**The Return of Christ; What do You Believe III**

**Acts 1:9-11**

Thus far we have declared that:

The Promises of God the Father Demands the Second Coming of Christ take place.

The Teachings of Christ, Himself Demands that His return take place.

The Testimony of the Holy Spirit Demands the Second Coming of Christ take place.

And the Programs for the Church also Demands that the Second Coming of Christ take place.

We have the mockers, scoffers, preachers who deny the Second Coming of Christ.

Let us continue with the reasons why the return of Christ must happen.

**The fifth reason why Christ must return is because of the Corruption in the World we live Demands It.**

**Matthew 16:27** Jesus’ words, ***“The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”***

In **Titus 2:13** the church is looking for the ***“blessed hope,”***

In **John 5:25–29** Jesus, Himself said ***“the hour is coming in which those in the graves will hear My voice,”***

***“Do not marvel at this;***

**Jude 14-15** says,

In **2nd Thessalonian 1:7-10** Paul told the believers:

Scripture tells us that all judgment has been committed to Christ in **John 5:22.**

This is pictures for us in **Revelation 19:11-16:**

Therefore, Jesus *must* return to execute a just retribution on sinners and carry out the judgment He has promised on the corrupt world.

**The sixth reason why Jesus must return is the Future of Israel Demands It.**

God’s dealing with the church and the world both necessitates the return of Christ.

Did you realize God’s plan for Israel also demands the Second Coming?

**Zechariah 12:10** includes this promise:

That salvation of Israel has not yet happened, but it will. Zechariah **13:1.**

The entire **14th chapter of Zechariah** gives a detail of that great day of salvation for Israel, which will occur at the Lord’s return.

**Romans 11:25-27** says

Paul was clearly describing a future reality. He was looking forward to a time when ***“all Israel will be saved.”***

Paul reminded the Gentile converts,

**The Seventh reason why Christ must return is to Vindicate Himself.**

It is inconceivable that the last public view the world had of Jesus Christ was a bleeding, dying, crucified criminal, covered with blood, spit, and flies, hanging in a Jerusalem twilight.

Believers who saw Him **John 20:24–29.**

In **1st Corinthians 15:5-8** Paul lists those who witnessed the risen Lord:

**Hebrews 9:28** says,

**Revelation 1:7** says

**Matthew 24:27** says

**Psalm 22**, depicts His humiliation His pain and suffering and then His public exaltation.

In **verses:16-18** they prophesied in detail the treatment He would receive at the hands of those who put Him to death:

But the climax of that same psalm anticipates the glory that will be on display when He returns, **verses 27-28:**

**Matthew 26** also sets his first advent as one of suffering and His Second-Coming as glory alongside one another.

**Matthew 26:67-68** describes the treatment Christ received at the hands of those who arrested Him:

They mocked Him, they played games with Him, they plucked out His beard, they humiliated Him.

And then they executed Him.

Is that how Jesus is to be remembered in the eyes of the world?

Hanging on a cross, is that His last public appearance on earth?

During His trial, Jesus Himself indicated that it would not be in **verses 63-64** it says,

Thus, the promise of a future exaltation was expressed by Jesus Himself, during His own humiliation.

The shame of the crucifixion took place in full view of a scoffing crowd.

Likewise, His return will also be in public view when He comes His glory will be on display.

**Revelation 1:7** says,

**Luke 21:25-27** it says,

The Savior of the world was humiliated and taunted and put to death in public display of humanity’s hatred of God.

However, He will return as the conquering Lord in view of the entire world.

Therefore, He *must* return to vindicate Himself.

**The eighth reason for the Second Coming of Christ is the Destruction of Satan.**

Christ must return to put an end of the devil and all his destruction.

Satan, though an already-defeated foe as far as Christians are concerned, still exercises a kind of dominion over this world.

Three times in the **Gospel of John**, Christ referred to the devil as ***“the ruler of this world”*** in **12:31**; again in **14:30**; and then in **16:11**.

In **2nd Corinthians 4:4**, Paul calls Satan ***“the god of this age.”***

In **Ephesians 2:2,** he called him

Then in **Ephesians 6:12**, Paul refers to Satan’s hierarchy of evil spirits as

**First John 5:19** says,

Let me say there’s a sense in which Satan still runs the world.

But the question is how did he gain this power?

**Philippians 2:9-11**, says

Jesus Christ is the only rightful ruler of this world, and when He returns, He will overthrow and destroy Satan completely.

**Revelation chapter 5** pictures this drama in graphic terms.

In **verse 1,** John describes his vision of heaven;

But land could not be sold permanently that is according to **Leviticus 25:23**.

Jeremiah redeemed some of his family’s land by such means in **Jeremiah 32:6-7**,

Those signatures would have been recorded with seals.

A typical title deed would have multiple seals, just like the scroll in **Revelation 5**.

The seven-sealed scroll in **Revelation 5** is clearly a document of importance,

The situation seemed such a dilemma to John that he started crying: **verse 4.**

But there was no question in heaven about who had authority to open that title deed.**verse 5.**

Christ as Son of God was the legitimate Heir to all creation that is according to **Psalm 2:6-8; and Hebrews1:1-2.**

**Revelation chapters 6-7** describe the opening of the seven seals,

The final seal brings utter silence in heaven, followed by seven trumpet blasts.

**chapters 8-11.**

**chapter 16.**

Finally, Satan tries to retain his unlawful dominion over the earth, Christ Himself returns.

**Revelation 19** describes the scene when He comes suddenly and destroys His enemies.

Then in **chapter 20**

Therefore, Christ *must* return to earth to accomplish the final destruction of His archenemy.

**Then the final reason for the Second Coming of Christ is to bring Hope to the Saints.**

The final reason the Lord must return to earth: is because only His glorious, triumphant return can fulfill the hope of the saints.

God is not in the business of giving false hope.

God knows what we are waiting for.

God knows the longing of our hearts.

His Word gives us every reason to long for hope.

Peter saw the promise of Christ’s return as comfort for the people of God during times of trial by saying, **1st Pet. 1:7.**

In **2nd Thessalonians 1:4-7** Paul encouraged believers to have that same hope by saying:

All believers long for the day when Christ will return, Paul characterizes Christians as those who “***love his appearing”*** **2 Timothy 4:8**.

John added this in **1st John 3:2**

In other words, the return of Christ will instantly usher in the fullness of our glorification.

For all these reasons Christ *must* return.

And the fulfillment of that hope is now closer than it has ever been.

The apostle John added these words: in **verse 3.**

This is the test of a healthy eschatology: Is your hope a sanctifying influence on your soul?

Rather than getting caught up in all the hype and hysteria about current events and newspaper headlines.

Are you looking beyond the commotion of this world with the realization that you could soon meet Christ face to face.

Are you preparing your heart and soul for that?

Instead of despairing, as some do, over how long Christ has delayed His coming, are you filled with hope and expectation?

Are you eager and watching, knowing that the time still draws nigh?

That is the attitude to which Scripture calls us.

The Second Coming is not supposed to make us stop what we’re doing to wait for the Lord’s return.

And neither should it motivate us to focus all our attention on the events and political developments of this world.

Instead, it should direct our hearts toward Christ, whose coming we await, and it should prompt us to purify ourselves as He is pure.