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THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

Each year we celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. It's a time of joy and reflection. But did you know that for every prophecy on the first coming of Christ in the Old Testament, there are eight on the second coming? The Bible mentions Jesus' return over 1,500 times. The return of our Lord is mentioned once in every five verses in the New Testament. That's how important it is! It was a favorite theme of Jesus and He spoke of it quite often. In today's lesson we will explore what the Bible teaches about this incredible event: the coming of Christ.

1. What promise did Jesus give to His disciples concerning His return?

John 14:1-3

2. What did Jesus say He would do when he returns? Matthew 16:27

**3. In what manner does the Bible teach that Jesus will come? Revelation 1:7;
Acts 1:9-11**

4. Will His coming be a secret and silent event? Psalms 50:3, 4

Note: His coming will not be in secret. The Bible teaches that everyone will know that this climactic event is taking place. It will be a very real, visible and audible event!

5. What will the angels be doing at this time? Matthew 24:30, 31; 25:31

Note: When one angel rolled back the stone from Christ's tomb, the Roman soldiers became as dead men, dazed by the angel's countenance, which was "like lightening" (Matthew 28:2, 3). Think of the splendor of "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11) of angels coming with Christ!

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6. What will happen to those who are “in Christ” at the time of His coming?

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

7. What will those who are not “in Christ” be doing at this time?

Revelation 6:15-17

Note: This is one of the saddest pictures in the Bible—a people who deliberately and continually reject the One who loves them so and now finally realize that they are lost. How sad when it could have been so different.

8. What will happen to our bodies when Christ returns? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Conclusion: The coming of our Lord will not be a secret event but rather the most incredible event that the world has ever seen. For some it will be a most wonderful event and for others it will be terrifying. God wants us all to be in heaven with Him but He cannot force those that refuse Him. And He cannot bring those along that don't want to be there. Never again can He risk the harmony of heaven again.