

Personal Study

"THE COMING KING"
PART 3



The Coming King

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The Coming King part 3 “The King will Come Again”

Introduction: When I was a kid, I loved to play baseball. When I had the opportunity to join a little league team, I could have not been more excited. I remember one game in particular that got rained out in the 5th inning. It was a tie ball game, but the umpire had to stop the game altogether. We never got to the last inning, batter, or strikeout of the game. It was unresolved. I don't know about you, but unresolved endings drive me crazy!

If you think about it, we often go about our spiritual lives thankful for the first coming of Christ. Christ came as a baby. He lived the perfect life. He died the death that we deserved. He rose again! He provided salvation.....But then we stop. The final “play” of this story is that Christ WILL come again. We tend to focus (almost entirely) on the beginning and end of the story, and we forget that Jesus is coming back for His church.

So why do we stop short and not focus on the end of the story as well as the beginning and middle?

-For some, its “scary” to think about. Christ’s return is often thought about as a dreadful, scary moment in time. While this is true if you do not know Jesus as your savior, for those of us who are in Christ, this is our blessed hope! We yearn for Jesus to return, and we live for His return daily.

-For some of us, it is easy to be intimidated by the end of the Bible, but more comfortable with the “middle” parts. I completely get it. Reading the book of Revelation is no small task. However, the Bible was written about Jesus - for us! The Word of God (even the more intimidating books) is a gift of His grace, that we can know of Him through the perfect revelation of the scriptures.

Today we are looking specifically at the return of Christ as the last installment of our Christmas series “the coming King”. We are looking at 3 main ideas: Christ’s return will be **visible**, **imminent**, and **final**. It is in these 3 ideas we see Christ's return as our hope and victory in Christ Jesus.

Take a moment to Read Revelation 19: 11-16

1. Christ's Return Will Be Visible:

Jesus promised the disciples he would not leave them as orphans by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in them and in that way the presence of Christ already dwells in believers (John 14:18-

26; Rom 8:9), but that is not what is meant by the return of Christ. He will return visibly and publicly in a way that all people will see him coming in the clouds (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7). As such, any notion that he will come secretly or that someone may have missed it is misguided because there will be no doubt about it when it happens (2Thes. 2:2).

2. Christ's Return is Imminent:

The return of Christ is also imminent, meaning it is near and when it comes it will happen quickly. The fact that we cannot know with any certainty about exactly when Jesus will return is clear when Jesus states, "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.... Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matt. 24:42; 25:13). Early Christians anticipated that Christ could return in their lifetime and admonished believers to watch and be ready. Because the specific time of Christ's return is unknowable, believers are exhorted to be prepared by purifying their lives from sin and living in obedience to Christ daily.

3. Christ's Return is final:

Christ will return with final victory! Death, Hell, Sin and the grave have no power over us (because of the powerful name of Jesus!). He came as a baby, and He is returning as the conquering King of Kings! He is no longer a baby in a manger, He is the Lord of Lords!

He is returning for His bride, the church! He is returning for you and for me. The dead in Christ will rise first and be caught up with Him in the air! We will see Him face to face. Our Hope will be before our very eyes!

At his return, every knee in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bend to his sovereign majesty and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11). He will come as true judge to reward his saints and judge the wicked (Rev. 11:18). It is the day when, according to Paul's gospel, "God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus" (Rom. 2:16). Jesus will establish his rule and reign over all nations, he will set all things to rights, and he will rule with a rod of iron so that his will is done on earth just as it is done in heaven.

Application:

Questions to consider -How are we living now, in light of the certain return of Jesus Christ? Are we living with gospel urgency? Are we making much of Jesus in every area of our lives? Are we demonstrating the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus to those around us?

Pray – By God's grace, He will form in us hope in His return, urgency to proclaim the good news, and thanksgiving that Jesus is our victory.