

Left Behind!

Lesson 3

Is This Book Series Biblically Accurate? Todd Limburg

Left Behind - The Series

The best selling religious book series of all time began in the mid 90's and continues with the 11th book entitled Armageddon this spring. The final book in the series will be released next year. No popular religious book series has ever enjoyed such success. Authored by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins the series has sold millions of copies with each successive installment hitting the best seller lists immediately upon release.



In this third lesson we want to look at the second coming of Christ - as the Bible reveals it will be.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

While there are many theories about the 2nd Coming, it is generally agreed that He is coming again! Now as to when it will occur and the circumstances that will occur, there are many different ideas. There is much exciting speculation and just plain false teaching surrounding this future event.

In this lesson we want to simply go to the Word of God, and note the simple truths set forth. Many reject them because they want something more mysterious and exciting than what is revealed!

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN: Acts 1:9 - 11; I Cor. 11:26; Heb. 9:27

One of the certain *facts* of history is that Christ once came to earth to purchase unto God with His own blood a people for God's own possession.

One of the certain *facts* of Prophecy is that He will come again to gather unto Himself those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The passages that we've just read affirm His Coming Again! The apostle John presents to us the thought that the N.T. teaching of the 2nd Coming is one of the most effective influences for righteousness in the Bible. **I John 3:2-3.**

THE MANNER OF HIS COMING:

Personal: Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:16; Phil. 3:20

Bodily: Acts 1:9-11

Visible: Col. 3:4; Rev. 1:7

Audible: I Thess. 4:16

Heavenly: i.e. "in the air" Not coming to stand on the earth...Jn. 17:4,11

EVENTS TO OCCUR AT THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST:

1. THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED:

[The General Resurrection] John 5:28 - 29. All the dead, both the Righteous and the Wicked: **Acts 23:6; 24:15; I Cor. 15:20-24;** Resurrection of both righteous and wicked to happen on the **LAST DAY: Jn. 6:40, 44, 54; 12:48** Compare **2nd Thess. 1:7-10,** To one Punishment, to the Other Rest. To one Vengeance, the other glory.

2. **THE LIVING SHALL BE CHANGED:** I Cor. 15:51, 52 (35 - 38); I Thess. 4:16 - 17; Phil. 3:20 - 21; I Jn. 3:2

3. **JUDGMENT WILL TAKE PLACE:** **Matt. 25:31 - 46; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 20:12 - 14.**

Daniel Webster's statement!

2nd Coming will be the Judgment Day: 2 Pet. 2:9; Mt. 10:15; Ac. 17:31; Rom. 2:16

Christ will be the Judge of us all! 2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 12:48; Eccl. 12:14; Heb. 4:13

A Righteous Judgment, Demands Right Living -- That makes Life Serious!

4. THE KINGDOM WILL BE DELIVERED UP: I Cor. 15:23 - 25. He cannot deliver up what does not NOW exist! The N.T. presents Christ as Ruling NOW! **See Acts 2:34 - 36; Heb. 1:3,8,13.**

5. THE PASSING AWAY OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD: 2 Pet. 3:10-12

The language could not be plainer! Note the words used:

Earth: Literal World.

Elements: The substance of the material World (Vine's Exp. Dict.)

Dissolved: To loose, of the future demolition of the elements (Vine)

Melt: To melt down, of the elements (Vine)

Burned up: To burn up, to burn utterly (Vine) Consume wholly (Strong;s def.)

Thus, the earth is to be burned up ! So the Earth is temporary! See Matt. 24:35; Psalms 102:24 - 26; Gen. 8:22.

6. PROBATION WILL CEASE: 2 Pet. 3:9, 15 - A Period of Testing.

God is NOW offering Salvation, through the preaching of the Gospel! But some day that offer of Salvation will no longer be preached! We have a chance NOW to prepare for judgment! Some day that opportunity will end! Each day that goes by, goes by, by the mercy of God. Be thankful for His long-suffering!

WHEN IS JESUS COMING AGAIN?

The question is important in light of the many date setters through the years and the continuing speculation and false teaching and gross miss-use of scriptures in regard to the subject! When the false prophets fail, their

followers are left confused and some even doubting. Well, it is not the fault of the Lord.

Also some have advocated that the N.T. teaches the "imminent" 2nd coming of the Lord. If that is true then the Bible is a book of deception, for it has been almost 2,000 years since it's writing and Jesus has yet to appear. No, the N.T. does not teach the imminent 2nd coming, it teaches that He is coming! And it teaches that folks are to get ready and stay ready. But no date, or signs are given regarding the day! The SIGNS given are taken from **Matt. 24**, which does not refer to the 2nd Coming at all, but to the Destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70! (compare **Mk. 13 and Lk. 21.**)

In several parables Jesus taught His disciples **TO BE READY!**

Matt. 25: 1-13...Ten Virgins

Matt. 25:14-30 Talents

The **Apostle Paul** also taught this:

I Thess. 5:1-4 - As a thief in the night!
Compare Lk. 12:39

2 Thess. 2:1-8 - There were questions and problems over when Jesus would come again! Some said it was soon, others, that He had all ready come!

Paul says by inspiration, that two things had to happen before Christ would come!

1) A Falling away of apostasy!

2) The man of sin be revealed!

The **Apostle Peter** said: **2 Pet. 3:10...**" As a thief in the night! "

A WORD ON THE "LAST DAYS": It does not always refer to the very last day of time!

Acts 2:16-17, refers to the beginning of the Christian age or reign of Christ.

Heb. 1:1-2, refers to the reign of Christ.

2 Tim. 3:1, refers to the same time sequence as the other two!

WHEN IS CHRIST COMING AGAIN?
When He is good and ready ! The question is : Are We "Good and Ready " ?