

Discipleship Guide
Lesson 7
Messiah's Second Coming

"I believe . . . in Jesus Christ . . . who . . . From thence [heaven] . . . shall come to judge the quick [living] and the dead."

As a result of studying this lesson, the student will:
(1) understand the second coming of Y'shua;
(2) personally prepare while eagerly awaiting it.

Two Messiahs?

Reading

The student should read Zechariah 9:9-17 and answer the following questions:

1. Verse 9 pictures the coming or appearance of the messiah. What picture is described?
2. Verse 14 paints a different picture. How is the appearance of the Messiah described here?
3. What do the verbs in verse 15 suggest?

Comment

Rambam (a nickname for Maimonides or Rabbi Moses ben Maimon of the thirteenth century) understood that there were two pictures of the messiah in the Bible, even here in Zechariah 9. [*Mishne Torah, Chapter 11*] He said that the messiah would die and be followed by a son or grandson. One is humble; the other conquering. The one riding into Jerusalem on a donkey; the other on the clouds. Modern rabbis comment as my own Orthodox rabbi did: "If all Israel were to act perfectly and righteously [usually related to Sabbath observance one or two Sabbaths in a row], then messiah would come on the clouds to vanquish our enemies and exalt the Jewish people. On the other hand, if the Jewish people behave improperly and are not righteous, then messiah will come on the donkey and be humble and die for us."

Jesus and the early Christians understood that the two pictures of the messiah referred to Jesus' two comings. He first came in human form, born of a virgin and suffered an atoning death as "one of us." At his future "second coming," he will come as judge to enact justice on the earth. Before the end, he will fulfill every biblical prediction about himself. (See John 12:12-17 for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus riding on a donkey at his first coming.)

Returning King

Reading

The student should read Zechariah 14 and answer the following questions:

4. On which mountain will messiah return?

5. What will happen when he returns?

Jesus as Judge

Reading

The student should read John 5 and answer the following questions:

6. To whom has all judgment been given?
7. Why is judgment transferred to the Son?
8. Will a believer have to worry about being condemned?
9. What quality marks the Son's judgment?

Jesus' Second Appearing

Reading

The student should read 2 Peter 3 and answer the following questions:

10. What will some "scoffers" say in "the last days"?
11. What will these scoffers forget?
12. What are we to not forget?
13. Why is the Lord patient and long-suffering?
14. "The day of the Lord" will come like what?
15. As we look forward to the second coming of Christ, how should we live?

Reading

The student should read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:11 and answer the following questions:

16. How is Christ's second coming described?
17. With what attitude should we look forward to this day?
18. Why did Christ die for us? (5:10)

Comment

Hebrews 9:27-28 reads, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this [comes] the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

The first coming of messiah accomplished our salvation. His blood opened the door of heaven, and we enter by being born again by faith. When he returns, he will bring salvation for us who are awaiting him and judgment for those who have rejected him.

For a clearer understanding about God's nature, his justice and his guarantee to bring it to pass, you may also want to read Psalm 94:2; Deuteronomy 32:36; Psalm 58:11; Isaiah 66:16; 2 Timothy 4; and 1 Peter 4.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:27

"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this [comes] the judgment."