

18: What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back?

In our last study we asked, when will Jesus come back, in this one we will think about what will happen when He does come back to the earth.

The Resurrection

Both Old and New Testaments leave us in no doubt; when Jesus returns the dead will rise.

“Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Daniel 12:2

“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:28 – 29

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14

“The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.”

Revelation 20:13

The resurrection will coincide with the return of Christ and the end of the world. It will be a bodily resurrection, similar to Jesus’ own resurrection, it will include both the righteous and the wicked and it will immediately precede the final judgment.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – 17

“Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”

“For He is coming, He is coming to judge the earth.”

Psalms 96:13

The Last Judgment

We are also left in no doubt that there will be a final judgment.

“For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14

“They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

1 Peter 4:5

Christ as the Mediator will be the Judge — an honour was conferred on Christ as a reward for His atoning work.

"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. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats."

Matthew 25:31 – 32

The angels will assist Him, the saints will play a part and everyone will have to appear before the judgment seat.

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?"

1 Corinthians 6:2

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done."

2 Corinthians 5:10

The demons will also be judged.

"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

Jude 6.

The judgment will be immediately after the resurrection of the dead. We do not know how long it will last. The Bible speaks of 'the day of judgment', but that does not necessarily mean that it will be a day of twenty-four hours.

The standard by which both saints and sinners will be judged will be the revealed will of God. Gentiles will be judged by the law of nature; Jews by the Old Testament revelation, and those acquainted with the fuller revelation of the gospel will be judged by it. Everyone will be given his due.

"For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law."

Romans 2:12.

And So For Ever...

Following the judgement, the wicked are consigned to the place of punishment called hell. The Bible describes it as a 'furnace of fire, a 'lake of fire' and a 'prison'

"And will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:42

"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:14

"...by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison."

1 Peter 3:19

In that place they will be totally deprived of God's favour. They will suffer pain in body and soul, and will be subject to torment of conscience, anguish and despair but there will be varying degrees of punishment.

"And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire."

Mark 9:47

"And being in torments in Hades..."

Luke 16:23

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone,"

Revelation 14:8

"But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment than for you."

Matthew 11:22

"...who devour widows' houses, and for pretence make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

Luke 20:47

Never the less, their punishment will be eternal.

"It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than... to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched."

Mark 9: 43

A New Creation

Before believers enter into their final state the present world will be destroyed and a new creation will replace it: not an entirely new creation, but a renewal of the present creation. The righteous will not only inherit heaven, but the entire new creation.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.""

Revelation 21:1 – 3

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Matthew 5:5;

The reward of the righteous is described as eternal life. It is not merely endless life, but life in all its fullness, without any of the imperfections of the present: life in communion with God.

While all will enjoy perfect bliss, there will be degrees in the enjoyments of heaven.

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

2 Corinthians 9:6.

Memory Verses

- ☺ John 5:28 – 29
- ☺ 2 Corinthians 5:10
- ☺ Revelation 21:1 – 3