

R The Return Of Jesus Christ

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

One of the most interesting areas of Bible study deals with the subject of Bible *PROPHECY* and "things to come."

It is such a large subject and so detailed that this particular study can only be of an introductory nature. As you grow in your Christian life, you will learn many things from the Bible about the future. The aim of this lesson is to give you a basic framework to build on.

The Return of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental teachings of the Word of God. For every believer, the coming of Christ is referred to in *Titus 2:13* as the B _____ H _____.

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S COMING.

- A. Read: *John 14: 1-4*. Jesus said to His disciples in *verse 3*:
 "I W _____ C _____ A _____."
- B. Read *Acts 1:11*. The two angels said to the disciples:
 "This _____ Jesus...shall so _____ in _____ manner..."
- C. Read: *Hebrews 9:28*. This promise states that Christ shall appear:
 the S _____ T _____.
- D. Read: *I John 2:28* and *I John 3:2*. Both these verses say:
 "He (Christ) S _____ appear."
- E. The last promise of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible is:
 "Behold _____ Q _____." *Revelation 22:12*

THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

The first coming of Jesus Christ to earth (sometimes called the "first advent") is now a fact of history. Yet, **before** His coming into the world – first as a babe in Bethlehem,

then as the crucified, buried, and risen again Saviour – all of these wonderful events were themselves Bible prophecies.

There were hundreds of Old Testament prophecies relating to the First Coming of Jesus, each one was fulfilled exactly to the letter! There are *EVEN MORE* prophecies relating to His Second Coming, and they will also be fulfilled literally.

Below are some of the major prophecies concerning the First Coming of Christ – and their actual historical fulfillment. Read these, then write out what the prophecy was.

<u>OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY</u>	<u>NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT</u>
Isaiah 7:14 _____	Matthew 1:23
Genesis 49:10 _____	Hebrews 7:14
Micah 5:2 _____	Luke 2:11,15
Zechariah 9:9 _____	Matthew 21:4,5
Psalms 41:9 _____	John 13:18
Zechariah 11:12,13 _____	Matthew 26:15; Matthew 27:9,10
Psalms 22:16 _____	John 19:36,37; John 20:20,25
Psalms 69:21 _____	Matthew 27:34
Psalms 22:1 _____	Matthew 27:46
Isaiah 53:9 _____	Matthew 27:57-60
Psalms 16:8-11 _____	Acts 2:27
Psalms 22:18 _____	Matthew 27:35

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS IN TWO STAGES.

In a sense, the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was in **two** stages:

CRADLE 30 years CROSS

The coming of Jesus as a babe to Bethlehem was a *private* event, unnoticed by the world at large. Relatively few got to share the joy of the moment – primarily those who were looking and waiting for his coming. (See: *Luke 2:25, 36-38; Matthew 2:1,2*)

But when our Lord hung upon Calvary's cross, it was a *public* display – in view of all.

So too, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in *TWO* distinct stages. We use two words to distinguish these phases:



THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS.

This is the next event on God's prophetic calendar.

A. The term "*rapture*" is not found in the Bible, but its meaning — "**caught up**" — most certainly is.

B. Read the following key Scriptures about the Rapture:

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

I Corinthians 15:51,52

Philippians 3:20,21

Now, answer the following as either *TRUE* (T) or *FALSE* (F):

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Rapture is an instantaneous event. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The Rapture concerns only deceased Christians, that is, only those who " <i>sleep</i> " in Christ. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. At the Rapture, the Lord sends His angels to gather the saints and bring them to Heaven. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. At the Rapture, believers (saints) will be caught up into the air to meet Christ. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. At the Rapture, all Christians, living and dead, will receive a glorified resurrection body. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. According to <i>Matthew 24:42</i> , the Rapture will be announced to give us time to get ready. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7. According to *II Peter 3:3-9*, the only reason the Rapture has not yet taken place is that the Lord wants to save sinners.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

This is the **second phase** of the return of Jesus Christ.

A. Read: *Revelation 19:11-16*. Here the Lord Jesus is called:

1. F _____ and T _____ (*verse 11*).
2. The W _____ of G _____ (*verse 13*).
3. The K _____ of K _____ and _____ of _____ .

B. According to *Revelation 19:14* and *Jude 14,15*, the Lord Jesus Christ will return with: _____ .

C. Read: *Zechariah 14:1-4*.

When Jesus Christ returns, He will set his feet down on the M _____ of
O _____ .

D. Read: *II Thessalonians 1:7-10*.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ will be a time of V _____ and
D _____ .

BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE REVELATION.

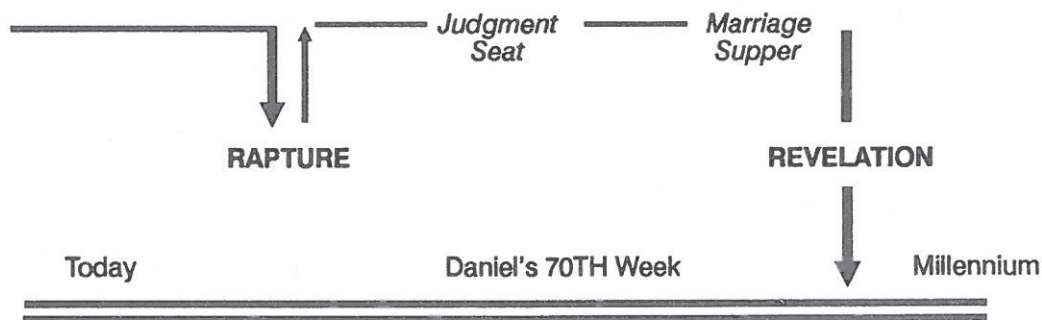
A. The Old Testament prophecy of Daniel reveals there will be a seven-year period between the two phases of the Second Coming of Christ.

1. *Daniel 9:24* speaks of a time period of 70 weeks.
2. *Daniel 9:25* shows that these "weeks" are in fact "heptads" or seven-year periods.

From the going forth of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah (Christ) being "cut off" would be 69 weeks. From 445 B.C. to 30 A.D. equals 69 x 7, or 483 Jewish years, or 475 sidereal years. This part has been fulfilled.

3. *Daniel 9:27* speaks of the 70th week yet to begin. The present 'Day of Grace' stopped God's prophetic clock at the end of the 69th week when Messiah was cut off, i.e., crucified.
4. The final seven years of Daniel's prophecy will begin with the Rapture. Christians will be caught up and will not be involved in any of the events which will transpire on the earth during this period.

B. The following diagram shows the main events that will occur during this time period:



THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

This event takes place in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ after the Rapture.

- A. According to *Romans 14:10*, who will take part in this Judgment? _____

- B. According to *Romans 14:12*, what will we do in this Judgment? _____

- C. According to *II Corinthians 5:10*, what aspect of our lives will come under scrutiny at this Judgment? _____
- D. Read carefully *I Corinthians 3:9-15*.
 1. In *verse 9*, the church at Corinth is called God's _____, the foundation of which is _____ (*verse 11*).
 2. The Lord is interested in how we _____ upon this foundation (*verse 12*).

3. According to *verse 12*, these works are likened to:
 _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ , Precious _ _ _ _ _ ;
 _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ .
4. The fire of this judgment will try the W _ _ _ _ _ of the Christian.
5. According to *verse 15*, can a Christian who has never acceptably served the Lord now be lost and cast into Hell? _____
6. According to *verse 14*, what will the Christian who has acceptably served the Lord receive? _____

E. The Bible speaks of these rewards as “**crowns.**” There are five crowns we can receive as a reward for our life as a Christian:

1. The Crown of _ _ _ _ _ . *I Thessalonians 2:19* This is the **soul winner’s** crown!
2. The Crown of _ _ _ _ _ . *James 1:12* This is the **faithful Christian’s** crown.
3. The Crown of _ _ _ _ _ . *II Timothy 4:8* This is the crown for those who **live** and **look** for the Lord’s return.
4. The I _ _ _ _ _ Crown. *I Corinthians 9:25* This is the crown for the **victorious Christian.**
5. The Crown of _ _ _ _ _ . *IPeter 5:4* This crown is for the **faithful pastor.**

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB.

- A. According to *Ephesians 5:22-32*, the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and His churches is likened to that between:
 H _ _ _ _ _ and W _ _ _ _ .
- B. According to *II Corinthians 11:2*, the church at Corinth was:
 E _ _ _ _ _ (engaged) to one Husband – Christ.
- C. From *John 3:29* and *Revelation 22:17*, one of the metaphors used of New Testament churches is “The B _ _ _ _ _ of Christ.”
- D. The union of Bride and Bridegroom occurs at the Rapture and the wedding celebration is called in *Revelation 19:7-9* the:
 M _ _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ _ _ .

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK.

While the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb are taking place in Heaven, an entirely different scene will unfold on earth.

A. The Book of The Revelation gives the details of the events of this seven-year period prophesied by Daniel – Chapters 6 *through* 18 in particular.

It is a horrifying record of war, rebellion, catastrophe, and desolation. It is called by several names, including:

1. The Day of the LORD – *Isaiah 2:12-22*
2. Tribulation – *Deuteronomy 4:30; Revelation 7:14*
3. The Great Day of Wrath – *Revelation 6:17*

B. Christians will **not** pass through any of this period. How do we know this?

1. According to *Jeremiah 30:7*, it will be a time of _____, _____ ; i.e., it has specifically to do with the Jews and the Nation of Israel. (See also: *Daniel 9:24* – “thy people,” “thy holy city”)
2. The Lord’s promise to His faithful church at Philadelphia was that He would _____ them from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world – *Revelation 3:10*.
3. Our salvation through Jesus Christ assures us that we are not _____ unto wrath – *I Thessalonians 5:9*.
4. According to *Luke 21:34-36*, Christians are to be ready at all times, for the Rapture is (and always has been) imminent – i.e. it could happen at any time.

C. According to *II Thessalonians 2:3,8* there will be the revealing of the M ____ of S ____ at the commencement of this seven-year period.

This person is most commonly referred to as The Antichrist. He is the Devil incarnate. See: *I John 2:18*.

D. According to *Revelation 12:9,12*, _____ will be cast down to the earth at the mid-point of this period.

E. According to *Daniel 12:1*, then will come a time “...such as _____ W ____ since there was a nation.”

F. Read: *Matthew 24:15-24*. According to *verse 21*, this awful time is called the G _____ T _____ .

G. According to *Matthew 24:29,30*, the Second Coming of Christ to the earth occurs at the:

- BEGINNING
- END
- MID-WAY POINT

(Check the correct answer)

of the Great Tribulation.

THE MILLENNIUM.

A. Following the return of Christ in glory, He will judge the N _ _ _ _ _ .
Matthew 25:31,32

B. According to *Joel 3:12-16*, this judgment will take place in the Valley of
_ _ _ _ _ .

C. According to *Revelation 20:2,3*, Satan will be bound for _____
years.

D. According to *Revelation 20:4*, Christ will reign on the earth for _____
years.

E. According to *Isaiah 2:4*, the Millennium will be a time of:

F. According to *Isaiah 11:1-10*, the Millennium will be a time of _____

G. According to *Zechariah 14:16*, the Millennium will be a time of:

For further studies in these areas, please ask the pastor for information. There are many books available today, but not all can be fully recommended.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Titus 2:11-13.*