

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON – The Promise of His Coming Again Part 2
Jesus Must Return
Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1-9
03/12/2006

2 Peter 3:1-13 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. NKJV

Promise

Definition: **1 a :** a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified **b :** a legally binding declaration (*a statement made by a party to a legal transaction usually not under oath*) that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act **2 :** reason to expect something <little *promise* of relief>; *especially* : ground for expectation of success, improvement, or excellence <shows considerable *promise*>

It is my duty to teach and preach the word of God as the Lord direct me to do. Sometimes He has stopped me from going in one direction in order to point me in the direction He wants me to go. This was one of those times.

I was wondering why the Lord has impressed upon me to preach these recent series of messages and the question also applied to this series we are beginning. One of the lessons I am to keep in mind is that I should be preaching with a purpose not just to fill the spot on the order of service. In my search for the purpose of this series I was reminded that people today and including Christians are not living in the expectation of the return of Jesus. That may be because they are not hearing from the pulpit that Christ is coming again. I know that occasionally it is said but is it taught?

We here talk of the end of the world. Even the unbelievers feel that the world is coming to an end. They may disagree on by what means but the direction the world is going there is little doubt the end is inevitable.

Christians look to the end of the world as the time Christ will return. There is often confusion associated with His return. When will it happen? What is the difference between the rapture and the tribulation? Where is the church during all this? What about Israel? What about America? Who is the anti-christ?

Questions are good, confusion is not. Information is good, ignorance is not. Paul was sensitive to this.

1 Thess 4:13-14 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. NKJV

Definition” Ignorant 1 a: destitute of knowledge or education: lacking knowledge or comprehension of the thing specified **b:** resulting from or showing lack of knowledge or intelligence <ignorant errors>
2: Synonyms: UNAWARE, UNINFORMED

I think this is a good time to review with you what I believe the plan of the end may look like.

Credit and disclaimer – I did not do all the research to develop this series on my own. I used the work of students, other scholars and teachers. A major source of my understand has come from the study and teaching of John McArthur who no doubt has a staff to assist him. I drafted them all as members of my staff.

Church Age - The period that we are now in. Covered in the series on the seven churches in Revelation.

Rapture - The next event in the plan of the end.

Judgment seat of Christ - We covered this last year on the different type of judgments.

Tribulation Marked by the emergence of the anti-christ. There will be a period of 7 years. There will be 3 ½ years of peace like never before then 3 1/ years of persecution like never before.

Armageddon - Major war in the Middle East. Israel under attack

Second Coming When Christ returns with His angels and His saints to defeat and bind Satan.
Marriage supper OT Saints and NT Saints invited to the wedding of Christ and the Church.

Satan Bound for 1000 years Satan and his demons locked in a pit and chained shut.

Kingdom Age for 1000 years (Millennium) Christ will reign along with His saints.

Satan and demons loosed Loosed for the final battle

Great White throne of Judgment The final judgment of all who will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Saints to new Heaven and earth to live in eternity. Eternal life with Christ

Satan, his demons, antichrist and the unsaved to the lake of fire - Unbelievers, Satan, hell and death destroyed forever.

We spent some time last week talking about the promise. What we did not talk much about is what is the result of an unfilled promise. The result is that the promise made becomes a lie told.

There are two main categories that demand that Jesus return.

1. **Prophecies** – The test that the prophecy is from God is that the prophecy will come to pass.
Deut 18:21-22 21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' — 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. NKJV

Jesus must return because:

- Prophecy in the scripture occupies one-fifth of the scriptures and of that one-fifth 33% refer to the Second Coming of Christ.
- Of the 46 OT Prophets 36 of them speak of events connected with His Second Coming. Included in Approx. 1,527 OT passages
- 4% (330) of all NT verses refer directly to the Second Coming.
- Jesus refers to His return 21 times.
- Over 50 times we are exhorted to be ready for the return of Christ.

There are more reasons along this line but if any one of them is false then the credibility of the others are compromised.

2. **Promises** – We discussed how the word of God is as good as a promise the same is true of His words of prophecies. In the Old Testament through His prophets, God made 33 promises regarding the deliverer but scholars say that only 109 (see List of a few) were fulfilled in His First Coming. This leaves 224 OT prophecies remaining to be fulfilled.

Jesus must return to fulfill the remaining promises or God is a liar through His prophets. But we know that it is impossible for God to lie. (*Heb 6:18*) He cannot lie (*Titus 1:1-3; Num 23:19;*). Therefore, Jesus must return again.

A few of the prophecies/promises that He will fulfill on His return can be found in the following scriptures: *Genesis 49:10, Psalm 2:6-9, Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 4:3, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 22:20a, Isaiah 35:1-2, Isaiah 45:23, Jeremiah 23:5-6a, Ezekiel 21:25-27, Daniel 7:13-14, 18 and Zechariah 14:4-9.* As we go through this series, we will refer to some of these verses for our edification and learning.

God and Christ will not leave the work half done or un-done. These promises of God must and will be fulfilled by the return of Jesus, therefore Jesus must return.

Another reason why Jesus must return is because He said He would. We looked at this verse last week in John 14.

John 14:3-4 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

He said He was coming in His sermon on the mount.

Matt 24:27 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. NKJV

Matt 24:30 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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. NKJV

Matt 25:31-32 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. NKJV

If Jesus doesn't come then He is a liar. But Jesus cannot be a liar because He is truth.

John 14:6 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. NKJV

If he were lying about His coming again for us then He was lying about us coming to the Father.

Lying is a sin, but there was no sin in Jesus.

OT Prophet - *Isa 53:9 9 And they made His grave with the wicked — But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. NKJV*

NT Apostle - *1 John 3:5 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. NKJV*

Much of our thinking boils down to this. Do you believe the Bible? If so, then do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God? If you do then God cannot lie then the Bible is not a lie. There is no cause for us not to believe the Bible. People smarter than you and I have been trying to discredit the Bible for centuries but many of the Bible's most hardened critics bent on disproving the bible, in the process became some of its greatest supporters and believers.

You have to believe something. Either it is true or it is all make believe, (a hoax). If it is a lie then when you die you will be just like everyone else rotting away underground. But if it is true then when you die you will spend eternity in hell or if Jesus shall come before you die then you will be left here while those who believed will be with Jesus to spend eternity with Him.

Let me try to nail down a better way of thinking about the end of the age or world. Christians are not looking for an event but let us look for a person. That person is Jesus.

We have something better to look forward to.

Message Scriptures: *2 Peter 3:1-13, Deut 18:21-22, Titus 1:1-3; Num 23:19, Genesis 49:10, Psalm 2:6-9, Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 4:3, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 22:20a, Isaiah 35:1-2, Isaiah 45:23, Jeremiah 23:5-6a, Ezekiel 21:25-27, Daniel 7:13-14, 18 and Zechariah 14:4-9, John 14:3-4 3, Matt 24:27, Matt 24:30, Matt 25:31-32, John 14:6, Isa 53:9, 1 John 3:5,*

End

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled

Prophecy	OT Address	New Testament Address
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:18, 24-25
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 2:2	Matt. 2:1
Called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:2	Matt. 2:13-15
Anointed with the Spirit	Isaiah 11:2	Matt. 3:16-17
Entered Jerusalem on a donkey	Zech. 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matt. 10:4
Forsaken by Disciples	Zech. 13:7	Mark 14:50
Sold for thirty pieces of silver	Zech. 11:12	Matt. 26:15
Potter's field bought with money	Zech. 11:12	Matt. 27:6-7
Spit Upon and Scourged	Isaiah 50:6	Matt 26:67
Crucified	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Bones not broken	Psalms 34	John 19:33
Vinegar and Gall offered	Psalms 69:21	Matt. 27:34
Hands and feet Pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 20:25,27
Garments Parted & Lots Cast	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23:24
Resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Mark 16:6

All these prophecies were fulfilled literally.

Notes on return of Christ.

660 General prophies, Half concerning Jesus Christ and 109 fulfilled in His first coming the rest will be fulfilled in His second coming.

Jesus refers to His coming over 20 times.

Even the unbelievers feel that the world is coming to an end. They may disagree on by what means but the direction the world is going there is little doubt the end is inevitable.