

(2) *The Definiteness/Certainty of the Lord's Return.*

(a) Biblical Testimony.

- (i) Before we can begin to understand scriptures concerning the second coming, we must realize that the Old Testament Prophets did NOT see two distinct comings of the Lord, separate by the Church Age.

This mystery, kept hidden from the Prophets, was essential in the redemptive plan of God. (**Note 1Cor 2:5-8; Eph 3:9-11.**)

- (ii) Frequently in scripture we encounter references to events associated with both advents joined together in one passage, e.g. **Isaiah 9:6-7.**
- (iii) The Diagram provided sets forth the prophetic view where whole ages or dispensations were overlooked. (**1Peter 1:9-12.**)

Refer to Diagram

- (iv) The first coming of the Messiah was clearly prophesied in the Old Testament, and the fulfillment of those prophesies has taken place as recorded in the New Testament. (**Micah 5:2; Jer 31:15; Hosea 11:1; Zech 9:9**)
N.B. God again gives revelation of time - **Daniel 9:25 (Discuss).**

- (v) The second coming of the Lord as King is mentioned in both Old and New Testaments (over 300 references in the New Testament alone) and will be fulfilled in the appointed time.

- (vi) Note the testimony of:-

* Job	Job 19:25-26
* Enoch	Jude 14
* Jesus	Matthew 24:29-31
* Peter	Acts 3:19-21
* Paul	1 Thess 3:12-13
* John	Revelation 1:7
* The Angelic Witness	Acts 1:11.

(b) The Future Aspect of Salvation. (Hebrews 9:24-28 Discuss type of Tabernacle).

- (i) Without a second coming our salvation is incomplete. We have not yet been redeemed in our bodies. (Discuss).
- (ii) We do not receive an incorruptible, immortal body until the Lord returns.

(1Cor 15:35-54: Phil 3:20-21.).

- (iii) This also applies to those who have died in Christ before His return. **(1 Cor 15:20-23; 1 Thess 4:13-17.).**
- (iv) If there is no resurrection associated with the second coming we gain no lasting advantage from our Lord's great work. **(1 Cor 15:19.).**
- (v) Note also the following scriptures. **(1Thess 5:8-11; Romans 13:11-12; 1Peter 1:5.).**

(c) The Hopeless World Situation.

- (I) In every area of society, whether it be in our country of Australia, or overseas, we see an instability, strife and unrest worldwide, such as has never been seen in any previous generation since the creation. We live in an age where knowledge has increased without measure over a very short space of time. However, this accumulated knowledge has not been able to solve the problems now facing mankind. **(Note Daniel 12:4)** This state has been clearly prophesied.
- (ii) Consider the chaos and confusion that exists in each of the following realms:-
 - *Political
 - *Moral
 - *Social
 - *Economical
 - *Environmental
 - *Ideological
 - *Religion
- (iii) This state of world Chaos and confusion was foretold as a sign of the soon return of the lord Jesus Christ. **(Luke 21:25-26; Romans 1:18-32.).**
- (iv) The heart condition of man is also clearly foretold in the Word of God. **(2Tim 3:1-7; Luke 17:26-30.).**
- (v) We are also given clear instructions as to our own attitudes and conduct when we see these things come to pass. **(Matthew 24:4-14; 2 Tim 3:14.).**
- (vi) For the world, the Second Advent is a time of fear and dread. For the ongoing believer, it is a time of joyous release into a reborn world. **(1Thess 4:18).**

(d) An Essential Part of the Plan of God.

All of the following events are essential aspects of God's purposes, which cannot be fulfilled without the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(i) The fulfillment of God's plan for the Church.

The sacrificial offering of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary was ordained by God before the world began. (**Rev 13:8; John 1:29**). This was a part of God's plan to bring forth a company of people (The Church) that would be united with the Lord Jesus Christ as THE BRIDE, for eternity. This does not take place until the end of the age. (**2Cor 11:2; Eph 5:29-32; Rev 19:7; 21:2; 22:17**). Consider also **John 3:29; Matt 25:1-13**).

(ii) The rewarding of those who have truly served Him.

All believers are to be judged at the judgment seat of Christ. (**Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10; Rev 22:12**). This topic will be covered in detail later in these notes. Salvation is assured for all who stand before the Lord at this judgment. Many will also receive a reward. (**1Cor 3:8, 13-15; 2 John 8; Isaiah 40:10-11; Matt 16:17**).

Rewards include:-

*Honor from the King	Luke 12:37
*Glory with the King	Col 3:4
*A crown from the King	1 Peter 5:4
*Residence with the King	John 14:3
*Inheritance with the King	Rev 21:7

(iii) The establishment of a Millennial Kingdom, to be ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ.(Rev 11:15; Matt 25:34; Luke 12:32).

Flesh and blood have no part in this kingdom. (**1Cor 15:50; John 3:3-5**).

Nor shall there be any ungodly or unsaved person involved in the Millennial Kingdom. (**1Cor 6:9-11; Matt 13:36-43, 47-5, Isaiah 13:9; Rom 14:17**).

- (iv) **The binding of Satan, and the deliverance of creation.**
Satan is to be bound one thousand years and is to have no influence on the Millennial Saints. This takes place at the Lord's return. (**Rev 20:1-3; Isaiah 24:20-23**).
Creation must be delivered from bondage. (**Romans 8:21-23**).
- (v) **The fulfillment of Prophecy.**
The credibility of the Word of God rests in the fulfillment of all that has been prophesied throughout the Bible. (2 Peter 1:19-21; Mat 24:35.).

The above list is by no means complete, but gives clear evidence that the Lord must return, in accordance with scripture, to complete the plan and purposes of God.

(e) **Jesus' Testimony and General Overview.**

The scriptures indicate clearly that the Lord Jesus Christ is to return. When questioned by His apostles with regards to the end times, Jesus made it quite clear that He will come again, He says, **"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in the heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory"**. (**Matthew 24:30**). Several other times, in this same discourse, He mentions **"the coming of the Son of man"** (v 27, 37, 39, 42, 44). Toward the end of the discourse we read: **"When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, THEN He will sit on His glorious throne"** (**Matthew 25:31**). All of the teachings in the discourse, including the parables, presuppose the second coming. We find that later on that same week, in His hearing before Caiaphas, Jesus again confirms this: **"But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated on the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven"** (**Matthew 26:64**).

In addition to Jesus' own words, there are several other direct statements in the New Testament regarding His return.

- (i) At the ascension of Jesus (**Acts 1:11**)
- (ii) It was part of the apostolic kerygma (teaching of religious truth). (**Acts 3:19-21**).
- (iii) The writings of Paul. (**Phil 3:20-21; 1Thess 4:15-16; 2Thess 1:7, 10; Titus 2:13**).

- (iv) Less elaborate references of Paul to the second coming. (**1Cor 1:7; 15:23; 1Thess 2:19; 3:13; 5:23; 2Thess 2:1, 8; 1Tim 6; 14; 2Tim 4:1,8.**)
- (v) Writings in other epistles. (**Heb 9:28; James 5:7-9; 1Peter 1:7, 13; 2Peter 1:16; 3:4, 12; 1John 2:28.**)

It is very obvious from the above mentioned scriptures that the second coming is one of the most widely taught doctrines in the New Testament. To the Bible believing Christian is there any other type, this is the basic criteria for Christianity, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is a foundational doctrine.