



Number 1. Jesus the Victor

ClearView

bible study guide

Reflect
Reflect

What difference does it make whether the Second Coming of Jesus is a genuine historical event, or whether it is just an inner spiritual experience?

3. Motivating the Spread of the Gospel



Read

• Matt 24:14



Comment

The disciples were motivated to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world because they believed that when that task was accomplished the promised return would occur, and they would see Jesus again.

Reflect
Reflect

How is the Church today succeeding with this task? What does it take to complete it?

4. Creation Restored—Recreation



Read

• 2 Peter 3:10-13

• Revelation 21:1-5

Reflect
Reflect

What is the importance of creation for the idea of the return of Jesus? Is it possible and natural to believe that God will recreate everything when Jesus comes if one does not believe that He created the world in the first place?

5. Permeating the Whole of the New Testament



Read

• Acts 1:11



Comment

Note how the few texts quoted in this lesson are taken from various parts of the New Testament. To the first Christians the Second Coming of Jesus was no accidental idea. It was one of their fundamental beliefs. It permeates all of the New Testament and later became an essential part of all the major creeds of the Christian Church.

6. Restating the Old Testament Hope



Read

• Isaiah 11:1-9

Reflect
Reflect

What kind of world does Isaiah see? What is the difference between this world and the one in which we live? Why would anyone believe that such a prophecy could become reality? Based on the texts you have read, how would you summarize the hope of the first Christians?

Two things in life are certain: death and taxes. In traditional cultures the exposure to death is common, but in modern, Western societies, death has been removed from our sight and ignored as much as possible. Yet its fact is certain. Secular and atheistic philosophies accept death as the final end of individual human existence, and it is left to religious beliefs to face the challenges that death brings about. Is it possible for the power of death to be overcome? Can the natural order be broken?

1. Jesus—Risen from the Dead!



Read

• Romans 1:1-4

• 1 Corinthians 15:16-20

Reflect
Reflect

Why was the resurrection from the dead that important for the early Christians?

How did it prove to them that Christ was more than human (Rom 1:4)?

Why would their faith be “worthless” without it?

Would not Christianity even without this belief contain some moral value?

2. Jesus—Dying to Conquer Death!



Read

• Galatians 3:13

• Romans 6:23

Background

This is how the Bible describes it: when Jesus died, He did it by choice. He was God who became man. He did not deserve to die. It was a sacrifice in our place. He felt the same fear of death as all other humans, yet He gave Himself for our sake. Thus love conquered death in order that death may be no more.

Reflect
Reflect

Why do most humans fear dying? How does fear of death, or of loneliness, sickness, or financial loss, influence the way we as human beings behave?