

Jesus Is Coming (Rev 19.11-16)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Second Coming of Jesus is one of the most important parts of the belief system of the early church. For New Testament Christianity, the Second Coming is seen as the *blessed hope* for each and every believer.

¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2.13)

- B. Yet, many believers are unfamiliar with the truths related to the Second Coming. Often times we believe the lie that studying the events around the return of Jesus are difficult and unclear — this leads us to a type of ambivalence related to this truth.
- C. However, the expectation of Christ's return is meant to be a pillar of hope for believers in Christ Jesus. It is meant to give profound courage to us as we live through this life with patient endurance, and it is meant to situate and orient our relationship to this world as we seek to live in a spirit of humble obedience to Christ.
- D. The certainty of Christ's immanent return stands behind the faith, obedience, and encouragement of every book of the New Testament. Because of that, it is important for us to familiarize ourselves with the glorious truths related to Christ's coming in order that we also might be filled with hope and steadfast endurance in this world.

II. THE CERTAINTY OF THE SECOND COMING

- A. Jesus teaches that he will return in the same manner as he ascended to the Father. This speaks of the reality that Christ will again come *in the flesh* in order to bring complete and total redemption to his creation.

³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt 24.30-31)

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14.3)

⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1.9-11)

- B. At the end of Revelation, John is shown a vision about the return of Christ and all that will be accomplished by his return (Rev 19-22).

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (Rev 19.11)

- C. The visionary nature of Revelation is meant to give in symbolic form realities that are certain in the heart and purposes of God. Jesus declares that he is *coming quickly* to accomplish all that God has purposed in redemption.

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and descendant of David, the bright and morning star"... ²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon!" Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22.16, 20)

- D. Growing in our certainty of the return of Christ will stir and strengthen our faith in this life.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Heb 11.1)

III. WHAT CHRIST ACCOMPLISHES AT HIS COMING

A. The scope of what Christ accomplishes at his coming is far reaching. Many theologians describe the work of Christ at his return as *consummating* the redemptive promises of God. If the work was *accomplished* at his first coming, it will be ultimately and perfectly *fulfilled and consummated* at his Second Coming.

B. At his return, Jesus will *finalize his work of salvation* for those who belong to him.

1. The work of salvation can be broken down into parts: *regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification*. At his coming, Jesus will fully and finally *sanctify and glorify* those who are in him.

³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8.30)

2. Salvation is not intended only as a spiritual reality that affects our minds, hearts, and souls. The full measure of salvation contains within it a *physical reality* that will touch the whole of our person — body, soul, and spirit.

3. Because of this, Jesus will give his followers *resurrected bodies* that no longer experience the principle (law) of sin within them any longer.

²²For I delight in the law of God in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 7.22-24)

²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (I Cor 15.22-23)

⁵⁰I tell you this brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in 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 shall be changed. (I Cor 15.50-52)

¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened — not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (2 Cor 5.1-4)

¹³But we do not want you to be uniformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who do have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For 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. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore, encourage one another with these words. (I Thes 4.13-18)

4. The author of Hebrews declares that at his first coming Jesus paid the price to offer forgiveness for sin — but at his return he will no longer work to accomplish forgiveness, but to fully and finally save those who are his.

²⁶But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly awaiting for him. (Heb 9.26-28)

C. At the Second Coming, Jesus will **fully restore all of creation** by undoing the effects of sin and ushering in a new heaven and a new earth.

1. Jesus will liberate creation from the curse that has been placed upon it because of sin. This will lead to a *universal* experience of God's peace and order in accordance with his perfect created purpose.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Rom 8.18-25)

2. At his return, Jesus will bring creation to a state of perfection that will be perpetually **new**. The new creation will be marked by God's perfect life for all eternity, and every effect of sin and the curse will be done away with forever.

¹⁷For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed... ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord. (Isa 65.17-25)

¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3.13)

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and earth shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Rev 21.1-5)

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Rev 22.1-5)

D. At his return, Jesus will fully **destroy death and the devil**.

1. Death is the final enemy of God that will be destroyed at the Second Coming.

²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15.25-26)

⁵⁴then shall it come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15.54-57)

¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire (Rev 20.14)

2. At his return, Jesus will eternally punish Satan and all demonic principalities and powers.

²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur (Rev 19.20)

¹⁰and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20.10)

- E. Jesus will *judge the wicked*.

¹Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." ²Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. ⁴For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. ⁵I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. ⁶I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth. (Isa 63.1-6)

¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar... And he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹So the angel swung its sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress (Rev 14.18-20)

¹¹The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood... ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev 19.11-16)

- F. Finally, at his coming, Jesus will *sit enthroned for all eternity as King over creation*.

⁶The government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isa 9.6-7)

⁶As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷I will tell of the decree: the Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Ps 2.6-9)

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2.9-11)

¹⁵The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. (Rev 11.15)

IV. HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- A. Throughout the New Testament, the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus is intended to *produce something* in those who follow Christ. It is not meant to be relegated to simply trying to discern the timing of the events (although there is value in rigorous study of the end times). Nor is it meant to be left unengaged because of a fear of confusion or difficulty.
- B. For the New Testament church, the Second Coming produced concrete realities in our lives as we follow Jesus in this world.

C. The Second Coming is intended to *fill us with hope*.

⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1.6)

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (1 Thes 4.13)

²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²²If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! (1 Cor 16.21)

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22.20)

D. The Second Coming strengthens us to walk with *patient endurance* through the trials of this world.

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus (Rev 1.9)

¹⁰Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints (Rev 13.10)

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comprehension, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal (2 Cor 4.16-18)

¹³the one who endures to the end will be saved (Matt 24.13)

¹And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18.1)

E. The Second Coming serves as one of the primary motivations to *keep awake and sober minded* in the face of the alluring power of the love of this world and in the face of deception.

1. Jesus exhorts his disciples to *watch* in light of the reality of his coming.

⁴And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray." (Matt 24.4)

³⁶But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming... ⁴⁴you must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matt 24.36-44)

¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Matt 25.13)

²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your hearts, because your redemption is drawing near... ³⁴But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21.28, 34-36)

2. Paul regularly orients *watchfulness, obedience, and sobriety* to the reality of Christ's Second Coming.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Rom 13.11-14)

³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (I Cor 15.34)

⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. (2 Cor 5.9-11)

¹Now concerning the times and seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (I Thes 5.1-11)

¹I charge you in the presence... of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering. (2 Tim 4.1-5)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (Titus 2.11-15)

3. The Apostle Peter demonstrates that obedience and sobriety are the only responses to the truth of Christ's return. He exhorts his hearers to not be deceived by the doctrine that the return of Jesus will never happen, but rather that the certainty of his coming should dictate the type of people we are in our lives — looking for with eager expectation and hastening the coming of the Lord.

¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (I Pet 1.13-16)

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. (I Pet 4.7)

³knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (2 Pet 3.3-13)