

Week 52: The Return of Christ and the New Heaven and Earth

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ will return bodily, and victoriously. His return will bring the final judgment, the defeat of evil, the resurrection of the dead, and the full restoration of the creation. For believers, the return of Christ is not meant to encourage readiness and hope. The same Jesus who came humbly as a suffering servant will return as conquering King.

This final week completes the story that began in Genesis: Creation, Fall, Redemption, And Restoration. God's plan always ends in victory. The return of Christ should remind our family to live faithfully, watchfully, and with eternal perspective. Every act of obedience, every trial we endure, and every sacrifice we make for God's Kingdom points toward this coming day.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

(Acts 1:9-11, John 14:2-3, Matthew 24:29-31, Revelation 19:11-16, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:1-5, 2 Peter 3:10-14, Psalm 98:4-9)

Acts 1:9–11 - The Promise of His Return

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? 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.

John 14:2–3

2 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.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Commentary

The “return of Christ” is not symbolic. Scripture presents this as a real future event, “This same Jesus” will return.

The disciples watched Him ascend physically, and He will return physically. Jesus did not leave His people abandoned, but promised to return and gather them. We must live with this expectation. The Christian life is faithful preparation for the return of the King.

Matthew 24:29–31 - The Return of the King

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelation 19:11–16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Commentary

Christ's second coming will be dramatically different from His first. The first time He came in humility and was rejected, mocked, then crucified. The second time He comes in glory, authority, and judgment.

He is called: Faithful and True, The Word of God, and King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is the arrival of the rightful King. We must remember that Christ's authority will ultimately be recognized by all creation. Every other earthly power is temporary, but His Kingdom is eternal.

Revelation 20:11–15 - Judgment and Restoration

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1–5

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Commentary

God's final judgment is unavoidable, every person will stand before Him and give account. This reminds families that choices matter. Obedience, faith, repentance, and truth are real concerns.

Yet after judgment comes restoration: A new heaven and earth, no death, no sorrow, no pain, and God dwelling with His people forever. This is the fulfillment of redemption. The curse is removed, and creation is renewed.

2 Peter 3:10–14 - Living Ready

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Commentary

The future return of Christ should affect how we live now. Peter asks an important question: *“What manner of persons ought ye to be?”*

Because eternity is real, holiness matters, obedience matters, submission matters, and readiness matters. Believers are not called to fear Christ's return, but to prepare for it faithfully. And we should live with watchfulness, discipline, and hope of what is to come.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children

- Who is coming again?
- Will Jesus return as King?
- What will Heaven be like?

Older Children & Teens

- Why is Christ's second coming different from His first?
- What does it mean to live ready for Christ's return?
- Why does Scripture connect hope with holiness?

Adults

- Are you living with eternal readiness or worldly distraction?
 - Does your household reflect anticipation of Christ's return?
 - How should the promise of restoration affect daily priorities?
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Psalm Reading - Psalm 98:4–9

4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

5 Sing unto the LORD with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

9 Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Commentary

Even creation rejoices at the coming of the Lord. Why? Because His judgment is righteous. Evil will finally be removed, and justice will be established. The return of Christ is both sobering and joyful, judgment for evil, and restoration for the righteous. Families must learn to long for His coming with reverence and hope.

Hymn: “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

By Charles Wesley and John Cennick (1758)

1.

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2.

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3.

The dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers:
With what rapture, with what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4.

Yea, amen! let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!



Family Application Points

1. Live with Readiness

Teach your household to live faithfully in expectation of Christ's return.

2. Keep Eternal Priorities

Do not become consumed with temporary things.

3. Pursue Holiness

Prepare for eternity through obedience and repentance.

4. Trust God's Final Justice

Evil will not prevail forever. God's judgment is righteous and certain.

5. Hope in Restoration

The future for God's people is not destruction, but renewal and joy in His presence.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer

Father, we thank You for the promise that Christ will return and make all things new. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Help our family live with faithfulness, holiness, and hope. Keep our eyes fixed on eternity and strengthen us to endure until the day Your Kingdom is fully revealed. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we long for Your return. Strengthen our faith and prepare our hearts for that coming day. Guard our home from distraction and compromise. Teach us to live in holiness, truth, and hopeful expectation. May our family remain faithful until You come in glory. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.