

SECOND COMING ADMONITIONS!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

WE HAVE THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S PROMISED RETURN: -

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."

THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST IS TO BE A DAY OF JUDGMENT AND WRATH: -

- The New Testament Scriptures have plainly revealed the truth that at Jesus' 2nd Coming he will **then** reward every person according to their works.

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.**"

Revelation 22:12: - "And, behold, I come quickly; **and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**"

- The prophets of old have portrayed the 2nd Coming of our Lord in solemn and vivid pen pictures, as a day of punishment, wrath and destruction for the ungodly. It is an **earth-shattering** event, which absolutely dissolves the natural world of this planet. It is also called "the Day of the Lord" by the Bible writers. Below are a few such passages.

Isaiah 13:6 - 13: - "**Howl ye; for the day of the LORD [is] at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.** Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces [shall be as] flames. **Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.** For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. **And I will punish the world for [their] evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.** I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. **Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.**"

Isaiah 26:20 & 21: - "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. **For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity:** the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

Joel 1:15: - "Alas for the day! **for the day of the LORD [is] at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.**"

Joel 2:1 - 3: - **“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for [it is] nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, [even] to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land [is] as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.”**

Zephaniah 1:14 - 18: - **“The great day of the LORD [is] near, [it is] near, and hasteth greatly, [even] the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day [is] a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”**

2 Peter 3:10 - 12: - **“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. [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”**

Revelation 6:14 - 17: - **“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”**

- These texts portray no “pretty picture” of a temporal millennium or of a second chance for men and women to be converted at the end of this world. The Bible writers make it abundantly clear, that the living wicked will be destroyed by the brightness of Christ’s glorious and fiery second appearing.

Psalms 50:3 - 6: - **“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God [is] judge himself. Selah.”**

2 Thessalonians 1:7 & 8: - **“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

2 Thessalonians 2:1 & 8: - **“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him, ... 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.”**

- The wicked have been likened to the tares of the field, which at the time of the harvest (i. e. the end of the world) are cast into the furnace of fire.

Matthew 13:36 - 43: - **“Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that**

soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; **but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]**; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world**; and the reapers are the angels. **As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

- Our Lord has likened the day of the Son of Man to the Divine Interventions that took place at the time of Noah and Lot, when the Lord destroyed all the wicked, and saved a few righteous souls alive.

Luke 17:26 - 30: - **“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”**

- The people of the world will **NOT** welcome Jesus’ 2nd Coming, Far from it. They shall weep and wail because of his coming.

Matthew 24:30: - **“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.”**

Revelation 1:7: - **“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.”**

☞ In light of all these sobering truths concerning “the Day of the Lord”,

WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED BY JESUS TO WATCH AND TO KNOW WHEN HIS COMING IS NEAR: -

- Many Christians believe that we can never know when Christ’s 2nd Coming is imminent, and that the people of God are just to continue living on in this world as if the world will go on for hundreds of years. But a careful reading of the New Testament Scriptures makes it plain that the people of God are to watch for and to know when the coming of Christ is at hand. In fact, Jesus himself has pronounced a blessing upon those believers who are watching, looking for and who are ready for their Lord when he comes again. Let us turn to the testimony of the apostles of Christ on this point.

Matthew 24:42 - 44: - **“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”**

Mark 13:35 - 37: - **“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”**

Luke 12:36 - 40: - **“And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 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. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. **Be ye therefore ready also:** for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”

While the New Testament writers record the fact that the 2nd Coming of Jesus will come like a “thief in the night”, it is a common misconception that Christ’s true followers will be taken completely unawares and by surprise at the end of this world. The apostle Paul makes it clear that it is those who are in darkness who will be taken by surprise; but the **“children of light”** will know the times and seasons concerning the Day of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:1 - 6: - “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.** Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober.”

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.**”

NOTE: - If we read carefully the last part of this verse, we can see that Christ is going to appear the 2nd time to bring salvation to those who are **looking** for him. How can people be looking for his return, if they do not know when his coming is at hand?

In fact, Jesus himself has told his followers that when they see the prophesied signs of his return, then they are to **know** that his coming is imminent, even at the very “doors”.

Matthew 24:32 & 33: - “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer [is] nigh: **So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, [even] at the doors.**”

NOTE: - It is not sound Bible teaching to believe that the true people of God will be taken by surprise by the end of the world and Christ’s 2nd Coming. Far from it! They are to **know** that his return is imminent.

BIBLICAL EXHORTATIONS SO THAT WE CAN PREPARE FOR CHRIST’S 2ND COMING: -

- We have already seen that we are commanded by Christ to watch for his 2nd Coming, and to know when it is near. We are exhorted by the apostles of Christ to be sober and to watch unto prayer, in light of the fact that the end of the world is near.

1 Peter 4:7: - **“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”**

In fact, sobriety (i.e. abstaining from alcohol) and sober habits of living are essential for our preparation for the 2nd Coming of Christ, as the following two passages make clear.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8: - “Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; **but let us watch and be sober** {Greek word “**nepho**”}. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. **But let us, who are of the day, be sober** {Greek word “**nepho**”}, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

NOTE: - The Greek word that is translated in the KJV as “**sober**” is the word “**nepho**” – See Strong’s Concordance; Greek, No. 3525. It is defined as “to drink no wine, to be sober, live soberly.”¹ “To be sober, not intoxicated;”²

¹ Greek-English Lexicon; Liddell and Scott, abridged edition, page 465.

² A Greek-English Lexicon to the New Testament, Thomas Sheldon Green, page 123.

1 Peter 1:13: - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, **be sober** {“**nepho**”}, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you **at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**”

As we come to the end of time, the devil will be angry against the people of earth, because he knows that his time and work of deception and destruction is coming to an end. Therefore we are to be sober and vigilant to resist his efforts to devour us.

Revelation 12:12: - “Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**”

1 Peter 5:8: - “**Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- Our Lord has warned his followers to avoid being overtaken with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life, so that we are taken unawares by his return. Rather, we should watch and pray that we should be accounted or judged worthy to stand in peace before Jesus at his coming, and to escape the troubles that shall engulf the world at that time.

Luke 21:34 - 36: - “And take heed to yourselves, **lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting*, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares.** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**”

NOTE: - * The Greek word that is translated as “surfeiting” in the KJV is the word “**kraipale**” – See Strong’s Concordance; Greek, No. 2897. It is defined as “carousing, intoxication, and its result drunken headache, hangover, ... dissipation ... Lk 21:34.”³

- The Christian graces of patience and faith in the Lord’s return, are both necessary to be cultivated as we wait for the 2nd Coming of Jesus. Particularly in relation to faith, we are not to lose heart because the Lord’s coming is somewhat delayed. To lose faith and heart because of a tarrying time, leads to perdition; whilst continuing to live by faith in Christ’s soon return, will lead to the saving of our soul.

James 5:7 & 8: - “**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. **Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**”

Hebrews 10:35 - 39: - “**Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.** For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. **For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith:** but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. **But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**”

We can either act out our faith in the Lord’s soon return by giving spiritual food in due season to the people (i. e. present truth), and be classed as faithful and wise servants; or if we grow complacent and lose faith in the nearness of the 2nd Coming of Jesus, we are classed as evil servants and shall be lost.

Matthew 24:45 - 51: - “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, **to give them meat in due season?** Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. **But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;** And shall begin to smite [his] fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the

³ A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by W. Bauer, Translated and revised by W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker; page 448.

drunken; **The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint [him] his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

The reason the Lord delays his coming is in mercy to unrepentant sinners, giving them an extended day of grace, so that they may come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9: - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**"


- Having a true hope in the 2nd Coming of Christ will lead us to purify our characters, even as Jesus is pure.
1 John 3:2 & 3: - "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. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**"
- Our Lord has exhorted us to watch and to keep our garments of character undefiled (which are represented by white robes), as his coming draws near.
Revelation 3:3 - 5: - "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. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;** and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelation 16:15: - "**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**"

- Because the Day of the Lord is a day when the very elements of the heavens and earth shall be burned up by fervent heat, we are exhorted to holy and godly living. And as we look for the Day of the Lord and the promised New Heavens and New Earth, we should be diligent to be found by the Lord without spot and blameless.
2 Peter 3:10 - 14: - "**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.** [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,** looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. **Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**"

As the day of our salvation comes nearer, we are to cast off the works of darkness, and to be clothed with the armour of light, so that we do not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Romans 13:11 - 14: - "And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed. **The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].**"

 We can therefore see that the doctrine of the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ is a very practical doctrine, leading to: -

- **Watchfulness and prayerfulness;**

- **A sober and abstemious life style;**
- **Patience and faith;**
- **Giving spiritual present truth to people;**
- **Purifying our characters;**
- **Holy and godly behaviour;**
- **Laying aside the sins of the flesh.**

If we obtain these spiritual graces and character traits, we shall be truly abiding in Christ, and so we can meet him in peace when he comes.

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."