

THE PROMISE THAT JESUS WILL RETURN

Text: Acts 1:9-11

INTRO: We have showed abundantly throughout this series of lessons that God is faithful to keep His promises, but there are yet some great promises to be fulfilled by Christ at His 2nd coming.

I. NOT ALL PASSAGES THAT SPEAK OF A COMING OF CHRIST ARE SPEAKING OF HIS 2nd COMING.

A. The O.T. makes no clear reference to Christ's 2nd coming.

1. Most O.T. references are to His first coming, tho there are two passages that *may* refer to the general resurrection of the dead, which we *now* know will occur at His 2nd coming.

Job 19:25-26, For I know that my Redeemer lives, & He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,

Dan 12:2, And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

2. Some passages refer to a figurative coming of the Lord to bless or judge. Zeph 2:7; Amos 3:14

Gen 50:24, And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Amos 3:14, That in the day I punish Israel for their transgressions, I will also visit [destruction] on the altars of Bethel; & the horns of the altar shall be cut off & fall to the ground.

3. The phrase "day of the Lord" was a general judgment phrase, Isa 13:1, 6, 9-13, 17-19.

B. Several N.T. passages that might appear to refer to the 2nd coming in reality refer to certain figurative appearances.

1. He would "come" in judgment against Jerusalem, MT 24:30-34. Compare Isa. 19:1
2. He would "come" in His kingdom, MT 16:28
3. He would "come" in the agency of the H.S., JN 14:18
4. Some of the coming passages in Revelation refer to His "coming" in judgment against the persecuting powers, Rev. 2:5, 16, etc.

II. BUT THE BIBLE DEFINITELY DOES TEACH A LITERAL, BODILY RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.

- A. He will come personally, Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess 4:16
- B. He will come visibly, Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 1:7
- C. He will come audibly, 1 Thess 4:16
- D. His coming will be unannounced & unexpected, 2 Pet 3:10

III. EVENTS THAT WILL ACCOMPANY CHRIST'S RETURN.

- A. General resurrection of the dead, JN 5:28-29; Acts 24:14
- B. Universal judgment. Heb 9:27; MT 25:31ff

IV. THE TIME OF THE 2nd COMING IS CALLED:

- A. The day of the Lord, 2 Pet 3:7-10
- B. The end of the world (age, time), MT 13:40-43, 49-50
- C. The last day, JN 6:39-40, 44, 54; 12:48
- D. The day of judgment, MT 10:14-15; 11:20-24.