The Return of Christ (2)

Jason Longstreth · Series: **Realized Eschatology (70 AD)**

INTRODUCTION

- The concept of realized eschatology is basically the belief that every future prediction that was contained in the pages of Scripture was fulfilled by the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- It's been estimated that nearly 25% of the New Testament deals with the second coming, Christ's kingdom, the resurrection, the judgment, and the end of the world.

1 A Literal Second Coming of Jesus

Hebrews 9:28; John 14:1–3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- I believe the Bible promises a second coming of Jesus that is still something that's a future event.
- The Bible really talks about only two literal comings of Jesus.
- Christ came once and he offered his life for sins. He will appear a second time for salvation without sin or without reference to sin.
- You proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Until he comes is a part of that faith.

2 The Nature of His Coming

Revelation 1:7

- We're told in these passages that Jesus' return will be one in which he comes with great power and with great glory.
- When the Son of Man comes, he comes with his angels. He sits on his throne and he pronounces a judgment. All the nations are brought before him.
- I believe that the Bible portrays the idea that Jesus will come in person.
- Behold, he is coming with the clouds. And every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.

3 A Coming of the Lord Used in Different Ways

Matthew 24:30; John 14:23

- That was done in 70 A.D. But that was not the second coming. Because that was not a literal coming.
- There's a coming of the Lord that's used in a number of different ways in the scriptures.
- It's a coming of the Lord. It's not the second coming. It's a figurative, symbolic coming.
- But the literal coming was the one that's talked about as a second coming.

4 The Timing of the Second Coming

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2; Matthew 24:36

- There was a timing of the second coming. That was something that was unknown.
- For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- Don't let somebody fool you into thinking that's already happened.

- But in the latter portion of the text, there are no signs or timetables. That's the second coming he's talking about.

5 The Purpose of His Return

Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9

- But in the purpose of his return, he wouldn't be coming back to establish a kingdom.
- The purpose of Christ's return is instead to raise the dead.
- To reward the faithful, we'll be with the Lord forever. When he comes back, we'll be with him forever.
- To punish the wicked with eternal separation and destruction away from the presence of God.

6 Why Did He Not Tell Us When

- Now, why did he not tell us exactly when these events would transpire? Because it's in our best interest that we not know.
- We don't know whether we're going to be 18 or 81 when that happens. So we've got to be prepared.
- This aspect of the return of Jesus Christ leaves Christianity as a forward-looking faith.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **So if you're here this morning and you want to be with the Lord forever, you need to be prepared for that. You need to be preparing now. Because we don't know when it'll happen.**

MY NOTES