

## QUESTIONS

1. Describe briefly the reasons for sickness.
2. Which are the provision that God has made for man as his Creator?
3. Prove that there are both forgiveness of sin and healing through the cross.
4. Give evidences from the Scriptures and experiences to show that Jesus Christ is the great physician.
5. What was the important ministry that Jesus entrusted His disciples when he sent them out to preach the gospel?
6. How do we receive divine healing?
7. Write an essay in two pages on divine healing.

## LESSON - 24

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### THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST - 1 ITS IMPORTANCE

**Reading :** 2 Pet/ 3:1-4

**Memory Verses :** Phil. 3:20-21

**Theme :** To learn about the certainty and importance of the second coming of Jesus Christ and submit ourselves for a hopeful and holy living.

**Introduction :** Which is the topic which gives hope, courage and comfort to the children of God in this world full of poverty, diseases, deaths and persecution? Martyrs like Stephen, Peter and Paul did not hesitate to die for the Lord, Why? It is the hope of the second coming of Christ which transformed thousands of saints to stand courageously and lay down their lives in front of sharpened swords of blazing fires or ferocious animals. Let the study of this important topic help us to dedicate ourselves to lead a holy life.

## **THE PLACE OF THIS DOCTRINE IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**

The second coming of Christ was preached by apostles and was the blessed hope of all believers in the early days of the church. But in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine into Christianity brought about great spiritual decline along with material prosperity. Consequently, for many centuries, the teaching about the second advent in churches stopped. The church leaders were mostly engaged in struggle for power and prosperities. The teaching was revived with the reformation in 16<sup>th</sup> century. This truth was very forcefully put forward before the world by the writings and sermons of J.N. Darby in 19<sup>th</sup> century. In these days believers study and teach this topic very carefully. It is sad to say that there exists a group of Christian leaders who describe the second coming of Christ as a fable.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:**

1. It is the blessed hope of the church: It is the most important event that the people of God are fervently and hopefully waiting for. Our citizenship is in heaven, from whence also we look for the saviour the Lord Jesus Christ ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (Phil.3:20-21). The centre of our hope is Christ (1 Tim 1:1 Col. 1:27). When Christ will appear we will also appear with Him in glory. Those who are in Christ will be transformed and taken up into the clouds in the first phase of His second coming (1Thes. 4:14-17; 1Cor 15:52-57). On that glorious day Christ, the bridegroom will take the Church, the bride into the bridal chamber. What a blessed hope! All the creations are partners in this hope. "The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Rom. 8: 19-20). This hope is also an influencing power to purify us. When Christ appears, we will also become like Him. Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure (1 John 3:3). This hope helps people of God to emerge victorious in the trials and tribulations of this world (Rom. 8: 18; 2 Tim. 4: 5-7, 1 Cor. 15:57).

2. The hope of Israel : God gave many promises to Israel whom He chose to be His own people through Abraham. The most important promise was that Messiah would rule over them from the throne of David and establish a Just kingdom mentioned in the passages: Isa. 11:1-12 Jer.23:5-8; 33:15-17; Psa.2:7-12, 89:3-4 and Dan 2:44; 7:27 will be literally fulfilled when Christ will appear in glory in the second phase of His coming . Hence the second coming of Christ is very crucial for the future of Israel also. People of Israel eagerly awaiting His Coming.

3. The promise of Jesus Christ: Many religious leaders – prophets and teachers have lived in this world. But none of them have ever told that they will come again. On the other hand, Jesus Christ, who came to this world for the salvation of mankind and who dies and rose again gave assured promises about His re-appearing. Therefore this topic has great significance. Let us consider the words and occasions when he spoke about his second coming.

a) In Caesarea Philipe (Matt. 16:17): Jesus spoke about His death and resurrection to His disciples after Peter confessed that Jesus was Christ the son of the living God. He also made it clear that if any one wished to follow Him, he must deny himself and take up His cross. Then he added : “The son of man will come with His angels in the glory of His Father. Then He will reward every one according to His works.”

b) In the Olivet discourse :Jesus spoke to His disciples on the mount of Oilves about His second coming in the last week of His earthly ministry (Matt.24:25; Mark.13; Luke 21). In His discourse, He revealed to them several matters in connection with the second coming like the destruction of Jerusalem, the signs of His coming. His appearance in the clouds, His appearance in glory, judgement etc.

c) In the discourse after Passover: Jesus comforted His sorrowing disciples with the promise of His coming (John 14: 1-3,28). He assured them: I will go and come to you again.

d) At the time of His trials: Jesus declared before the high priest “Hereafter shall ye see the son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven”(Matt. 26:64).

e) On the seashore after resurrection : He told His disciples after His resurrection (John 21:22).

f) After His ascension; Jesus confirmed His promises about His second coming and showed the events that are to take place in future to Apostle John in the Island of Patmos. The words "Behold I come quickly" are repeated 5 times in revelation (Rev.22:7,12,20). The Lord will surely come to receive His bride, the Church. Are you ready?

4. The most important topic in the Bible: As the most important topic in the Bible, it needs our special attention. This truth is proclaimed from Genesis, the first book till Revelation, the last book of the Bible. The second coming is mentioned in the Bible twice the number of times as His first coming. One verse out of eighteen in the Bible speaks about His second coming. There are 318 statements on this topic in the 216 chapters of the New Testament. All the chapters in Thessalonians end with mention of the second coming. Three groups of people declare about the second coming of the Lord in addition to Jesus Himself.

1) Statements of the Old Testament Prophets: Prophets from Enoch to John the Baptist have spoken about the second coming of Christ. Most of these prophecies are relating to His glorious appearance, His kingship and the last judgement (Jude 14; Job 19:25; Isa.40:10; 11:1-12; Zach. 14:4; Mal. 4:1,2).

2). Statements of the Apostles: Great importance has been given by the apostles to this topic in all their writings. Paul has written about the rapture of the Church (1 Thes. 4: 13-17; 1 Cor. 15:52-57) Peter mentions the glorious appearance of the Lord (2Pet. 3:10). John stresses the need for purity in the Church at His coming (John 3:3). James exhorts believers to be watchful (James 5:7). Jude speaks about the Judgement (Jude 14,15). Read also : Heb.10:37; 9:28; 1Pet.5:4; Phil. 3:10; Tit 2:12.

3) Statement of angels: listen to the message given by angels to the disciples gazing up into the sky after the ascension of Jesus: Ye men of Galilee, this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven (Act.1:11).

In addition to the witnesses of the three groups of people mentioned above, the Lord's Table points to His second coming (1Cor.11:26). When we participate in it, we declared that the Lord has not yet come and that He is coming soon.

From what we have learned so far, we must realize the supreme importance of the Second Advent our Lord and be prepared to meet Him in all holiness. Are you ready for His coming?

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Which is the topic that strengthens a believer who passes through many trials and struggles?
2. During which period the teaching about the second advent of Christ lost its importance? What are the reasons?
3. In what way the second coming of the Lord is important for the Church?
4. How is the second coming related to the future of Israel?
5. List the promises and statements made by Jesus regarding His coming.
6. Describe importance of the topic; the second coming of Jesus Christ.