

He is Coming Again

John 14:1-3 and other texts

INTRO:

The cornerstone promise for we who belong to the Lord is that He is coming again. Although we are all familiar with these passages, I thought it would do us well to review these things. We will look at four texts. We begin with our Lord's promise to encourage His disciples. Then we will look at the rehearsal of the promise made at the Lord's ascension to the Father. Then we will look at Paul's description of His coming in 1 Thessalonians. Finally, we will look at the promise of the coming of Christ repeated by John in 1 John 3:1-3.

I. The Encouraging Promise (John 14:1-3)

II. The Reminder Promise (Acts 1:9-11)

III. The Detailed Promise (1 Thessalonians 4:12-18)

IV. The Promise from John (1 John 3:1-3)

I. The Encouraging Promise (John 14:1-3)

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"

A. Our Lord spoke the words of this promise to His disciples in the upper room just hours before His betrayal, crucifixion, and death. The purpose was to alleviate the trouble He knew would soon seize His disciples' minds. He did this by giving them truth to tell their minds to keep them rooted in God's unfolding plan.

B. The key is His promise. The fact was that He was going away. However, the going away was not forever. He was going to prepare a place for them. Because He was going to prepare a place for them, He would return to receive them unto Himself. He was not done yet. He would come to fulfill God's purpose. He came to save them and us, and He will come and get us.

C. As they were supposed to comfort themselves with this reality, we also need to comfort ourselves with this truth also.

II. The Reminder Promise (Acts 1:9-11)

Acts 1:9-11 "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into

heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

A. The promise of our Lord’ return was rehearsed when He ascended to the Father. Context is important here. **Verses 6-8** are very familiar to us. The disciples ask a question.

“Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.”

This was a unique seminary education when the Lord Jesus Christ invested forty days preparing these men uniquely for ministry in His fledgling church. Now graduation day had come and the Teacher was about to depart for heaven.

B. The point of sending the angels (men in white apparel) to speak of the coming Lord was to first remind them of the promise of His coming. He was gone to heaven, but He would come again. The same Jesus who went away would come again. The Lord Jesus who saved us will come to get us so we can always be with Him.

C. Second, the angels were at Christ’s ascension also to remind the Apostles the Lord Jesus was ascended to heaven and continually interceded with God to help their ministry. It also reminds us of what Peter wrote in **1 Peter 5:1-4**.

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

III. The Detailed Promise (1 Thessalonians 4:12-18)

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

A. Paul describes for us here the events of His coming. The Lord Himself is coming, that very same Jesus.

B. He is coming for us who are alive. He is coming with those who are dead to recover their bodies. He is taking us to be with Him always. He came as Immanuel, God with us. And He fulfills this in His second appearing. He will be with us forever.

IV. The Promise from John (1 John 3:1-3)

1 John 2:28–3:3 “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

A. Here is the promise of His coming and the application. First the promise. When He comes we shall see what being a Son of God involves. We will be changed. We will be like Him. No more struggles with the flesh, the world, and the devil. We will be like Him and see Him as He is.

B. How do we become ready? In Chapter two John tells us to remain, live, and walk in Him. We should seek to be righteous as He is righteous. We must seek to be pure as He is pure.

Hymn# 237 We Shall Behold Him