



What Are the True Reasons for Jesus' Return to Earth?

Revelation 3:20: (NASB) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.*



Jesus changed the world when he came to earth as a man over 2,000 years ago. His character, teaching, miracles and wisdom were and still are unmatched anywhere and anytime. As impactful as his first coming to earth was, he was very specific in letting his followers know that he would be returning to earth again. Many who look at the prophecies of the return of Jesus see them as foretelling a time of calamity and trouble. While these expectations do carry elements of truth, the question remains: is the return of Jesus to earth for the purpose of mayhem and destruction? We believe the answer to this question to be an unequivocal no! Further, we

believe the reasons for his return are wrapped up in the completion of God's loving plan for all humanity.

First, a little context of Jesus' prophecy of his return:

Matthew 24:1-3: (NASB) ¹Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when his disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to him. ²And he said to them, Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.

Jesus was speaking about a dramatic event of startling proportions.

³As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your **coming <3952>**, and of the end of the age?

The disciples ask Jesus three important questions:



1. When will *these things* (the Temple's destruction) happen?
2. What will be the sign or indication of Jesus' *coming*? The Greek word for *coming* is *parousia*. It means "presence" or "arrival," not "coming" or "on the way."

Coming: Strong's # 3952 *parousia*; presence, arrival

When Jesus commented on the signs of his *coming*, as it says in many Bible versions, it means: When you see these things, I am not on my way; I have already arrived.



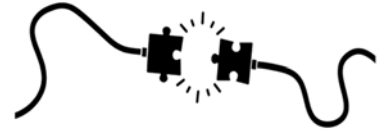
3. What will be the sign or indication of *the end of the age*?

What is *the end of the age*? Are we currently living in the end times, *the end of the age*?





Key observation: We seem to interpret the signs or indications of Jesus' return as the reasons (the "why") for his return, and then we stop looking further for why he returns. This is a mistake! Instead, let's look at the first and second advents of Jesus as connected - as two parts of the same mission. There is a major connectivity between *what he did* at his first advent and *what he is doing* in his second presence.



Jesus came to PAY the ransom for Adam's sin. Without this, nothing else could happen.

This first text is a plain statement of purpose:

Hebrews 2:9: (NASB) *But we do see him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

We owe Jesus for our future lives, and it is beyond our ability to pay.

Because of the suffering of death, he is crowned with glory and honor. Why? So, that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. This plain statement of purpose is the core of everything. We cannot understand the return of Jesus until we understand the ransom.

God's plan provided an answer to the dilemma of sin and death.

This plan required justice to be fulfilled so life would again be accessible:

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) *¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.*

One man (Adam) transgressed, and one man (Jesus) was righteous. There was equal payment - trading off Adam's sin for Jesus' righteousness. A perfect balance. Justice was satisfied!

Then it talks about "the everybody else" who was affected by Adam's sin. Who was affected by Adam's sin? Everyone! It calls everybody *the many*. All were sinners because of Adam's sin, and therefore, all will be justified because Jesus paid the price. Satisfying justice is the core point of his first advent.



With the ransom payment having been paid in full at Jesus' first advent, one of the purposes for his second advent can now become clear. The application is different from the payment. For example, we receive a Christmas gift early and it says, "Do not open until Christmas." We can shake and examine the box, but we do not know what is in it until we are able to open it.



Jesus returns to APPLY the ransom for Adam's sin.

Now we find out what is in the box. The present has been bought, paid for and wrapped, waiting to be opened. Now the joy of revealing that gift comes to fruition.

John 5:25-29: (NASB) ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the son also to have life in himself; ²⁷and He gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is the son of man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

There cannot be a resurrection unless the ransom had been paid. One of the core pieces of his return is to apply the ransom that had been paid thousands of years ago. Applying the ransom means that those who were "bought" are brought to a position of individual accountability.

There are two different scenarios taking place in John 5:29 -

1. Those who are bought now, followers of Christ, have a resurrection of life, and
2. everyone else has a resurrection of judgment.



The true followers of Christ already had their accountability during their lifetimes. They essentially already got to open their gift, but the rest of the world is unaware.

The second advent is to apply this beautiful ransom that was paid thousands of years ago.



The work of ransoming all of humanity extends far beyond paying of the price. During the time of the return of Jesus, the express purpose will be the redeeming of what was paid for. Through resurrection, Jesus will open up the opportunity for humanity to live free from Adamic sin.

There is an opportunity that becomes available because Jesus returns. The first and second advents are connected. We cannot understand the second advent unless we understand what happens at the first.

It is so important to understand that the return of Jesus is to complete the mission he began 2,000 years ago.



The first advent of Jesus was focused on Israel, and they rejected him. What does that mean for his return?

Knowing that Jesus was the ransom for all of humanity helps us more clearly understand several other reasons for his first advent. He was a Jew raised under God's Law. He WAS the promised Messiah and most of his time and effort was invested in God's chosen people.



Jesus came to offer Israel deliverance as their Messiah.

Matthew 10:5-7: (NASB) ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; ⁶but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The apostles were instructed to only go to the house of Israel to preach.

Even though the miracles and teachings were abundant, Jesus was rejected by his nation, and he therefore cast them off:

Matthew 23:37-39: (NASB) ³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹For I say to you, from now on you will not see me until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord - this is not the end for Israel as a people. They *will* acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah. This is a subtle but important aspect. He is speaking specifically to those who rejected him. There is no replacement of Judaism by Christianity. Jesus is saying that those who rejected him will have this opportunity. This casting off of the nation of Israel is not permanent. Prophecy indicates their reinstatement!



Jesus returns to restore and deliver Israel.

Jesus cast Israel off because of their disobedience, but that was only at the beginning of his work. His return promises GREAT hope for this nation!

We believe Michael, who stands guard over Israel in this verse, pictures Jesus at the time of his return:

Daniel 12:1: (NASB) Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

This provides great comfort. *The great Prince who stands guard over the sons of your people* will stand up. He will rise and be noticed. This important aspect of the second advent refers to the regathering, restoration and deliverance of Israel as a physical nation.

This restoration is biblically demonstrated in various ways such as Old Testament prophecy:

Ezekiel 37:4-6: (NASB) ⁴Again He said to me, *Prophecy over these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.* ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, *Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.* ⁶*I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.*

There is no life in the *dry bones* as a nation. Israel is completely lifeless when this prophecy is being spoken. The prophecy shows us the steps that bring the nation back to life.

This prophecy is unmistakable as to its meaning as it is basically interpreted for us:

Ezekiel 37:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹Then He said to me, *son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel (Israel and Judah); behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.* ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them, *Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.*



The prophecy of dry bones:

In the 1920s we could not find the nation of Israel on a world map. It did not exist. In the 1800s, 1700s, 1600s, 1500s, could you find the nation of Israel on a world map? No, it did not exist. It was *dry bones*. For centuries this nation was completely dead.

The nation of Israel is here now!

I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves - doesn't this remind us of what Jesus said about applying the ransom?

Jesus paid the ransom in the first advent and applies it in his return. He preached to Israel in the first advent to show them deliverance; he delivers them in the second advent.



The Apostle Paul reasons through the importance of the casting off and regathering of Israel:

Romans 11:25-29: (NASB) ²⁵*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery - so that you will not be wise in your own estimation - that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;* ²⁶*and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, the deliverer will come from Zion, he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.* ²⁷*this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.* ²⁸*From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;* ²⁹*for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*



God keeps His promises!

The Apostle Paul is talking about the hardening of Israel's hearts. Remember, this was written before AD 70 - before the destruction of Jerusalem, before the temple is destroyed. Paul saw all of these pieces already in place and said the *fullness of the Gentiles* must come and then Israel is restored. This takes place when Jesus returns.

Promises from God are irrevocable.

All of this remains in line with the original promise given to Abraham to be the father of a blesser nation:

Genesis 22:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵*Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

There is incredible power, clarity and hope in this promise - *in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*. God has foresight as He says, *I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore*. He is showing us that the "seed of Abraham" is both spiritual and physical. God does not revoke His promises; He expands their reach.

Jesus is that seed:

Galatians 3:16: (KJV) *... and to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Jesus came in his first advent to put things in place and his second advent to carry out what he started.



The end result of casting Israel off before Jesus finished his earthly ministry becomes clear at his return.
God's chosen people are being regathered for the purpose of being blessed by God and then in turn they will bless the world.

Seeing the return of Jesus through the lens of a regathered Israel expands our view of his mission.

**Where does the calling to follow Jesus fit in?
Does this calling have anything to do with his return?**

The call to follow Jesus was the most sensational part of his earthly ministry. Jesus drew average people to him instead of seeking out the learned and powerful. By teaching them discipleship and self-sacrifice, he created a world-changing force whose power would be revealed during his return.

He raised Lazarus from the dead after four days - which was sensational - but the change of the true followers of Jesus from human nature to divine nature is so much greater! This change is far above our understanding and is all part of the plan of God. Our focus now is how the first and second advents differed in this call to the true followers of Jesus.



Jesus came to call out a people FOR his name from the Jews first, and then from the Gentiles.

The call to follow Christ was to a life of selflessness, sacrifice and godly blessing, first offered to Israel exclusively.

The following verses were to a primarily-Jewish audience:

Mark 8:34-35: (NASB) ³⁴*And he summoned the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.*

In our recent podcast Episode 1183, we covered the story of the Syrophoenician woman who ate the crumbs from the table of Jewish teachings, believed and was blessed. This episode dealt with how the favor went to the Jews first and how the Gentiles would be blessed later. Jesus's first advent gave us ample opportunity to see God's plan *unfolding*, but without the second advent, we do not see the *conclusion*.



Favor went to the Jews first and the Gentiles later

The call to discipleship in the first advent: After Jesus was rejected by the Jewish nation, the call continued to individual Jews and eventually expanded to the Gentiles. Cornelius was the first Gentile convert to be baptized.

In the following texts, the challenges between early Jewish Christian groups who still followed many Jewish traditions, and Gentiles who came from pagan traditions are addressed.

Gentiles were clearly a part of this call as well:

Acts 15:13-18: (NASB) ¹³*After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, Brethren, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. ¹⁵With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, ¹⁶After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, ¹⁸Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.*

This is an incredible invitation. There was - and is - complete *equality* in the call to follow Christ (it did not matter if the person was a Jew or Gentile), but the ultimate rewards would be for a later time. There are currently great blessings in a life of serving Christ, as well as in the trials that are a way of proving our heart's sincerity in wanting to follow him. As beautiful as this life is, it is not the end. This is a time of development





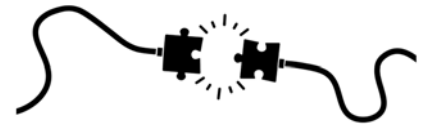
which came about because the first advent set up the call to follow Christ. Remember, in the first advent, he came to call out *a people for his name*, but now:



Jesus returns to bring all people TO his name through his “called-out” ones, his faithful followers.

Romans 8:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷*and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.* ¹⁸*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* ¹⁹*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

The world waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. Why? Because this revelation brings God's kingdom and a reign of peace. The development of this class is put in place in the first advent and it is revealed in the second.



The call passes from the development phase of the first advent in which each disciple must prove faithful, to the reconciliation phase of the second advent:

2 Corinthians 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,* ¹⁹*namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

Dwell on the thought of being made right before God! Psalms 51:5 says *we are shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin, but reconciliation takes care of that.* God is reconciling the world through Christ to Himself. He is giving us this *ministry of reconciliation*. No wonder the world awaits the manifestation of the sons of God! The world does not understand the magnitude of the blessings coming to them through this class; they just know they need help. This happens in the second advent.

These faithful ones will all undergo a miraculous change to be manifested and revealed:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: (NASB) ⁵¹*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,* ⁵²*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*



Biblically defining texts that seem to teach a rapture

Some will sleep in death for a long time (the apostles and the early church on down through the centuries); some (at this end of the age) will not because there will not be time before they are needed to help set up the kingdom.



QUIZ WHY JESUS Returns:

Jesus called out those who would be true Christians to follow him in a life of sacrifice. **His return will transform these faithful ones into mighty spiritual beings and together they will reconcile the world from sin to righteousness.**

The return of Jesus is not just a moment in time - there is a lot going on! All of the components take time:

- the regathering of Israel which takes time
- the development of the true followers of Jesus, the church
- the time of trouble, which is also part of the second advent
- the binding up and eventual removal of Satan
- the setting up and establishment of the kingdom on earth

These all take time and are all reasons for the return of Jesus. We need to picture a 2,000-year time frame in our minds, not a moment. God's plan unfolds in His order and over His time.



Jesus came to convict Satan and declare the end of his reign of evil.

Our human world will be *permanently* wrestled from the control of Satan, the betrayer, into the hands of the faithful and risen Jesus:

John 12:23-24,27-32: (NASB) ²³And Jesus answered them, saying, the hour has come for the son of man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁷Now my soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour.



Jesus is framing the fact that he will face persecution and crucifixion in the near future. What was the reason for this?

²⁸Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came out of heaven: I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. ²⁹So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, an angel has spoken to him. ³⁰Jesus answered and said, This voice has not come for my sake, but for your sakes. ³¹Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³²And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.



The ruler of this world will be cast out - Jesus says because of his crucifixion (being lifted up from the earth on the cross and then his exaltation), he will draw ALL men to himself. No wonder Satan was so bent on destroying or derailing Jesus. The faithfulness of Jesus will cost Satan his kingdom!

This reminds us of:

Revelation 11:15: (KJV) *...The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Satan has an expiration date. Jesus talks about it in his first advent - he is pointing to it. It is not happening at that time, but Jesus put things into place so they could be accomplished at his second advent.



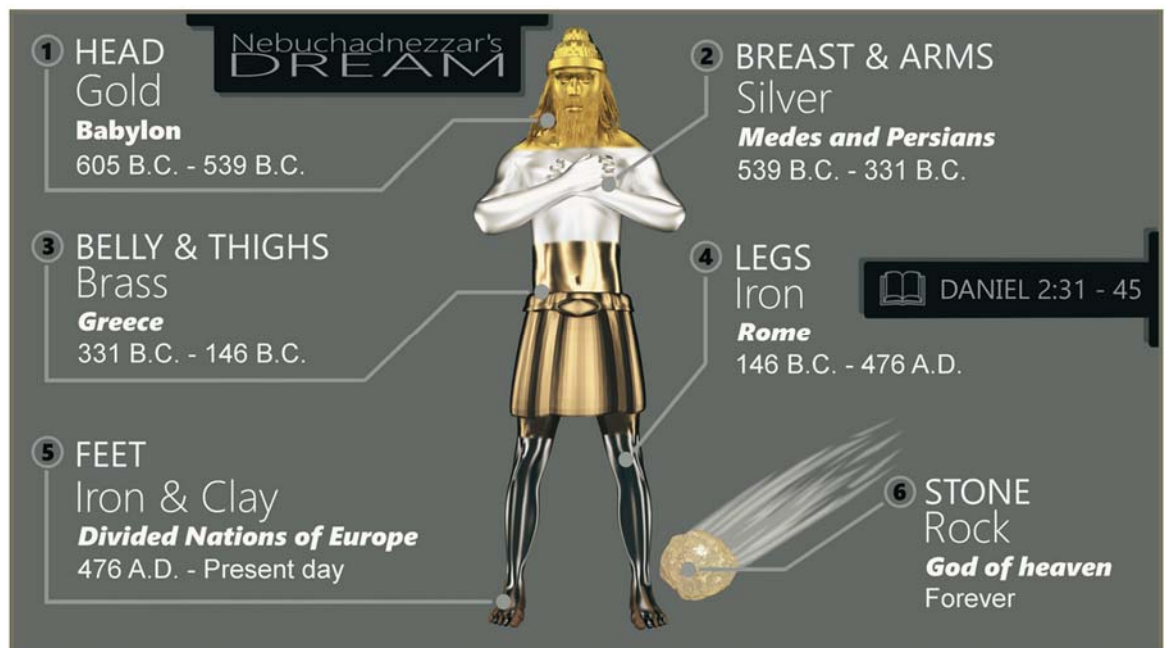
Jesus returns to build a “new heavens” and a “new earth” without Satan’s influence.

Satan was not gone when Jesus died, or when he was raised to heaven, or when Pentecost gave Jesus' disciples the holy spirit, but he will be completely bound after the fulfillment of Jesus' second advent.

Daniel speaks of the establishment of this kingdom:

Daniel 2:44-45: (NASB) *“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”*

The kingdoms of this world are run under the auspices of the ruler of this world, who is Satan. This prophecy was given by Daniel in response to Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image.





This kingdom that God brings will put an end to all these earthly kingdoms. It will not rebuild them; it will destroy them along with their ultimate ruler, Satan!

⁴⁵*Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.*

All the kingdoms, meaning all of the great universal empires of the past and everything that has come from them, are *crushed* by this stone. They are blown away in the wind because Jesus removes Satan during his second advent.



Jesus' first advent was to provide a ransom for Adam.

In so doing he released all of humanity from the grip of sin and death. This would not take full effect until his return, during which he actually takes the ruling power of this world away from Satan.

What a great sense of hope for the future! Do we realize how beautiful it will be to live out from under this evil influence in a godly, righteous environment? Unless we delve deeply into the Scriptures and absorb the prophecies, we do not know what it is like to live without sin. We cannot find any example except Jesus where that happened. Jesus returns to take Satan off the scene and replace his evil rule with God's righteous kingdom.

The reasons Jesus returns are many and powerful. They all clearly complete what he started 2,000 years ago.

**What is the end result of Jesus' return?
Where does he bring humanity and what does it look like?**

So far, we have seen a very detailed process unfolding through the return of Jesus. It should be obvious that this process takes place over a significant period of time. The end result is that the trouble at the beginning of his return is temporary, and it opens the door to a world that many can only dream about!

In this final segment we want to dwell on the power of this whole plan. To figure out what it is supposed to look like, we must look at Jesus' first advent. It shows us the beginning of the mission so we can translate it into the second advent which is the ending of the mission. Jesus' earthly ministry was a foreshadowing of the future.



Jesus came to heal and teach Israel so the people would recognize him as their Savior.



Jesus was *overwhelmingly* generous in healing the masses:

Luke 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of his disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. ¹⁹And all the people were trying to touch him, for power was coming from him and healing them all.

This is not the only time the Scriptures tell us Jesus healed them all. Jesus poured his heart into this ministry, not only of teaching but healing. Despite Jesus healing all that came to hear him several times, he was just one man, touching only a relatively small group of people. There is a whole world of people who are sin-sick and suffering.

Jesus did not limit his healing to Jews, but did on occasion heal Gentiles as a foreshadowing of things to come:

Matthew 8:5-8,10,13: (NASB) ⁵And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, imploring him, ⁶and saying, Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented. ⁷Jesus said to him, I will come and heal him. ⁸But the centurion said, Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

The centurion shows incredible faith here. He states that he is not worthy (he is not Jewish) but, like the Syrophoenician woman did for her daughter, he begs for help for his servant. He realized that Jesus has spiritual authority; he is wielding a power that is not human. It is God's influence and power. He understands Jesus has the power through God.



The centurion explains his military authority and likens it to the spiritual authority of Jesus:

¹⁰Now when Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who were following, Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. ¹³And Jesus said to the centurion, Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed. And the servant was healed that very moment.

The healing of the earthly ministry of Jesus was effective, but it was only a temporary drop in the bucket! As magnificent and inspiring as it was, and as life-changing as it was for those few people, it was tiny compared to the enormity of those who needed healing over all the world. Why did Jesus bother with these little efforts? He was showing what he would do in his second advent!



Jesus returns to heal and teach ALL nations so they will recognize and follow him as their Redeemer and obey God as their Sovereign Ruler.

What Jesus showed in these wonderful little drops of healing becomes a wholesale changing of humanity. And not only for humanity, but also for the land, the earth!

The return of Jesus brings healing:

Isaiah 35:4-10: (NASB) ⁴*Say to those with anxious heart, Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.* ⁵*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. ⁶Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes.*

When we think of these ground springs of water, we think of life bubbling up and a healing of the earth. In his first advent, Jesus healed a handful of the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, the lame, and the tongue of the mute, but in the second advent it will be a complete healing for everyone. This model of healing at the first advent will be for all humanity and for the earth in the second advent.



The second advent brings direction and protection:

⁸*A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

The second advent completes the mission of the first. The result of all of this is **reconciliation**. The whole point of this second advent is to reconcile the human world and the physical world to the perfect plan of God. This finally occurs as a result of Jesus' return.

The Lord's prayer reminds us of this:

Matthew 6:10: (KJV) *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Jesus would not tell his disciples to pray for something that would never happen. He tells his followers to be focused on that kingdom. In Luke 17:21, Jesus tells us *the kingdom of God is in your midst*. He came down from heaven to start his mission: to transform this world to the kingdom of God. We should pray for him to fulfill this world-changing mission.

The first advent was world-changing to a degree, but the second advent will bring about the restoration of Israel and many other things. The second advent changes the world forever on a much grander scale. When Jesus said to pray, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth* - he really meant it!

The return of Jesus brings a unified world under the mighty hand of God:

Isaiah 2:2-4: (NASB) ²*Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

These verses give us a sense of how the governing of the world will come because Jesus returned. He did the work in the first advent and is finalizing it in the second. "Mountains"



symbolically represent governments in the Bible. God's government is chief of the mountains, above everything, and it will be administered through spiritual Zion (the heavenly arm of government), consisting of the true church, Jesus'

called-out ones. Here on earth, the word of the Lord will come out from Jerusalem, Israel, the seat of the earthly government. Those ancient faithful ones mentioned in Hebrews 11 will be its rulers.

⁴And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Everyone talks about putting away strife and living in peace. God has everything under control, and it is because Jesus did the work in the first advent and returns to put all in place during his second advent.

The final aspect of Jesus' return - all glory goes to God our Father:

1 Corinthians 15:25-28: (NASB) ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy that will be abolished is death. ²⁷For he has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when he says, all things are put in subjection, it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to Him, then the son himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

We need to realize, truly appreciate and meditate on the fact that Jesus always has and always will serve the Father. He will always do the Father's will unequivocally without question. His second presence is for the purpose of teaching the world what he knows about serving the Father.

So, why did Jesus come the first time? To pay the price for sin and show us what was going to happen by healing the people. In his return, the resurrection will be proof of his ransom sacrifice for humanity, and the healing of the nations will be fulfilled as Jesus turns the perfected world over to God. We cannot even imagine what God and Jesus are going to do to bless everyone in their perfected state for all eternity. It is so far-reaching and beyond human comprehension.



The end result of the return of Jesus is the eternal reconciliation and blessing of all humanity. They will grow into being sons of God as Adam originally was.

The lessons they will learn will become eternal touchstones and all will dwell in godly righteousness!



We have this picture shown to us through Jesus' first advent. He came and paid the price. He went to the Jews and called out *a people for his name*. He showed that Satan would be cast out. He healed, taught and put in place all of the things necessary for us to see that the work has magnificently begun.

In his return, Jesus comes and gloriously finishes every one of the things that he did in the first advent, and the result is they all lived happily ever after. This is not a fairy tale; this is a scriptural principle. The return of Jesus is not about mayhem and destruction. It is about the building of God's kingdom on earth and the glorious blessings that can come from it here on earth as well as in heaven. That is why he returns!

*So, what are the true reasons for Jesus' return to earth?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on July 12, 2021
Ep. 1186: Are We Living in "The End Times"?

Bonus Material and Study Questions

FIRST Advent	SECOND Advent
Jesus came to PAY the ransom for Adam's sin. Without this, nothing else could happen.	Jesus returns to APPLY the ransom for Adam's sin.
Jesus came to offer Israel deliverance as their Messiah.	Jesus returns to restore and deliver Israel.
Jesus came to call out a people FOR his name from Jews first, and then from the Gentiles.	Jesus returns to bring all people TO his name through his "called-out" ones, his faithful followers.
Jesus came to convict Satan and declare the end of his reign of evil.	Jesus returns to build a "new heavens" and a "new earth" without Satan's influence.
Jesus came to heal and teach Israel so the people would recognize him as their Savior.	Jesus returns to heal and teach ALL nations so they will recognize and follow him as their redeemer and obey God as their sovereign ruler.



We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by His truth. — Charles Stanley



A few other points about the return of Jesus we did not have time for:

The coming of Jesus was not only promised many times over, but it was also shown in the progression of the history of the true church in Revelation – seven churches for seven stages of history leading right up to our present time.

A quick look at the last four stages:

Revelation 2:18: (NASB) *And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like burnished bronze, says this:*

Revelation 2:25: (NASB) *Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.*

Revelation 3:1-3: (NASB) *¹To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of my God. ³So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.*

Revelation 3:7: (NASB) *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

Revelation 3:11: (NASB) *I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

Revelation 3:14: (NASB) *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, says this:*

Revelation 3:20: (NASB) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.*



Observations:

- Jesus does come for his followers
- He takes a long time, so he continually reminds those who are faithful throughout the age
- His final reminder is actually an arrival
- His followers must open the door to him

The return of Jesus has everything to do with the trouble and distress that comes upon the world:

2 Timothy 3:1-4: (NASB) *¹But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*



Luke 21:34-35: (NASB) ³⁴*Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;* ³⁵*for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.*

Matthew 24:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.* ²²*Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

A graphic for the Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter. It features an orange banner at the top with the text "Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter". Below the banner, it says "CQ Rewind Show Notes and Study Questions" and "Text CQREWIND to 22828 to get started." A smartphone is shown on the right side of the graphic, displaying the CQ Rewind logo on its screen.

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Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1185: What Are the True Reasons for Jesus' Return to Earth?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1185-second-coming/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. Is the return of Jesus to earth for the purpose of "mayhem and destruction"? What are the three important questions asked in Matthew 24? What is the real meaning of *parousia*? (See Matthew 24:1-3)
2. What was the core purpose of Jesus' first advent? Explain the ransom Jesus paid: Why was this necessary? (See Hebrews 2:9, Romans 5:18-19)
3. What is the core purpose of Jesus' second advent? Explain the resurrection: What are the two scenarios or stages of resurrection? (See John 5:25-29)
4. Jesus came to earth in his first advent as Messiah to what people? Did this people accept him and rejoice in their Messiah's coming? What was the result of their reaction to him? (See Matthew 10:5-7; 23:37-39)
5. Despite this reaction and punishment, Jesus returns at his second advent to do what for them? Explain the prophecy of "dry bones." What modern event has proven this prophecy? How does Jesus' return complete the promise of blessing given to Abraham? What is the purpose of the regathering of Israel? What will their role be in the future? (See Daniel 12:1, Ezekiel 37:4-6, 11-12, Romans 11:25-29, Genesis 22:15-18, Galatians 3:16)
6. Why was the call to individuals to follow Jesus' example set up during Jesus' first advent? What is the connection to the second advent? What will be the purpose of these faithful ones in the future? (See Mark 8:34-35, Acts 15:13-18, Romans 8:17-19, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
7. What was the dual purpose of Jesus facing persecution and then crucifixion in his first advent? How would Satan feel about the proclamation in John 12? How does this affect Satan's reign here on earth in the second advent? (See John 12:23-24, 27-32, Revelation 11:15, Daniel 2:44-45)
8. Why did Jesus heal people during his first advent? Did these healings affect any substantial change in the burden of sickness and despair of his time? How will this change in his second advent? What is the end of this part of his mission? (See Luke 6:17-19, Matthew 8:5-13, Isaiah 35:4-7)
9. Along with the healing of all people and the earth, what else does Jesus bring to the world in his second advent? How will people know to walk in righteousness? What is the promise given for their safety? Where will this kingdom be and how will it be governed? What will be abolished? What will be the final action accomplished by Jesus? (See 1 Corinthians 15:25-28; Isaiah 35:8-9, Isaiah 2:2-4; Matthew 6:10)
10. How does knowing the connections between the mission of the first and second advents change your life?