically here the apostles- Act 2:41-42*)”. So in order to be

saved in these verses (*among many*) we need to entrust our salvation to Christ Who taught the necessity of baptism (*Mk 16:16*) and not just teaching “by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, confessing your sins, and living a life of surrender to God” since such won’t give anyone “the assurance of everlasting life, and of being ready for Jesus at His return”. That is leaving out (*Rev 22:19*) the teachings of what Jesus said and what He taught His apostles to write concerning the whole plan of salvation. So to use Paul’s instruction to the Philippian jailor as a “belief only” doctrine without also revealing what (*Acts 16*) verses 32-33 state about the necessity of baptism is again to leave out or take away from scripture a vital component to the steps necessary to be saved.

“But What About...?”

But what about the Bible saying that Jesus will come as a thief in the night?

Daniel 12:1- The phrase “and at that time” is referring back to the end of the previous chapter (*11*). There it refers to the military conquests of Antiochus Epiphanes and not of a period of tribulation before Jesus returns.

But what about Jesus establishing the millennium on planet Earth when He comes the second time?

This was dealt with earlier where the writer believes in “two resurrections”. Jesus is only returning one more time, therefore to use *Rev 6:14-17* here to explain, in vain one might add, as a depiction of “the lost fleeing from Jesus at His return” is yet another passage taken out of context by the writer to explain his teaching on a millennial reign on earth. *Isaiah 25* is speaking of Christ’s first coming and not His future return. These two, along with *2 Pet 3* state nothing of a “millennial reign on planet Earth”! Again, I am amazed how the writer of these pamphlets gets so much press when he obviously hasn’t done even a simple examination of the texts he must feel he knows.

Since “many false prophets are gone out into the world” I do would my due diligence to “try (*Gk.1381- test*) the spirits (*Gk.4151- vital principle*)” to make sure “they are of God” (*1 Jn 4:1*).

In Him,
Charli