

REVELATION 22 CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Some have asked, *“Since a believer dies and goes to be with the Lord and is certainly in heaven, why does there have to be a Second Coming and Judgment Day to separate the sheep and the goats?”*

The Lord Jesus must return to judge because:

1. God is truth, not lie, and all three persons of the Trinity have stated Christ will return to judge the living and the dead.
 - a. The Father’s promises demand it. Ps. 68:18 & Psalm 110.
 - b. The teaching of Christ Himself demands it. Mtth 25:31ff
 - c. The testimony of the Spirit demands it. 1 Thess 4:16 & 5:2ff
2. The future of the church demands it- the church was never intended to be disembodied spirits always separated from bodies, yet spiritually with Jesus who is body and Spirit. Col 3:4 & Rev 19:6-9
3. The corruption of the world demands it- the corruption caused by sin must be ended- Resurrection must happen for corruption to be ended, and all sin judged. Jude 1:14
4. The work of Christ demands it. If *“Old John Brown's body lies a moldering in the grave,”* then death still has a hold and power; and it could not be said of Christ that, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” Look at Rev. 22:13- Is He the Alpha & Omega, first and last- This total completeness describe His person and His work. There is a reason why Christ is not called the Alpha and Delta (A-D), the 2nd coming and judgement is part of the A-Z of Christ’s person and work.
5. The honour of Christ Himself demands His return & rule. Either He will outwork “all authority in heaven and on earth”, or His authority is limited, His honour compromised, and his integrity forfeited. See Rev. 22:16- Is he the one who is true and by His honour speaks? Also Mtth 25:31
6. The judgement of Satan & end of Death demands His coming. The evil one does not deserve to be just chained for a millenia. He deserves the fire of Hell. 1 John 3:8 & Rev. 20:11-15
7. The hope of believers demands it. A post-mortem spiritual existence in which (a) our bodies remain as dust, and (b) we are not declared righteousness in Christ by the Judge (Christ Himself), is a sub-Christian hope, and contrary to the Word. Job 19: 25ff
8. The groaning of the whole creation demands it. This is similar to point 3. For teaching specific to the longing of creation for redemption see Rom. 8:20-25

Credit to whom credit is due: Pastor Holst compiled this insert by reviewing the lists of fathers in the faith such as Augustine, Berkhoff, and McArthur. All of these points are a network- all relating to one another; so separating them into 8 statements helps clarify but loses the connections between the points.