

Why Is Jesus Christ Coming Back to Earth?

1. Many Christians who rejoice in the fact that he *is* coming back rarely consider of the *reason* he is returning. What is the purpose of the second coming of Jesus Christ? Why not just look forward to being with Christ in heaven when we die? What did he not do on his first visit that requires a second?
2. Two related questions arise: *How long will he stay?* and *why are all believers, even those now in heaven, coming back with him?*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 *We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.* NIV

Back to our central question: **Why will Jesus Christ (and Christians) return to this earth?**

I. JESUS IS COMING BACK IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE SAINTS.

1. As strange as it may sound, Jesus is coming back to save Christians. Salvation, as described in the Bible, is a continuing process
2. The New Testament uses the verb "save" in 3 different tenses:
 - a. We have been saved = Justification
 - b. We are being saved = Sanctification
 - c. We will be saved = Glorification

Hebrews 9:28 *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.* NIV

Isaiah 25:9 *In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."* NIV

3. Too often we “spiritualize” this whole idea into some mystical philosophy and miss the earthiness of it. It is the material world, our earth, our bodies, our lives that Christ intends to save to the fullest until all the material world and physical existence is wholly filled and flooded with the presence of God. Matter matters to God.

Ephesians 4:10 *He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. RSV*

4. Salvation, therefore, means transformation. Every part of us, spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally, our gifts and talents, our minds and bodies, are meant to be saved. That is *why* Christ must return a second time, **to complete this work of salvation.**

Romans 8:23 *And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us—bodies that will never be sick again and will never die. TLB*

5. The crowning climax of our salvation will occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ when we receive our resurrection bodies, bodies like that of his in his resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 *But I am telling you this strange and wonderful secret: we shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies! 52 It will all happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For there will be a trumpet blast from the sky, and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too. TLB*

6. That is one reason *why* Jesus must return: to complete the saints. Jesus comes to give us all the Father has intended, promised, and provided.

Philippians 3:19-21 *But our homeland is in heaven, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there. 21 When he comes back, he will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer all else everywhere. TLB*

7. Someone might ask: But why do we have to come back to earth to experience this transformation of our flesh? Why couldn't we just receive our new bodies in heaven? The answer is really quite simple: we don't need resurrected bodies in heaven, but we do on earth.
8. The implication of God giving us resurrected bodies, like Christ, is that he is suiting us to live here, on earth, which the Scripture clearly declares is the final outcome of this whole affair.
9. Just as God promises to **redeem our bodies**, he also promises to **redeem the earth**. God's saving purposes will not be fulfilled until the entire earth is filled with the "knowledge of the glory of God."

Why Is Jesus Christ Coming Back to Earth? (Part two)

1. Our question for today concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ is by far the *most* important question to ask and is probably the most neglected. Our question is: **Why is Jesus coming back?**
2. Many Christians who rejoice in the fact that he *is* coming back rarely consider of the *reason* he is returning. Why does he *need* to return?
3. Last time we saw that Jesus is coming back to **complete the saints**. He is returning to give to us the gift of our full salvation including our resurrection bodies.
4. Why is Jesus coming back to earth a second time? A second answer to our question is that Jesus is coming back to **conquer the devil**.
5. God has populated his creation, both the heavenly arena and the earthly arena with beings. He created beings with free will. Of our own

free choice, both angels, other heavenly beings, and humans have chosen to violate the ways of God and to vandalize our own creation.

6. We actually see about four groups of bad guys from the heavenly dimension. **[It's not really our purpose to go to any depth here. But you can see about four groups of bad guys in the heavenly places, the spiritual dimension.]**

- a. **"Nacash"** in Gen. 3 that tempt Adam and Eve
- b. Gen. 6 tells the story of the **"watchers"** who create a progeny by taking human females and bringing forth children. The Genesis six story is an abomination before God. As these "watchers" mate with human females mixing the supernatural and earthy dimension in an illegal and evil way.

Genesis 6:1-4 *Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ² The sons of God saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives....⁴ In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.*

Daniel 4:17 *This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

- c. The result is you have the **Nephilim**, the children of this evil joining. Their children are sometimes called the **"Rephaim."** (Both of these words are associated with "giants" and "men of renown.")
 - i. It is the polluted spirits of the Nephilim and Rephaim that become the **demons**. The Nephilim and Rephaim still have some mixture of human and divine beings.
 - ii. These are evil, spiritual creatures of darkness. They work toward chaos, destruction, and finding available humans they can inhabit and steal from God.
- d. And finally, we have the *"principalities and powers"* mentioned by Paul:

Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.*

7. For example: **Dan. 10:12-13, 20; Jude 1:8-9; Deut. 32:8-9**

8. One leader of a heavenly rebellion we call the devil. He is called by many names in the Bible including, Satan, Beelzebub, serpent, dragon, lion, murderer, destroyer, and the father of lies. He seeks to create a rival kingdom to God's.

9. Both the devil and demons are given titles of authority and influence in scripture. The devil is called a ruler, a prince, and even "*god of this world.*" Their most potent weapon is death and the fear it brings.

Hebrews 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. NIV*

10. The devil, demons, watchers, and sons of God seek to divide us from one another and from God.

1 John 5:19 *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. NIV*

11. However, the devil is not God, though he would like us to think that he is. He is not omniscient (knowing everything that can be known). He is not omnipresent, he can only be in one place at a time (which many Christians seem to forget). He is not omnipotent (his power is restricted). Satan is no match for God.

12. But he obviously outwits most humans. At the first coming of Jesus Christ to our planet, he confronted Satan on his own territory. In Jesus, for the first time in human history, an entire life was lived in freedom from the devils clutches and in victory over temptations.

John 14:30 *I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me. NIV*

13. Satan's monopoly on the human race was broken. The cross was a fatal blow to the devil's power. On the cross Jesus triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. NIV

Colossians 2:15 (The Message) (Christ) stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

14. Through Christ's obedience death and victory on the cross, we are promised the forgiveness of our sins and freedom from the devil who holds the power of death.

Hebrews 2:14-17 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. NIV

15. But Christ's final victory is not yet complete. There are still two kingdoms on earth. There is the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. Both of these kingdoms exist, they are both growing in our world side by side. Jesus tells us this will be so until his second coming. Wheat and tares, righteous and wickedness, both mature in the Last Days.

Matthew 13:37-41 *He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. 40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. NIV*

16. Why the overlap? God so loved Satan's victims that he wanted to give them every possible opportunity to transfer back to his rule through the liberation Christ had provided.

Colossians 1:13 *For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,* NAS

17. One day this door into God's kingdom will shut. The opportunity will have passed people by. These two kingdoms will not continue to coexist. The wheat and the tares will be separated. Jesus tells us this will happen at the time of his return.
18. So beings of darkness and Satan's days are numbered. His doom is decided and dated. When, Jesus returns Satan must leave. There are times when I just have to weed my garden. There is also coming a point in time when God will weed his garden! Since Satan knows his fate is sealed, we can expect his frustration to become more apparent as the end approaches.

Revelation 12:12 *For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.* NAS

19. The devil will make a final bid to retain his dominion. Satan will raise up puppets who will accept his offer of status and power (the very temptations once refused by Jesus in the wilderness).
20. An unholy trinity will arise: Satan, the anti-christ, and the false prophet. This is a dreadful counterpart to the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This false trinity will gain control of much of the world in the few years before the return of Jesus.
21. This will be the final fling of the devil. All of this will still be under God's overruling control and it will be kept mercifully brief.

Matthew 24:22 *And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.* NAS

22. Satan's final assault will be to gather a military force intent on slaughtering the apparently defenseless people of God and ransacking Jerusalem, which God has chosen for his throne. At just the right time, Jesus will return, fully prepared for the conflict.
23. Jesus will only need one weapon to finish the job, the "sword of his mouth!" It will be the same voice that commanded the wind and waves to be still and the same voice that commands the dead to come forth from their tombs. With a word he will defeat his enemies; he will vindicate the righteous character of his Father; and he will establish his own authority over all the kingdoms of the earth!
24. The devil's human puppets will be sent directly to hell. The devil will be locked away in a dungeon for 1000 years where he can no longer deceive the people on earth.

Revelation 20:1-3 *And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. NAS*

25. The world will at last be liberated from the devil and all oppressive forces of evil. It is impossible to know what this means for we have never known such a situation. We shall have to wait and see.
26. I want to close by reading God's revelation concerning the final defeat of Satan and his forces. This is an hour we should long for, pray for, and prepare for. This will be our true independence day. Oh Church, hear this powerful word from God.

Revelation 19:11-21 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white*

horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. NIV

Hallelujah!!