

**Is Christ Really Returning?**  
**Matthew 24-25**  
**Part 1**

**Introduction:**

1. You hear a lot about the subject of prophecy – future events that the Bible declares will happen.
2. The major event that most of prophecy points to is the Second Coming of Christ to this earth. It is the most prophesied event in the Bible.
3. At that time, Christ will make all things right and bring complete peace to this earth. War will be a thing of the past. Evil will be punished and righteousness will prevail over the entire earth.
4. There are many people who scoff at the notion that Christ will one day return to this earth. The Bible prophesied that there would be scoffers, especially in the last days. 2 Peter 3:3-4
5. But Peter goes on to say, “*But the day of the Lord **will come** as a thief in the night...*” (**2 Peter 3:10**) In other words, the world won’t expect it, but He’s coming.
  - People believing that His Second Coming won’t happen does not change the fact that it is going to happen.
  - People also doubted all the prophecies concerning Christ’s first coming to the earth, yet prophecies that were made hundreds of years in advance all found their fulfillment when Christ came to this earth in Bethlehem. It happened just the way God said it would.
6. If a person is skeptical of Christ’s return, what are some questions that need to be answered?
  - Did Jesus ever talk about a second coming?
  - Did Jesus prophesy that He would one day return to this earth?
  - What did He say about it?
  - Did He give details?
  - What’s the purpose of a return?
7. We are going to see that Jesus did, in fact, talk much about a second coming. We will see that if we choose **not** to believe in Christ’s second coming, then we must of necessity believe that Christ was a liar.
8. Why is this?

- Because Jesus Christ clearly taught that He would return to this earth for a second time. Turn to Matthew 24-25.
9. What exactly did Christ teach?

**Christ will return in glory with the angelic host. Matthew 24:30; 25:31; 16:27**

1. Christ prophesied that He would one day return to the earth in great power and glory.
2. When He left this earth after His first coming, He went away as the rejected King. They cried out, “Crucify Him. Away with this man.”
  - The leaders in Israel had the attitude, “We will not have this man to reign over us.”
3. So Christ went away from earth to heaven as an exiled, rejected King. (Chart #26 – Jesus Christ the King)
  - When this happened, Christ was given an honored and exalted position in heaven by the Father. In Philippians 2:9-11, Paul teaches that there will be those on earth who refuse to acknowledge His Lordship, but one day they will.
4. So He ascended to heaven from earth as a rejected King with nail prints in His hand, but Christ promised His followers that He would one day return in power and glory; not as the rejected King, but as the reigning King.
5. This should not have been a huge surprise to His disciples because it had been the subject of prophecy since the world began. Acts 3:20-21
  - **Example:** Enoch in Genesis (the 7<sup>th</sup> from Adam) was proclaiming this. In Jude 14 we see Jesus leading this righteous crusade with angels and saints following.
6. There is a great lesson for us here. Do you want to be exalted by God? The Bible says to humble yourself like Christ. James 4:10

**Christ’s return will be visible to all. Matthew 24:30; 26:64**

1. In Matthew 26:64, Jesus tells the unbelieving high priest of Israel, “*You are going to see me returning in power.*” So, at His Second Coming, it isn’t just believers who will see Him, but unbelievers too.
2. When Christ raptures the church out from this earth, it is a secret return that happens before you can blink an eye. But when He returns to the earth in power and great glory, every eye will behold Him. Matthew 24:30

3. As Christ leads the heavenly parade to this earth, it won't happen quickly, but rather, it will be a prolonged return. Prophecy indicates that it could be over the span of two to three days.
  - It begins in Damascus, then to Armageddon, up the Mediterranean Coast, through the Sinai Peninsula, through Edom, up the eastern side of the Dead Sea, over the Jordan River to the Mount of Olives, and into Jerusalem. (Map)
4. Christ's Second Coming will be publicly visible. Revelation 1:7
  - You say, "But I thought He was coming as a thief in the night?" The Bible uses that analogy to symbolize the fact that it will be unexpected.
5. The unbelieving world does not look for or anticipate the return of Christ, nor will they right before it happens. They will scoff at the idea just as so many do today. Revelation describes mankind as blaspheming the name of God right before Christ returns.

### **Christ will return in judgment. Matthew 25:32-33, 46; 13:40-43**

1. When Christ returns, He will set right all the wrongs of this earth. The ungodly who rejected Christ's love will be judged and punished accordingly for their wickedness. Matthew 24:32-33, 46
2. The first time Jesus came to this earth, He came as a Lamb to make peace through the blood of His cross. He came meek and lowly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.
  - For the past 2,000 years, Christ has been offering peace, grace, and forgiveness to anybody who will simply trust in Him and what He did for us on the cross in dying for our sins.
  - Sometimes we look at the wicked things that happen and we think, "Why doesn't God do something about the ungodliness in this world?" Right now, God is extending a grace period to this world, but one day that grace period will end.
3. The time will finally come when He will return to earth as a roaring Lion. He will return on a white horse to make war with the ungodly and bring judgment. Revelation 19:11-12; Joel 3:16
  - He is not returning to earth floating on a white, fluffy cloud and blowing kisses to everybody. It is called "*the day of the Lord's vengeance.*" **Isaiah 34:8**
4. Jesus will faithfully carry out every promise He ever made. He promised that He would one day judge and destroy the ungodly. He

promised He would bring peace and righteousness to this earth, and He will fulfill it. He is called "*Faithful and True.*" **Revelation 19:11**

- You can count on Him doing what He said He would do.
5. He is the Word of God. He is God in the flesh. When He came the first time, He did not come to judge, but to speak the Word and to die for our sins.
  6. Today, you can have eternal life by simply believing on Him and trusting Him. He is coming to make war on His enemies, but right now He is offering peace to all His enemies in this world. Will you accept His offer?