

Bethlehem, just as prophesied. Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, there are some prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has not yet fulfilled. The second coming of Christ will be the return of Christ to fulfill these remaining prophecies. In His first coming, Jesus was the suffering Servant. In His second coming, Jesus will be the conquering King. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In His second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side.

The Old Testament prophets did not make clearly this distinction between the two comings. This can be seen in Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7 and Zechariah 14:4. As a result of the prophecies seeming to speak of two individuals, many Jewish scholars believed there would be both a suffering Messiah and a conquering Messiah. What they failed to understand is that there is only one Messiah and He would fulfill both roles. Jesus fulfilled the role of the suffering servant (Isaiah chapter 53) in His first coming. Jesus will fulfill the role of Israel's deliverer and King in His second coming. Zechariah 12:10 and Revelation 1:7, describing the second coming, look back to Jesus being pierced. Israel, and the whole world, will mourn for not having accepted the Messiah the first time He came.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels declared to the apostles, "'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:11). Zechariah 14:4 identifies the location of the second coming as the

Mount of Olives. Matthew 24:30 declares, "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." Titus 2:13 describes the second coming as a "glorious appearing."

The second coming is spoken of in greatest detail in Revelation 19:11-16, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Does the Old Testament truly predict a second coming of the Messiah?

Question 2 Answer: The Old Testament does prophesy the [second coming of Christ](#), also referred to as the second advent of the Messiah. Some Old Testament prophecies concern the first advent, when Christ was born as a human being. Others concern the second advent, which is the ultimate triumph of this Messiah. It's important to remember that

prophecy does not describe the future in the same detail as history describes the past. So, while the prophecies of the Old Testament certainly describe both the first and second advents, most early interpretations of these prophecies melded them into a single event. Particularly during the years leading up to Jesus' birth, it was assumed Messiah would be a political/military figure with an immediate worldly kingdom (Luke 19:11). In the light of Jesus' ministry, it is possible to understand the true purpose of Christ and the real nature of His kingdom.

A careful look at Old Testament prophecies shows an underlying assumption of two advents. Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 7:14 Separately, Isaiah 53:8-9 predicts a [suffering and dying Messiah](#), who will be given life and greatness according to Isaiah 53:11-12.

Daniel 9:26 describes the Messiah being killed after His appearance. At the same time, prophets such as Zechariah (Zechariah 12:10) say this same "pierced" Messiah will be seen again by His enemies. So the clues are there.

Many Old Testament prophecies foretell the ultimate triumph of Christ, which will occur at the second advent. These include statements from the books of Zechariah (Zechariah 9:14-15; 12:10-14; 13:1; 9:14-15); Amos (Amos 9:11-15); Jeremiah (Jeremiah 30:18; 32:44; 33:11, 26); and Joel (Joel 3:1); which describe the Messiah coming in triumph to lead Israel into salvation. Note that these are in the context of passages such as Deuteronomy 30:3-5 and so are predictions of the time of Messiah's final victory.

Also, Scripture records Jesus making direct comparisons to Old Testament prophecies when making His own claims to a second ad-

vent. For example, His words in Matthew 24:31 and Mark 13:27 parallel the descriptions of Isaiah 52:15 and Isaiah 59-62.

All in all, the Hebrew Scriptures indicate that the Promised One would appear, be cut off, and then reappear in victory. The first advent has occurred; the second is still future. Both the New and Old Testaments predict a second advent of the Messiah.

Second Coming of Christ

No One Knows When

The Second Coming of Christ is plagued by many false teachings. Prediction books have even been written picking the exact day of Jesus' return. These books may sell many copies, but they mislead their readers. There's one guarantee: As soon as someone predicts the day or time of Jesus Christ's second coming, that prediction is wrong. Why? Simply, only God the Father knows when it will be -- Jesus doesn't even know. Jesus told His disciples:

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with the hand mill; one will be taken and the other left... Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" ([Matthew 24:36, 40, 42](#)).

Signs for Keeping Watch

We could just shrug our shoulders and casually wait for the Second Coming of Christ. However, Jesus wants us to **"keep watch."** A great way to keep watch is to know what the Bible reveals about upcoming events and compare those to what we see happening

today. There are nearly 100 biblical passages discussing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The key events can be summarized with the acrostic: **S - E - C - O - N - D**.

S...Sudden. As we saw above, no one but the Father knows when. However, we do know it will take place "as lightning." [Matthew 24:27](#) says, "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

E...Essential. One of the foundations of the Christian faith is Jesus' second coming. It is spoken of by Jesus and many others in the Bible. Jesus will physically come again for all His believers and for His final judgment. Unfortunately, some Christian cults teach that Christ "secretly" returned already. As you read what the Bible says about the Second Coming of Jesus, it will be obvious that it hasn't happened yet.

C...Christ's Final Judgment. The Bible declares that Jesus will be the final judge of the world ([John 5:22](#), [Acts 10:42](#) and [2 Timothy 4:1](#)). Some of the additional verses describing the second coming, resurrection of the dead, millennium, and final judgment are located in [Acts 17:31](#), [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11](#) and [Hebrews 10:27](#).

O...Obvious. There are over 6 billion people on the planet. God only knows what percentage are truly Christians, but let's use a conservative number like 10%. If this is true, over 600,000,000 people will vanish from the earth simultaneously according to [Matthew 24:40](#). There will be no mistaking when Christ comes back for His Church!

N...No One Knows When. In [Matthew 24:36](#), Jesus said only God the Father knows

when. God is outside time. God already knows every prediction regarding Jesus' return that has ever been or will ever be made. Since Jesus said that no one knows about that day but the Father, NO ONE KNOWS!

The "D" is for Doubters As we get closer and closer to the Second Coming of Christ, there will be increasing and widespread doubt about whether Jesus even existed. People will also start wondering if God really exists and believers will leave the Christian faith ([2 Thessalonians 2:1-4](#), [1 Timothy 4:1-2](#), and [2 Peter 2:1-3](#)). Do you think we're already seeing these signs?

*For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not
perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

The Bible says, *You must be born again* (John 3:7). You need to make a commitment to Christ today. This is your moment with God.

Open your heart and say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart." You ask, "What do I have to do?"

First, you have to be willing to repent of your sins. You may not have the strength to change your way of living. Repentance means that you say to God, "I have sinned. I am sorry for my sin. I am willing to change my way of living. But You have to help me change: I can't do it alone."

You need to make a commitment to Jesus Christ, and let Him come into your heart. I'm going to ask you to do that.

Second, you come by faith. What does faith mean? Faith means that you put your trust in

Him and say, "Lord, I give myself to You."

You may have been baptized, you may have been confirmed, you may be a member of a church, you may be a good person, you may help other people. You may do all the good that you can think of, but all of that isn't enough. You must come in childlike faith to Jesus, who died on the cross for you, who rose again, who is waiting for you to make that commitment. Do it today.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We have all sinned and deserve God's judgment. God, the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus, the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that He died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, was buried, and rose from the dead according to the Bible. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior, declaring, "Jesus is Lord," you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven.

What is your response?

SIGNS OF THE SECOND
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THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST?

QUESTION 1:
"What is the
Second Coming
of Jesus Christ?"

QUESTION 2:
"Does the
Old Testament truly
predict a second coming
of the Messiah-Christ?"

Question 1 Answer: The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of believers that God is in control of all things, and is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. In His first coming, Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in