

## I. AN UNFINISHED BUILDING

- A. Imagine driving past a skyscraper under construction. The foundation is finished, the steel beams are up, and the walls are nearly complete. Then the builder says, "We're done"! You'd respond, "No you're not". The building isn't finished until the final work is completed." This is precisely why the return of Jesus is an essential to our faith.
  - 1. Jesus' first coming laid the foundation of God's redemptive plan. Through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension, He secured redemption for His people and guaranteed the restoration of all things.
  - 2. Jesus' first coming was not the conclusion of the Father's plan, it was the beginning of its fulfillment. The full reality of all that Christ accomplished will be revealed and consummated when He returns in glory.
- B. Jesus must complete and fulfill what He accomplished in His first coming. Without His Second Coming, redemption would be like an unfinished building, or a magnificent story with its final chapter left unread.

## II. WHAT IS THE RETURN OF JESUS?

- A. The return of Jesus is one of the most emphasized themes in Scripture, particularly in the teachings of the New Testament apostles. It is referenced throughout the Bible, with over 1,500 passages in the Old Testament and approximately one out of every 25 verses in the New Testament pointing to the Messiah's return.
- B. The return of Jesus (also called the Second Coming of Christ) is the future, visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth to fulfill God's plan of redemption, judge the world in righteousness, defeat evil, resurrect the saints, consummate His marriage with the church, set up His throne in Jerusalem, and establish His eternal kingdom.
  - 1. **<sup>2</sup>Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**-Rev 1:7-8

- a) Jesus describes Himself as "the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" in the context of His return because He is both the Author and the finisher of God's redemptive plan. He stands at the beginning of the Father's story of redemption and at its glorious conclusion.
- b) From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one unfolding story centered on God's promised Messiah. Jesus is the central figure of that glorious story of redemption—the One who accomplished our salvation through His first coming and who will return to bring God's redemptive plan to its complete and glorious fulfillment.

### III. UNDERSTANDING THE TWO DISTINCT COMINGS OF CHRIST

- A. The Bible presents two distinct comings of Jesus Christ, each with a different mission. The first coming accomplished redemption through His suffering; the second coming completes redemption through His reign. Together they fulfill God's entire plan of salvation.
- B. The scriptures reveal that the Messiah must first come to suffer for the sins of the world, then come again to reign over the world.
  - 1. ***Look, my servant will succeed! He will be elevated, lifted high, and greatly exalted(His second coming) <sup>14</sup> (just as many were horrified by the sight of you)-he was so disfigured-he no longer looked like a man;his form was so marred he no longer looked human(His suffering) .<sup>15</sup>so now he will startle many nations. Kings will be shocked by his exaltation,for they will witness something unannounced to them, and they will understand something they had not heard about. -Isaiah 52:13-15 (NET)***
- C. In His first coming Jesus came as Savior of the world, in His second coming He will come as the Judge of the world. ***In His first coming He came to judge sin in man, in His second coming He will come to judge man in sin.***
- D. In His first coming Jesus came in humility, in His second coming He will come in Glory. In His first coming He came riding on a donkey, in His second coming He will come riding on a war horse. In His first coming He

wore a crown of thorns, in His second coming He wore a crown as King of kings.

1. <sup>11</sup> ***Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*** -Rev. 19:11-13

#### IV. TEN REASONS WHY JESUS' RETURN IS AN ESSENTIAL

##### 1. THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS SPOKE ABOUT IT

- a) ***"Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!... Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him."*** -Dan 7:13-14
- b) ***"Yet I have set My King, On My holy hill of Zion."***<sup>7</sup> ***"I will declare the <sup>1</sup>decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*** -Ps 2:6-8
- c) ***Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights on the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> And on that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.*** -Zech 14:3-4

##### 2. JESUS PROMISED IT

- a) ***I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*** -Jn 14:2-3
- b) ***"They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."*** -Mt 24:30

3. ANGELS SPOKE ABOUT IT

- a) <sup>10</sup> ***And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."-Acts 1:10-11***

4. THE NT APOSTLES TAUGHT IT

- a) ***For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.-1Thess 4:16***
- b) ***"Christ... will appear a second time... for salvation."-Heb 9:28***
- c) ***"When He is revealed, we shall be like Him."-1Jn 3:2***

5. IT IS PART OF THE COMPLETE GOSPEL

- a) A gospel that does not proclaim the return of Jesus is an incomplete gospel. Why? It leaves our salvation incomplete because we are glorified completely at His return.
- b) Without His return death still exists, and evil goes unpunished. Jesus will defeat death completely after He returns and bring justice to all evil.

(1) <sup>25</sup> ***For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.*** <sup>26</sup> ***The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*** -1 Cor 15:25-26

6. HIS MARRIAGE STILL HAS TO BE CONSUMATED

- a) The cross was Jesus' betrothal to the church, His return is the consummation.

(1) <sup>7</sup> ***Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*** -Rev 19:7

7. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

- a) ***"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."*-Titus 2:11-13**

8. IT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ABOUT EVIL

- a) ***He will bring forth justice for truth.<sup>4</sup> He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law."*-Is 42:3-4**
- b) ***"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,"<sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*-Jude 14**

9. EVERY UNFULFILLED PROMISE MUST BE FULLFILLED

- a) Jesus' death on the cross secured every promise in the bible, and His return will fulfill them.

***(1) For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*-2Cor 1:20**

***(2) and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.* -Acts 3;20-21**

***(3)<sup>12</sup> "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*-Rev 22:12**

10. HISTORICAL BELIEF OF THE CHURCH

- a) The Nicene Creed (A.D. 325, expanded at Constantinople in A.D. 381) affirms the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as an essential doctrine of the Christian faith. It states:

(1) "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end."