

Lesson March 31: The Promise to Return - 2

Throughout the epistles of the New Testament are many references to Jesus' return and the final judgment. In this lesson we will examine some of the various references and the information they give us. For example, the return of Jesus is described as His "coming." The Greek for this word indicates both an arrival and presence with and carries with it the excitement of expectation.

1. Read **1Thess 2:19** and tell what Paul expected to receive when Jesus came.
2. Read **1Thess 4:15-17** and tell:
 - What two classes of people will be affected when Jesus comes?
 - Where will we meet Jesus when He comes?

3. Read **1John 2:28** and tell what attitude Christians should have as they look forward to His coming.

Note: The return of Jesus is also described with the term "appearing." This word means "to become evident, to be brought forth into light." The return of Christ will not be in some secret, unnoticed fashion as some teach, but rather in an unmistakable, clear fashion.

4. Read **Heb 9:28** and tell what distinctions the writer makes about the first and second appearing of Christ.

5. Read **Titus 2:13** and tell how the appearing of Jesus is described.

6. Read **Col 3:3-4** and describe Paul's hope for Christians.

Note: The return is also called a revelation or a "revealing." This word indicates an uncovering or unveiling and refers to Jesus' current invisibility being changed so that all of our senses can experience Him.

7. Read **2Thess 1:6-7** and answer the following:
 - Who besides Jesus will be "revealed?"
 - How will He come and from where?

8. Read **1Pet 1:7** and tell:
 - What is currently being tested in Christians?
 - What will the results of these current tests produce when Christ is revealed?

9. Read **1Cor 1:7** and describe the outlook of Jesus' followers to His revealing:
 - Why would they feel this way?

10. There are many other passages that describe the return of Jesus. Below is a sampling of some of their teaching.
 - Read **2Pet 3:3-9** and tell:
 - What did Jesus promise that even scoffers would have to acknowledge?
 - What had been their attitude toward this promise?

- What lesson had they forgotten?
- Read **1Thess 5:23** and tell what Paul wishes to be found blameless at the Lord's coming.
- Read **2Tim 4:1** and tell what Jesus would do at His appearing.
- Read **1Pet 5:4** and tell what the faithful will receive at His second coming.