

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 24

Lesson 24: “The Blessed Hope: 'Is It A Secret?' ”

In this lesson we are going to explore the blessed hope of the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. In other words, we are going to study about things we must keep in mind about the second coming of Jesus Christ. The understanding of the “blessed hope” of the second coming of Jesus Christ is critical to your salvation.

1. What precious and comforting promise did Jesus give to His disciples and the His faithful followers in all generations including today?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 14:1 - 3; Titus 2:11 – 14; Hebrews 9:28

Write Bible Answer: _____

Oh what a promise for those who truly believe in this promise! John 14:1-3 is a very comforting text that gives us the “blessed hope” of Jesus Christ glorious return to physically receive those who have no doubt in salvation, His truths, and promises. This promise confirms what Jesus taught in Hebrews 9:28 that He will return a second time.

2. Why is Jesus Christ returning to this earth a second time?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Revelation 22:12; John 3:16; Acts 3:20, 21

Write Bible Answer: _____

The Bible clearly reveals that the “reward” given to the faithful when Christ return is the actual fulfillment of His Bible promises such as John 3:16 which says “For God so loved the world that He gave is only begotten Son, for whosoever believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Everlasting life is the fulfillment of God promise for those who have active genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Also, the second coming of Jesus is a fulfillment of the promise in John 14:1-3 in which we read earlier that the faithful will live with Him.

Acts 3:20,21 shows us that Jesus Christ is coming to receive His faithful and restore everything back into its original state as it was before sin entered the world. And according to Revelation 21:1, 4-5, there will be a new heaven and new earth. There will be no more tears, death, sickness, pain, nor all the evil results of sin. All those things will be “passed away”. Oh what a “blessed hope”.

3. How will Christ appear the second time to physically and literally receive those who believe in Him?

Now, after Jesus met with the disciples for forty days after His resurrection in Acts 1:3, the disciples were told how Jesus would return the second time. Let’s see what they were told by two angels.

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Write Bible Answer: _____

In Acts 1:11, the Greek the word “manner” mean “mode” or “style”. It is clear that as the disciples watched Jesus go higher and higher in the sky in a cloud and then disappear, they were given a promise from two angels that Jesus Christ will return to this earth the same “mode” or “style” as He was lifted up to heaven in a cloud. It is clear in the Bible that Jesus is coming back to this earth from the clouds of the sky. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says “¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.” This scripture reveals that Jesus will “descend” from heaven. “Descend” means to come down from. It also indicates that the second coming of Christ is going to also be loud!

4. Who will see Jesus Christ coming in the clouds when He returns to earth the second time?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Revelation 1:7; Matthew 26:59-64; Matthew 24:27

Write Bible Answer: _____

The Bible is abundantly clear that EVERY living person on this earth will see Jesus Christ in the flesh coming in the clouds. They will be no mistake about it. At the end of Revelation 1:7 it also reveals that those who was responsible for killing Jesus on the cross will be resurrected to fill the prophecy that Jesus told to the Jewish leaders in Matthew 26:64 that “Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.” Also Matthew 24:27 describes Christ's coming as lighting going across the sky. Jesus' second coming as being as visible as lighting going across the sky from east to west.

The second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that Blessed Hope, is going to be the biggest, brightest, and loudest event that this world has ever since. Does this sound like a secret to you?

5. What warning does Jesus give us about those who say that Jesus will come in secret?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:24 – 26

Write Bible Answer: _____

Jesus himself warns us in Matthew 24:24 and 26 that in these last days false Christs and false prophets will deceive many by claiming that Jesus is in the desert or a secret location. Jesus tells us not to believe this lie. So, friends, any teaching that says the Jesus is coming in secret can not be supported by the Bible. It is not true.

6. If Jesus is not coming in secret, what about a “secret rapture”? Is Matthew 24:37 – 44 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 9 talking about the “secret rapture”?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:37 – 44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 9; 2 Thessalonians 2:8

Write Bible Answer: _____

There are many who read, **Matthew 24:40 and 41** and say that this describes a secret rapture. Does it really? Friends, remember that the Bible is not going to contradict itself. The Bible would not say that Christ's second coming is loud and every living person will see Him and then say He will take all faithful people to heaven with Him secretly. That's double talk and God is not like that.

When you read the full context of Matthew 40 and 41 starting with verse 37 you will see that Jesus is comparing His second coming, "the coming of the Son of Man", as the days of Noah. There were those who did not believe a flood was coming and were swept away ["taken'] by the flood when it came. Only those who believed were on the ark. They were "left" or saved when the flood came. Verses 40 and 41 reveals that the same is true when Jesus returns the second time. Those who don't prepare for the second coming of Jesus will be unprepared and "taken" like those in the flood. They will be lost. Matter of fact **2 Thessalonians 2:8** reveals that the wicked living will be destroyed at the second coming of Jesus. Like the wicked who were swept away by the flood. Only those who believe and prepare for Jesus second coming will be "left", meaning saved to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

In summary Matthew 24:40 and 41 is NOT talking about a "secret" or "secret rapture". It is revealing two classes of people, the righteous saved and the wicked lost. And the wicked that are lost will NOT have a second chance to get to get things right according to the Bible.

Understanding that context, when you read a few verses down in Matthew 24:42 – 44 and in 1 Thessalonians 5:2 – 4 Jesus' second coming is described as a "thief" in the night for those who are unprepared. It will be a great surprise. It will be totally unexpected just like a thief who might suddenly break in your house at the night while you are sleep.

Again, it is clear class that the Bible teaches that when Jesus returns to this earth, that every eye will see Him and that it will be a loud and spectacular event.

7. Who will accompany Jesus when He returns?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 16:27; Matthew 25:31

Write Bible Answer: _____

Jesus is coming back to this earth with a serious heavenly entourage. Can you imagine all of heaven coming to accompany Jesus when he returns? Can you imagine that awesome scene? Oh how beautiful.

8. What will be the roles of the holy angels when they return with Jesus?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:31

Write Bible Answer: _____

The angels will be responsible for gathering the faithful righteous in preparation for the long awaited trip to heaven.

9. What will happen to those who choose not to be faithful to God, but still in sin when Jesus comes?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Jeremiah 25:33

Write Bible Answer: _____

Those still in sin at Jesus' second return will die. Remember Holiness and sin cannot co-exist. When a sinful being sees the brightness of holiness he or she will die. Their bodies will litter the earth like "dung" as Jeremiah 25:33.

10. What will happen to the faithful who are physically received by Jesus when He returns in the clouds?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51 - 53

Write Bible Answer: _____

Wow, what a glorious event! Can you imagine it friends? We will have new bodies! When Jesus returns the faithful who died in Christ, righteous and acceptable unto God will be raised from their graves. They and the faithful living with new bodies will meet Jesus in the air. This event is going to be the greatest reunion known to humanity. We will be reunited with our faithful love ones who were dead in the grave before His second coming. Oh a glorious event! Can you just imagine this great event of being reunited with your love ones?

It is not too late; God has a "blessed hope" of salvation for all people. God desires all people to be saved. God loves you. He allows you to make a choice. Make the right choice. Truly believe in Jesus Christ today. For many it is hard to imagine a new world of no pain, death, misery and strife when we are currently living in a death, pain, stress, and strife filled world. But, God has an incredible plan for you and this earth. He will restore this earth back to it original state. This earth is not our home. Place your faith in Jesus Christ, today. The wages of your sins has already been paid through Jesus death on the cross. All you have to do is have genuine active faith in Jesus. He will lead you into life, joy, peace, and happiness.