

Final Events: The Return of Christ

Introduction:

1. With this lesson we are beginning a study of some important subjects that are associated with "final events."
2. Because of the attention presently being given to "the end of the world," perhaps this is a good time to study these subjects.
3. In our first lesson we are concentrating on "the return of Christ."

Discussion:

- I. THE RETURN OF CHRIST HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE A MISUNDERSTOOD BIBLE SUBJECT
 - A. Many attempts have been made to predict when Christ will return.
 - B. Some claim that the signs given in Matthew 24 will occur just before Christ returns.
 - C. The Christians in Thessalonica misunderstood the Lord's return (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).
 - D. Some claim that Christ has already returned (2 Timothy 2:16-18).
 - E. Peter warned about scoffers who would question the Lord's return (2 Peter 3:3-4).
 - F. To properly understand this subject we must follow the instructions given in 2 Peter 3:1-2.
- II. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT CHRIST WILL RETURN
 - A. Jesus promised His apostles that He will return (John 14:1-3).
 - B. Two angels told the apostles that Christ will return (Acts 1:9-11).
 - C. An inspired apostle said that Jesus will return (Revelation 1:7).
- III. WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?
 - A. No man knows when Christ will return (Matthew 24:36, 42, 44; 25:13; Mark 13:32-33).
 - B. However, God has "*appointed a day*" for the Lord's return (Acts 17:30-31).
 - C. The day of the Lord's return will arrive "*as a thief in the night*" (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10a).
 - D. The signs given in Matthew 24:4-35:
 1. do not apply to the Lord's return
 2. applied to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.
- IV. ADDITIONAL DETAILS RELATING TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST
 - A. Christ will be accompanied by the holy angels (Matthew 25:31).
 - B. He will "*descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God*" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
 - C. He will come "*with clouds; and every eye shall see Him*" (Revelation 1:7).
 - D. Everything will be burned up when He returns (2 Peter 3:10).
 - E. The Lord's return should motivate us to live right (2 Peter 3:11-14).