

The Seven Comings Of Christ

No. 265

Introduction.

I. In about 1706 B.C. Jacob, the 147 year old grandson of Abraham and son of Isaac, gave this prophecy on his deathbed in Egypt.

A. He said in Genesis 49:10.

GEN 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

B. Jacob prophesied that "Shiloh" would come. The word "Shiloh" means "peacemaker" and refers to the coming of Christ and His kingship.

II. It will likely come as a shock to most but the Bible speaks of "The Seven Comings Of Christ." I would like for us to briefly study each of these seven comings.

I. **Birth** - The first coming of Christ refers to His birth. (Gen. 49:10; Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2).

A. In about 4 or 5 B.C. the angel Gabriel announced to Mary. (Lk. 1:26-35).

26 Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end. " 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

B. An angel [perhaps Gabriel] made this announcement to Joseph. (Matt. 1:18-25).

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

C. The angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother and to Joseph that he would be the legal father of “Immanuel” (the Son of God and the Savior of the world).

D. The birth of Christ is the first coming of Christ.

1. It was a visible coming.

2. It was the Son of God becoming incarnate(appearing in the flesh). (Jn. 1:14; Gal. 4:4).

II. **Christ Becoming King-** The second coming of Christ was Christ invisibly becoming King.

A. Luke tells us that when Jesus was about 30 years old He began His teaching or ministry. (Lk. 3:23).

B. Soon after Jesus began His preaching He selected 12 apostles and sent them to preach in “the cities of Israel.” (Matt. 10:23).

1. He told them their task would not be completed before “they would see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. (Matt. 16:28).

2. **Jesus was not a King during his 33 years on the earth.** (Jn. 19:36). **Jesus taught His kingdom was not a physical kingdom, but was God reigning in the hearts of men.** (Lk. 17:20, 21). He became king after He returned to heaven.

a. This was an invisible coming witnessed by God and the angels.

b. **There was a heavenly coronation.** God exalted Him at His right hand and declared of His beloved Son. (Heb. 1:8).

3. It was after Jesus was crowned “King of kings” that He sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles as a sign that the kingdom had now come.

4. It was after His heavenly coronation that Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit uttered these words to those who were gathered on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:30-36).

30 "And so, because he [David] was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord," Sit at My right hand, 35 Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. "' 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

5. Peter exclaimed to the Jews and to all of us that Christ is now reigning at the right hand of God.

6. He will continue to reign “until he has placed all enemies under his feet.” (1 Cor. 15:25, 26).

7. Paul tells us that after Christ conquers His enemies He will come again and deliver His spiritual kingdom back to God. (1 Cor. 15:27).

III. **The Third Coming** - The third coming of Christ is also an invisible coming, but a very real coming.

A. Every sinner, arising sinless from the waters of baptism, has a heavenly visitor.

B. In his heart God sends “the Spirit of His Son. (Jn. 14:23; Gal. 4:6).

C. The faithful Christian can joyously exclaim of Christ. (Gal. 2:20).

D. The Bible tells us that Jesus “the hope of glory” dwells in the Christian. (Col. 1:27).

E. Yes, at baptism Christ comes and dwells in the Christian.

IV. **The Fourth Coming** - The fourth coming of Christ is also invisible.

A. As Christians we are to partake of the Lord’s supper every Sunday.

B. This is a very special time because we have fellowship with one another and remember the death of Christ on the cross. We also proclaim the death of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:26).

C. **Here is a promise we often forget.** (Matt. 26:28,29).

1. This promise pertains to the Lord’s supper.

2. Each Lord’s day Jesus comes spiritually and partakes of the Lord’s supper with Christians all over the world.

3. If we only believed this, none of us would ever miss the Lord’s supper unless we are prevented by some emergency from being present. If we only believed this, all of us would partake of the Lord’s supper with great joy and with great thanksgiving.

V. **The Fifth Coming** - The fifth coming of Christ is also invisible at the assembly and the family altar.

A. Jesus said. (Matt. 18:20).

1. What a marvelous promise.

2. Each time 2 or 3 of us gather together in the name of Christ we have a special guest. Jesus invisibly comes and is present with us.

3. This scripture is not limited to the assembly (big or small), but is true in the home.

B. When we worship together at home, Jesus comes and is present with us.

1. This should encourage family devotionals and Christlike actions in our homes.

2. A **placard** on some living room walls express this glorious truth.

Christ is the head of this house.

The silent listener to every conversation.

The unseen Guest at every meal.

3. How different our homes would be if we recognized the coming and presence of Jesus Christ.

VI. **The Sixth Coming** - The sixth coming, like the second, third, fourth, and fifth, is invisible, but may have visible effects.

A. As we have already learned, the Spirit of Christ is sent on the day of a sinners’ baptism to dwell in the new Christian’s heart.

B. The Bible tells us that the Spirit of Christ cannot tolerate lukewarmness or fornication or idolatry. (Rev. 2:20; 3:16).

REV 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

REV 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

C. **The Bible tells us that those who live sensually do not have the Spirit of Christ or the Holy Spirit.** (Jude 19). The Bible also says. (Rom. 8:9).

D. **The Bible tells us that Jesus still loves backsliders.**

1. He comes invisibly, as a reprover and a corrector, trying to touch the hearts of His wayward followers. (Rev. 2:5, 14-16; 3:3).

Jesus speaking REV 2:5 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.

REV 2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality. 15 'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

REV 3:3 'Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

2. **No one thinks that Jesus came personally to exercise this discipline** on these wayward Christians, but it is certain that He was back of it in some way either visibly or invisibly.
3. It is also certain that Jesus wanted these backsliders saved, and He assured them if they would repent that He would come again and live in their bodies as a guaranty of heaven. (Rev. 3:20).

VII. **The Seventh Coming** - The seventh coming of Christ, usually called the 'second' coming', will be a visible appearance.

A. The Bible teaches Jesus will make a second visible appearance at the end of time. (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; Heb. 9:28; Rev.1:7).

B. **Many great things will happen that day.**

1. Christ will come again with His holy angels. (Matt. 24:31).
2. He will raise all the dead. (Jn. 5:28, 29).
3. Jesus will judge all men. (Acts 17:30, 31).
4. Each of us will have to give account to Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:46).

Conclusion.

I. I pray this lesson on the "The Seven Comings Of Christ" will enhance our appreciation of the comings and presence of the Lord. Jesus is with us now reigning at the right hand of God, though we do not see Him. One day we will see Him coming in the clouds of heaven and He will take us home to be with Him forever.

II. **No one knew exactly when Christ would come the first time**, and no one knows exactly when Christ will come back visibly again.

A. The important thing is not knowing when He will come.

B. The important thing is to be ready. (Matt. 24:44).

C. Only those who ready will enter the heavenly kingdom and enjoy God's rich blessings forever.

III. **May each of us be ready for Christ's second visible coming.** May all of us turn from our sins and be immersed that Christ

may wash our sins away and come to live in us.

IV. The invitation is now extended to everyone who want salvation and the indwelling of Christ and the hope of heaven.
Come as we stand and sing.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)