

Why Is Christ Coming Back?

Every Christian is looking and waiting for the return of Jesus. We have been told that he is coming, and having studied the subject, we accept it as fact. But many do not stop to consider why He is coming back. Generally, we just think about ourselves, "He is coming back for me." Although that is one reason, yet we want to look at the whole picture. We are not the only reason Jesus is coming back.

1. **The promise Jesus gave.** John 14:1-3

This promise is what gives every Christian encouragement to fight the hardships of life, knowing that Jesus is coming back, and all signs indicate, this is not far into the future.

2. **The angel's assurance and promise.** Acts 1:9-11

Just as they observed his physical ascension, we can be assured that we will witness his physical return. We don't have to worry about a secret return, wondering if he has already come. We will know assuredly when that time takes place.

TO RAISE THE DEAD

3. **All who are in the grave.** John 5:28-29

This uses the word *all who* are in the grave. There is an appointment that every individual will have to meet. All those who are in the grave will come forth and face the "judge", to receive their just reward. Everyone will be rewarded, either with eternal life or with death. Another reason Jesus is coming back is to raise the dead.

4. **The dead in Christ.** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Even though we may be alive when Jesus comes back, we will not meet the Lord ahead of those who are dead. The righteous dead will come forth and we rise to meet the Lord together.

TO JUDGE THE WORLD

5. **God hath appointed a day.** Acts 17: 30-31

This tells us that God has appointed a day to judge the world. The date has already been set. But the date and time, God is keeping secret. Only he knows the date, not even his Son. (Mark 13:32) Also, there is nothing you and I can do to hasten or delay it.

6. **The Word shall judge.** John 12:48

God is so gracious to us, he even has told us on what basis the judgement will take place. The judgement will be fair to all. The rich will not have preferential treatment, nor will the highly educated. Everyone will be judged according to whether they have or have not obeyed his Word.

7. **A separation takes place.** Matthew 25:31-34

The sheep represents the righteous and the goats represents those who are not righteous. It will be a sad day indeed, if we should be one of the goats. God treats everyone alike. Everyone has the opportunity to choose to live by the rules (the Word).

TO REWARD THE RIGHTEOUS

8. **Reward every man.** Revelation 22:12

Another purpose for the return of Christ, is to reward the righteous. That reward will not be based on our position in life, by our material possessions, or our education. It will be based on one principal, "how we have lived." Therefore everyone has an even chance to please God and be privileged to hear those wonderful words, "...*well done thou good and faithful servant* (Matt. 25:21)."

9. **Father's good pleasure.** Luke 12:32

Have you ever given a gift to your children and see how happy it made them; it made you feel so good. This tells us our heavenly Father is going to feel the same way, when he presents the kingdom to us.

TO SENTENCE THE WICKED

10. **To them who obey not.** 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

When Jesus returns, the wicked receive their sentence, which is death. Some think God is so loving that he will not destroy anyone. The scriptures are plain. He will destroy the wicked, those who chose not to obey his word.

11. **Cast into the lake of fire.** Revelation 20:13-15

Time will come, when the wicked are finally destroyed. They will not burn forever but will be destroyed. Verse 14 speaks about death, not eternal life in a burning fire. See also Malachi 4:1

FINISH THE WORK

12. **King of Kings and Lord of Lords.** Rev. 19:15-16

After Jesus finishes all of this work, then he will reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Apparently there is work yet to be done. A king has subjects to rule. The bible refers to this period of time as a 1,000 year (Millennium) reign with Christ. (That is another study)

13. **Turns the kingdom over.** 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

When Christ turns the kingdom over to the Father, his work is done. He has carried out his Father's plan.

THE ALTIMATE ADVICE

14. **Be always ready.** Matthew 24:44

If we want to be accepted by the Lord and have a part in his finished work, we need to live every day as if it were our last.

SUMMARY

We have studied the reasons for Jesus to come back to this earth. As we have seen, although there are various reasons, Christ is only carrying out or fulfilling the Father's plan for man.