

Second Comming of Christ

This last century has been full of war on every continent and in many countries. The hatred and greed of leaders has led to the death of millions. Once again countries are boldly talking about their nuclear weapons. If there was such a war, what would happen to all of us?

Don't be afraid! Jesus predicted war and Jesus said He would come to return to save us.

This world's environment is getting worse and worse. Factories and machines crank out pollution, dumping filth everywhere. In some places the rain has turned into tree-killing acid. Some people can't even drink the water. People can only live without water for a few days. People can only live without air for a few minutes. How will we live if pollution continues to destroy our planet?

Don't be afraid! Jesus predicted destruction and Jesus said He would come to return us.

People everywhere are afraid of disease. They run to the hospitals for help. But now new diseases are confusing scientists. Cholera can destroy terribly, but they can cure it. AIDS can't be cured but it can be prevented. But diseases like SARS have killed even doctors and scientists. If the common people run for help to the doctors, but the doctors themselves are afraid of the disease, where can we turn to for help?

Don't be afraid! Jesus predicted the increase of frightening diseases and Jesus said He would return to save us.

Natural disasters through floods, earthquakes, heat waves and now tsunamis have killed many people and destroyed houses and crops. If the world's weather has stopped listening to its

own commandments, what will happen to its people?

Don't be afraid! Jesus predicted the upheaval of nature and Jesus said He would return to save us.

If we compare today with fifty years ago, you can see that people's love is collapsing very fast. Divorce is common. Sexual molestation, rape, prostitution and pornography is degrading and destroying the innocent and the guilty. Videos and movies increase in violence and filth. Will anywhere be safe for our children?

Don't be afraid! Jesus predicted the breakdown of morals and Jesus said He would return to save us.

Peace in the midst of Chaos

Isn't it amazing that Jesus predicted all these things? Though it is frightening to live in such an unstable and unpredictable world, it is comforting to know that Jesus knew about all of them in advance. Surely if He was wise enough to predict these disasters, then He is wise enough to help us through them.

In fact He has shown us how to have peace in midst of the worst situations. How can we do this?

The ancient scriptures promised that God will keep the person in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on God, because he trusts in God" (Isaiah 26:3). This is the secret—know God is with you.

If we believe that Jesus died for us, then we are confident that He loves us enough to help us. If we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, then we are confident that even if we die we have the hope of resurrection.

Then we don't need to be afraid any more.

Jesus is Coming Again

Jesus predicted all these catastrophes after His disciples asked Him when He would return to earth. He said, "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth... Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:25-28).

Perhaps you have heard people speak about a coming Savior, someone who one day will return to judge the world with fire and to save those who trust in Him. Some call Him the God of Love. The stories and rumors are in many countries and many cultures, but much of it is unclear. Still people know that life cannot continue on as it is forever. They feel that there must be someone who will come and both judge the wickedness and rescue those in need.

The scriptures clearly tell us that the one who is coming is Jesus. There are many more predictions in the scriptures that cannot be included here. As you read them more it will help you to be convinced that Jesus is going to return to earth and it will be soon. Isn't that wonderful news?

Coming in the Clouds

Jesus specifically said that He would come in the clouds. He warned the disciples to remember this because many "false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and

wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." He went on to tell them, "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:24, 26-27).

Once again Satan is trying to deceive people by giving them false hopes and drawing them into his own shows of power. We can know Jesus will come in and every eye will see Him as He returns with mighty power in the clouds.

What will happen then? The wicked will flee in terror, trying to hide in caves and behind rocks. They will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming. But Jesus promised that "The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Here again is the precious promise of resurrection from the dead and an eternal heaven for those who trust in the death of Jesus in their place. What hope this brings.

The Way to Heaven

What is the way that we can be ready for Jesus' soon coming and be able to return to heaven with Him? Life now and heaven can be compared to two pieces of land separated by a great gulf filled with fire. We want to cross over to the other side (heaven) and so we try hard to build a bridge to get across by doing good things on our own. At first the bridge seems to be strong, but when we try to extend it, it falls down. We can-

not reach the other side by our good deeds, they are simply not enough. Should we give up in despair?

No, the Bible tells us clearly that Jesus has made a road to heaven through His own life and death. We can cross to the other side, to heaven. He has died in our place and is willing to trade His righteous merits for our failings. Once Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6). He not only showed us truth, but He made a way to give us eternal life.

All we need to do is turn from our own attempts to make it to heaven on our own. We must stop walking in our sin and choose to cross over to God's side. We must trust Jesus' death and gift of forgiveness and a new heart. Will you take this step and walk to heaven through Him who is the Way?

Roadblocks we Need to Remove

There are many things that block people from choosing God's special way. Some people like their sins so much they hold on to them even though they are pulling them into the fire below. Others are simply too busy to even stop and notice that God has provided a bridge of salvation for them. Still others let friends and family turn them away. They are ashamed to be different, to make a choice that might upset someone.

When helmets were just beginning to be used in Cambodia, a man put one on as he headed to work. His neighbors laughed at him, telling him he looked so funny with such a big hat. He was embarrassed. He didn't want to be different from his neighbors and so he took off the protection. One day, he was riding along when a motorized cart carrying wood turned directly in front of him. He was flipped from his motorcycle and his head. In the hospital, before he breathed his last, he

told us that if he cared more about his own safety than the opinion of others, he would have been fine.

What about you? If you believe that Jesus is the Way to heaven, will you make your decision to follow Him or will you let someone's opinion turn you away. There is nothing in this world that will last. Only those who put their trust in Jesus will find a way of escape when the world is destroyed by fire. Now is our time to choose. When Jesus comes again it will be too late to decide.

A Special Decision to Make

There is a wonderful celebration that people do when they decide to receive God's salvation. It is called baptism. In this celebration the person goes down into the water and is immersed. What does this mean? It means that he chooses to be washed clean by Jesus' death from his sins. Going down into the water is like being buried and coming out is like being resurrection. It is saying, "I choose to die to my old way of sinful, selfish living and to come alive to a new way of living in love to help others and serve God.

Would you like to do that special celebration? God is happy to forgive your sins and to cleanse your heart. He wants to give you the Holy Spirit which is like His presence to help you do what is right and to have His comfort and wisdom close to you.

The scriptures tell us "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39).

If you would like to do this, talk to the Christian who has been

helping you know the Father of Life. They will help you prepare for this very important decision in which you surrender your life into God's hands to be directed by Him and in which you receive His salvation.

Point to Remember

2 Corinthians 6:2 "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

If this statement is true of your choice today, check it:

_____ I choose to receive God's salvation again today.

_____ I want to follow the Father of Life for the rest of my days.

_____ I will continue to study to prepare for baptism.