

BASIC BIBLE TEACHING



The Purpose
of
Christ's Return

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Jesus Christ's first coming was to fulfil the Law of Moses and to redeem mankind from the law of sin and death.

He fulfilled the Law of Moses by living a sinless life.

He redeemed mankind from the law of sin and death by giving his life as a sacrifice.

By his sacrifice the forgiveness of sins is made possible for those who hear and respond to the gospel.

Mark 16:16 (KJV) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

Having suffered, Christ '*entered into his glory*'.

Luke 24:26 (KJV) Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

- **Christ will return in glory as a judge**

Acts 17:31 (KJV)... (God) hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Those who hear and respond to the gospel will be raised from the dead *'at the last day'*.

John 6:39 (KJV)... of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40... I will raise him up at the last day... 44... I will raise him up at the last day.

Two categories of people will come out of the graves.

John 5:28 (KJV)... the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 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 (condemnation).

This confirms the prophecy of Daniel:

Daniel 12:2 (KJV)... many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Paul writes of the resurrection at Christ's return:

1 Corinthians 15:23 (KJV) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Paul also speaks of two categories:

Acts 24:15 (KJV)... there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

- **The judgment will take place when Christ returns in glory.**

Mark 8:38 (KJV) Whosoever... shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Matthew 10:33 (KJV)... whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Men cannot be ashamed of Christ or deny him unless they have known of him; therefore Christ limits this judgment to those made responsible by knowledge of the gospel. This agrees with his teaching elsewhere on that which brings men into condemnation:

John 3:19 (KJV)... this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light...

John 12:48 (KJV)... the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

John 9:41 (KJV)... If ye were blind, ye should have no sin...

Paul teaches the same:

Romans 5:13 (KJV)... sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Paul writes to the Church at Corinth:

2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV)... we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...

- **In the parable, it is those to whom their master has ‘given the money’ who are called to render an account at his return.**

Luke 19:15 (KJV)... when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

They are judged according to the responsibility entrusted to them.

These verses exclude a universal resurrection and judgment – not everyone will be raised and judged.

There is evident justice in the Bible teaching that those who have not heard the gospel, though they cannot be rewarded with life as though they had been faithful to it, also will not be raised to condemnation as though they had despised it.

Such men and women live out this mortal life and, at death, perish forever, without hope of resurrection.

Psalm 49:19 (KJV) He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. 20 Man that... understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish...

Proverbs 21:16 (KJV) The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

Isaiah 26:14 (KJV) They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise:

Matthew 8:22... let the dead bury their dead.

- **When Christ returns, the Jews will finally recognise him as their Messiah.**

Luke 13:35 (KJV) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Zechariah 12:10 (KJV)... I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Romans 11:26 (KJV) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

- **Christ will restore the throne of David as the throne of the Kingdom of God on earth.**

Luke 1:32 (KJV) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33... he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Matthew 19:28 (KJV)... ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Psalms 2:6 (KJV) Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Isaiah 2:3 (KJV)... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 9:7 (KJV) Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom...

- **Christ will subdue by force those nations who resist him.**

Psalm 2 predicts that Christ will meet resistance from the nations of the earth:

Psalm 2:1 (KJV) Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set

themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little...

Joel writes:

Joel 3:16 (KJV) The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Daniel, in his prophecy of the successive phases of human rule under the symbol of wild beasts, has a vision of the divine judgment to come in the time of the fourth beast:

Daniel 7:11 (KJV)... I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away...

- **Christ will rule over the mortal population of the earth.**

Psalms 2:8 (KJV) Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psalm 72:8 (KJV) He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. 11... all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

- **Those accepted at the judgment will reign with Christ.**

John, describing his vision in Revelation, says the saints are made kings and priests unto God:

Revelation 1:6 (KJV)... hath made us kings and priests unto God...

Revelation 5:10 (KJV)... made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

For 1,000 years:

Revelation 20:4 (KJV)... they... reigned with Christ a thousand years.

As the period of 1,000 years is mentioned only in Revelation it may be symbolic, but Christ reigning for a long period is implied by the words of Paul:

1 Corinthians 15:24 (KJV) Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

- **At the end of his reign over the mortal population of the earth, Christ will bring death to an end at the final judgment, and then hand the Kingdom to his Father.**

1 Corinthians 15:26 (KJV) The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

All who live on after the final judgment will be immortal. God will dwell in them and be *'all in all'*.

They will live forever in the Kingdom of God on the earth.

- **This will be the fulfilment of the plan and purpose of God with the earth.**

God's purpose is to fill the earth with his glory in the form of men and women raised to the divine nature and made equal to the angels, in whom God can dwell forever.

Numbers 14:21 (KJV)... as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

Habakkuk 2:14 (KJV)... the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Revelation 21:3 (KJV) ... the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

The **PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S RETURN** is -

1. To raise from the dead those who have heard and understood the gospel message and judge them.
2. To restore the throne of David as the throne of the Kingdom of God on earth.
3. To cause wars to cease, and judge and rule the earth in righteousness.
4. To abolish death and restore mankind to eternal fellowship with God.