

**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. What exactly did Christ teach?

**Christ will reign as King on an earthly throne. Matthew 25:31, 34; 19:28; Revelation 19:15-16**

1. If you were to say to the average unbeliever, “Christ is going to return to this earth, He is going to reign as King over the entire earth, and all the nations of the earth will be subject to Him,” they would probably laugh and mock you.
2. Yet that is exactly what Jesus Christ Himself taught while on earth.
3. Something inside of most people knows that this world is out of whack really bad. Leaders and governments all over the world and throughout history are corrupt. Many are just blatantly evil.
4. War has ravaged this planet for centuries. Many times wickedness goes unpunished and righteousness goes unnoticed.
5. Jesus promised His disciples that He must go away but that one day He would return to the earth and would establish a literal kingdom with a literal earthly throne. Matthew 19:28; 25:31
  - As we said last week, all the world will see Him return with power and great glory.
6. When He returns, He will establish His own righteous kingdom and the kingdoms of this world will become His. Matthew 25:34; Revelation 11:15; 19:15-16
7. He is going to set things in order here on planet earth. Isaiah 9:6-7
8. As we said last week, this promise that God would come and dwell with man and establish a divine kingdom on earth has been prophesied and talked about from the beginning of time. Daniel 2:44; Zechariah 14:1, 16
  - It is called the Day of the Lord. Right now we are living in the day of man where Satan’s policy of evil saturates this earth. But the Day of the Lord is God’s day when God will take control of this earth.
9. Isn’t this what Jesus taught His disciples to pray for in the most famous prayer of all time? Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
10. It is not a crazy thought at all. The prophets have talked about this all throughout the Old Testament. Jesus talked about it in very clear

- terms, and His disciples were anticipating it. The last book of the Bible, Revelation, confirms this reality that Christ will one day return to rule and reign over the earth. It describes it in vivid terms.
11. If you have a Biblical worldview, it makes total sense.
    - The ungodly will receive the punishment they deserve.
    - Satan will get his just due and be disposed of into the bottomless pit.
    - The ungodly, wicked, and corrupt governments of this earth will finally be destroyed and replaced with a righteous government.
    - God will bring His kingdom from heaven down to the earth He created and rightfully owns.
    - Those who have chosen to follow God’s ways and trust in Jesus Christ will be rewarded by being able to enjoy this incredible kingdom.
  12. There is nothing about it that doesn’t make sense.
  13. So, what doesn’t make sense about it? For Jesus to have lied about this. For all the prophets (many of whom never knew each other and lived thousands of years apart) to have lied about this.
    - For God to have no plans of making all things right here on this earth. Those are the things that make no sense.
  14. So yes, Christ will return. He will reign on an earthly throne and establish His righteous kingdom on planet earth.
  15. You say, “Well then why doesn’t He do it?” That is a great question. This brings us to our next point.

### **Christ’s return will be preceded by definite events. Matthew 24**

1. In Matthew 24:3, the twelve disciples ask Jesus a very pointed and direct question. “*What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*”
  - The word “*sign*” simply means “an indication.”
  - The end of the world is speaking of the end of Satan’s world system that is in place. It is the end of the world as we know it, not that everything blows up.
2. So the twelve say, “Jesus, give us some indicators of when You are going to come and do away with this world system and replace it with Your glorious kingdom.”
3. Jesus does just this in verses 4-31. It will be an unprecedented time of:
  - Spiritual deception - vs. 5, 11, 23-26

- War among nations - vs. 6-7
  - Geological disturbances and disasters - vs. 7
  - Persecution against Israel - vs. 9, 15-21
4. The good news of Christ's approaching kingdom will be proclaimed unto all nations (vs. 14), then there will be supernatural disturbances in the heavens (vs. 29), and Christ will return with power and great glory (vs. 30).
  5. When Christ was done giving them these signs, He used an illustration of a fig tree (vs. 32).
    - A fig tree will begin to put forth its leaves and buds in late spring and may even yield a small crop of figs. But the main harvest time is in late summer.
    - When a fig tree begins to put forth its leaves and buds appear, you know that winter is over, spring is here and that summer time is near. The sign of the branches and leaves tell you where you are at in regards to the time of harvest.
    - If you are paying attention, then you know that harvest time is getting close.
    - Christ's coming and the end of the world is likened to harvest time. Matthew 13:39
  6. In verse 33, Jesus applies this illustration to their original question in verse 3.
    - When they begin to see the events (signs) of verses 4-31 unfold, they will know that His coming (summer or harvest time) is near, even at the doors.

### **So what can we take away from this teaching of Christ's Second Coming?**

1. First, God has not revealed the time-table for His return.  
Matthew 24:36
2. Second, preparation for His return must be made ahead of time.  
Matthew 24:37-42
3. Third, right now we are living in a grace period before God's judgment of Satan's world system begins.
  - **There are no timetables** for when this mystery program called the dispensation of grace must end.
  - Only God knows how long He will continue to extend this time of grace. It could be a day or a thousand years. God is under no time restraint.

- The next event on God's timetable is what we call the rapture of the church. That will end this time of grace and the signs in Matthew 24 will begin to take place.
- If you don't know Christ, you will not go up at the rapture but be left to go through the events leading up to His Second Coming to earth.
- If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior, will you consider receiving Him today?