

Much has been written about the end of the world, and many have found eschatology plus human emotion to be a powerful attention-getter in any age. The problem is that most of the things we hear coming from various theologians are imaginative theories that help sell books. In this short treatise we are not discussing such theories of pre-millennialism, or any other type of millennialism; we are interested, however, in what the Bible says about the Lord's 2nd coming and the end of the world. If you are as well, read on.

Hundreds of prophecies found in the Old Testament, perfectly fulfilled in the New Testament, proves the Bible to be a trustworthy account of events that have NOT YET been fulfilled! God has revealed, through inspiration of the apostles and prophets, a number of events that will take place in our future.

### **Christ Is Coming Again**

The Old Testament says "Some One is coming," the New Testament says "He came," and also prophecies that "He is coming again." Just as General McArthur promised: "I shall return," so our Lord has promised that He returns! In the parable of distracted stewards he proclaims "*Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching,*" (Luke 12:37), and again, "*Blessed are those servants, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing*" (v. 43). In John 14:3, He bluntly promises "*I will come again, and receive you unto myself...*"

There are many scoffers today who ridicule the

idea that Christ is coming again, but there were also scoffers refuting His second coming in the first century. They are pictured as arguing: "*Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation*" (2 Peter 3:4). In their eyes, 30+ years was too long a time to wait! They were arguing the doctrine of uniformitarianism proves that there is no second coming at all! It proves no such thing, Peter argues, because the Noahic flood proves the doctrine itself is erroneous (vss. 5-8).

Does the elapsing of time prove the promise of a second coming is invalid? Was 30+ years too long to wait? Peter says "no." It has now been almost 2,000 years since Christ ascended to heaven, promising to return. Is 2,000 years too long to wait for His second coming? "No." Why? It was some 4,000 years between the promise of Christ's first coming to the time He actually came (Genesis 3:15). The passage of time does not nullify God's promises! Yes, He's coming again (Acts 1:11). He came the first time to assist man with his sin problem, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> time He comes, He does so for judgment and to receive His own unto Himself (Hebrews 9:28).

Ought the second coming have any effect on our lives today? Absolutely. Peter states "*...what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy behavior and godliness*" (2 Peter 3:11).

### **When Christ Comes Again, All The Dead Will Be Resurrected**

Christ promised, regarding His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, that

*"all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"* (John 5:28-29). This proves that the doctrine of multiple resurrections is untrue. Likewise the doctrine of reincarnation is untrue. Only one body is resurrected, and besides the Scripture says that it "is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Men die physically but one time, they do not come back in reincarnated bodies and die multiple times.

Agrippa thought the idea of being raised again following death was incredible (Acts 26:8). Materialists have always had a problem with this fact of a future resurrection of the body, and still do today! But think a moment, death is merely the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26), so the resurrection is simply the reversal of that process. Christ who was raised from the dead is the "*firstfruits*" or guarantee that millions of others will also be raised (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23).

All those still living when Christ comes again will be instantaneously changed. At the 2nd coming all people will not be dead, but all will be changed, both the living and the dead (1 Corinthians 15:51). This change is necessitated by the fact that "*flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption*" (v. 50).

### **There Will Be A Judgment Day**

You see, God has "*appointed a day, in the*

which he will judge (through Christ) the world in righteousness..." (Acts 17:31). What happens that day? The books will be opened (Revelation 20:12-14). All nations will be there (Matthew 25:32). No one AWOL and no postponing of appointments! You will be there; so will I (2 Corinthians 5:10). Those who once inhabited Sodom and Gomorrah will be there (Matthew 10:15), as will the people of Nineveh (Matthew 12:41). The Queen of Sheba will not be exempt either (v. 42). The people of all races and ages will be there without exceptions. Even the Sadducees, who disbelieved in the resurrection, will be there.

### All Will Enter Eternity

The great Judge "shall separate them one from another" (Matthew 25). The wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats, the righteous from the unrighteous, believers from the unbelievers. Some will go into life eternal, while others will enter everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:34, 41). Although Christ died for all mankind, only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14), but their being lost will be no fault of His - it was their decision to ignore the warnings. God does not coerce anyone regarding matters of their salvation.

On the day of judgment, some will be prepared; most won't be. How we live our lives does matter, because even Christians are warned "give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall; For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10-11).

The old song says it all:

*Judgment is surely coming,  
coming to you and me,  
We will be judged that morning,  
For all eternity.  
Some will go into heaven,  
Others will be denied;  
Will you be in that number,  
Standing outside?*

### Works Consulted

- Boatman, Russell. *What the Bible Says About the End Time*, College Press Publishing Co., Joplin, Missouri.
- Jackson, Wayne. *Christian Courier* website: "What Happens to a Person at Death?"
- Tucker, M.H. (Editor). *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Gospel Light Publishing Co., Delight, Arkansas.
- Wise, Melvin. *The All-Sufficiency of the Gospel*, Gussie Lambert Publications, Shreveport, La.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the  
30th Annual Mid-West Lectures,  
"I Know"

To hear or view the complete lesson go to  
[www.39thStreetChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.39thStreetChurchOfChrist.org)  
or contact the

39th Street Church of Christ  
15331 East 39th Street

Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

# I Know...

## What Will Happen When Christ Comes Again

by  
Wayne Price

© 2012



International Bible Studies  
Tract Series