



The Teachings of Jesus 3rd Q 2014 The Second Coming

SABBATH

“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.” (John 14:1–3, NKJV).

Is the 2nd coming of Jesus the “capstone of our teachings”, as the lesson suggests? Should it be?

How does our “Law” understanding affect our understanding of the 2nd coming?

What is so important about Jesus’ return?

Is there a risk of falling in to the trap of hoping for a reward vs. fearing a punishment at the 2nd coming?

How does His 2nd Advent relate to the 1st? Any similarities / differences?

SUNDAY

The Promise

In what context was “the promise” of John 14: 1-3 made? See verses 5-11.

5 Thomas said, “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?” 6-7 Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve even seen him!” 8 Philip said, “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.” 9-10 “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act. 11-14 “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. MSG.

The disciples still didn’t understand that Jesus was God in the flesh [Immanuel – God with Us]. Hasn’t that been the misunderstanding from the Beginning of the Controversy? Lucifer didn’t believe or accept that the being, we know as Christ, was ONE with God in Spirit, Love, Truth, Freedom, Law, & Mission.



MONDAY

The Purpose of Jesus' Second Coming

What has been the purpose of EVERYTHING God has done since sin originated in Heaven? To fully reveal His character of Love to the Universe.

Might the 2nd coming play a role in that purpose? What about the 3rd coming?

The lesson states "The great plan of Redemption will find its culmination in the Second Coming. Without Christ's return to this earth, His incarnation, death, and resurrection would have no effect for our salvation."

I believe that the "plan of Redemption" will not find its culmination until after the return of the Holy City to Earth and the final destruction of the unrighteous in the "fire" of God's presence [see Rev Ch. 20-22]. Consider why it may take this long. Any other thoughts?

The lesson seems to be making the point that "justice" is the purpose of Christ's 2nd coming – "What's important about the promise in Matthew 16:27 is that justice will be done. We just have to wait for it."

Whose "justice"? God's or ours?

TUESDAY

How will Jesus Come?

Is it so important to know "how" Christ will come as to know the Character of the one who comes? The lesson emphasizes the display of Christ's coming – "Lightning cannot be hidden or faked. It flashes and shines throughout the sky in such a way that everyone can see it. So will be Jesus' second coming. No advertisement will be needed to call people's attention toward it. Every human being, good and evil, saved and lost, even "they who pierced Him" (Rev. 1:7, NKJV), will see Him coming (Matt. 26:64, NKJV)."

What does scripture have to say about lightening / fire from heaven? [see Job 1:16 & Rev 13:13-17]

So, lightening can be produced by a false god or even a man [see Nicola Tesla's Magnifying Transmitter or any Frankenstein movie].

The lesson, also, speaks, eloquently, on the resurrection of the dead "in Christ". Why is this important to keep in mind? How do we reconcile the text that the lesson gives us to consider [specifically v. 14]?

"13 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. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. NKJV.

“God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus” What does THAT mean?

WEDNESDAY

When Will Jesus Come?

Let's see what the founder of our church has to say.

Q: When will Jesus come? A: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matt. 24:14 [see, also Mark 13:10].

I think that's pretty clear. So, by using our higher deductive powers, we may conclude that “the gospel of the kingdom [of Heaven]” has yet to be preached to all of the world.

Has a false gospel yet been preached to all of the world?

Does it matter when Jesus comes? Should it matter?

“I was shown the company present at the Conference. Said the angel: ‘Some food for worms, some subjects of the seven last plagues, some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus.’” – 1T 131,132. [1856].

“It is really not wise to have children now. Time is short, the perils of the last days are upon us, and the little children will be largely swept off before this.” Letter 48 [1876].

What are we to make of these statements from one of the founders of Adventism?

“The long night of gloom is trying, but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come so many would be found unready. –2T 194 [1868].

“Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory. –DA 633,4 [1898].

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the **character of Christ** shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of **every Christian**, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain. – COL 69 [1900] emphasis added.



Have you ever considered that you & I have the capability to hasten the 2nd coming?

THURSDAY

Watch and Be Ready

“**Why** is it crucial for us to watch and always be ready for Jesus’ coming?” Good question. The lesson gives us Matt 24: 42, 44 to consider.

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

It sounds like our Savior was speaking to those with a moral development in the stage 1 [reward vs punishment] or 2 [marketplace exchange] levels. Thankfully, He doesn’t leave it there. He gives another illustration in the next few verses.

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Note the character of the “wise servant”. He is charged with “feeding” the “household”. Who does the household represent, and what are they to be fed?