

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST
PART 5a—CHRIST’S RETURN
2 JOHN 7-11; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18

Introduction

There are many views held by different groups regarding the return of Christ. So it is important for us to know what the Bible says about His return.

We must be clear on the truth concerning the Second Coming of Christ. Because it is part of the doctrine of Christ that we have already seen is so vitally important.

It is important for us to understand that God will perform His will!

In reality, none of us has the ability to carry out our will. That is why James 4:15 says, *"For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."*

God alone has the ability to carry out His own will!

There are many different times in Scripture when our Saviour said *"I will"*.

John 2:19—"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (And He did raise it up on the third day!)

John 14:16—"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" (And He did pray and the Father did send the indwelling Holy Spirit to abide with believers forever!)

Revelation 3:20—"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (And if you open your hearts door, He will come in!)

Matthew 11:28—"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (And if you come to Him, He will give you rest!)

Hebrews 13:5—" . . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (And no matter what, He never will leave us nor forsake His own!)

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Matthew 4:19—"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (And if we follow Him, He will make us fishers of men!)

John 14:14—"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (And He will!)

Matthew 16:18—" . . . I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (And He is building His Church!)

Jesus also gave His disciples a promise that relates to us, it relates to this passage we read in 1 Thessalonians, and it relates to the Doctrine of Christ—all concerning His return!

John 14:2-3—" . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again. . . ." (Jesus Christ Is Coming Again!)

I. HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE!
(VS 15) "For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord. . ."

There are some 318 references in the N.T. concerning the second coming of Christ!

The Bible always proves itself!

For thousands of years the prophets pointed toward one thing: the first coming of Christ...and He came!

Now we have the promise of His return, and we need to understand that He will come again!

A. He Told His Disciples He Would Come Again!

John 14:1-3—"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

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(There were other times when He spoke of His coming as recorded in the Gospels.)

B. He Revealed It By His Messengers At His Ascension!

Acts 1:9-11—“ . . . while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

C. He Revealed It To The Apostle John!

1 John 3:2—“ . . . When He shall appear. . . ”

Revelation 22:20—“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

D. He Revealed It To The Apostle Paul!

1. Our text in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

2. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:26 that the Lord's Table points to His return.

1 Corinthians 11:26—“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death TILL HE COME.”

The Lord's supper points backward to His death and forward to His return from heaven!

3. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

4. Titus 2:13—“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

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E. He Revealed It To James!

James 5:7—“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.”

James 5:8—“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

F. He Revealed It To The Apostle Peter!

1 Peter 1:7—“ . . . the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

1 Peter 5:4—“ . . . when the chief Shepherd shall appear. . . ”

2 Peter 3:4, 9—“ . . . Where is the promise of His coming? . . . The Lord is not slack concerning His promise. . . ”

HIS COMING WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE!