

7 Many people have suggested that Christ’s appearing could never happen in this lifetime. Some have actually suggested that the Second Coming is a myth, because so much time has passed since Jesus made His promises—yet the Bible anticipated this attitude. (2 Peter 3:3, 4) What did Jesus say on this subject? (Matthew 24:44)

8 Jesus asked us to be ready. Is it your desire to be ready for His glorious appearing? _____

NEXT TIME: We’ll be looking at one of the most astonishing prophecies in the Bible—one that decisively proves that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the long-awaited Messiah!



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LESSON ONE

A PLANET IN UPHEAVAL

1 The signs that Jesus said to watch for can be broken down into three general domains: the _____ world, the _____ world and the _____ world. (Matthew 24:4-7)

2 The Bible lays out signs of the times with such detail that we could probably calculate a date for Christ's return.

TRUE FALSE

"But of that _____ and _____ no one knows, not even the _____ of heaven, but My Father only." (Matthew 24:36)

3 a) Will we be able to tell when Christ's appearing is getting close?
(Matthew 24:32, 33)

YES NO

b) To what does Jesus compare the signs of His coming in Matthew 24:32?

4 In Matthew 24:8, Jesus describes the signs of His appearing and "the end of the world" as the beginning of *sorrows*. The original word used in the Greek text is *odin*, which means _____. All the signs are things we have seen before, but when the _____ become more intense and frequent, it is an indication that we are getting close to the appearing.

5 Name some of the signs Jesus told us to watch for. (Matthew 24:4-7, 11, 12)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

6 In Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus makes reference to the fact that the world will resemble the "days of Noah" just prior to the appearing. What was the world like in those days? (Genesis 6:5)

7 Some modern books on prophecy teach that Daniel 9 is primarily about a last-day antichrist who will desecrate a rebuilt temple in the last days. Whom does the text identify as the protagonist of the prophecy, and who brought an end to the sacrificial system? (Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 27:51)

8 There is a parallel structure in Daniel 9:26, 27. Verse 26 describes Jesus being “cut off” for others, followed by someone who would come and destroy the city and sanctuary. Verse 27 repeats the same information, with different details: Jesus would “bring an end to sacrifice and offering” in the middle of the 70th week, followed by one who would make the temple “desolate.” Was Daniel right? Did someone come after the crucifixion to destroy the temple?

NEXT TIME: We’ll discover five things we can know for sure about the Second Coming of Christ!



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LESSON TWO

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

1 The phrase “abomination of desolation” often comes up in discussions about Bible prophecy, but the historical context is rarely mentioned. According to the Bible, why was the first temple (the one Solomon built) made desolate? (2 Chronicles 36:8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18)

2 When Jesus predicted the destruction of the second temple in the New Testament, He referred to the way God’s prophets were treated. (Matthew 23:37, 38) This was true before the destruction of the first temple as well. (2 Chronicles 36:15, 16; Nehemiah 9:26) What does this tell us about how God deals with His people? (Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11)

3 Daniel’s city and people were to enjoy a period of probation after coming back from Babylonian captivity. How long was that probationary period supposed to last? (Daniel 9:24) Given the principle we learned in Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34, which literal period of time does that represent?

4 What was the starting point for the 70-week prophecy? (Daniel 9:25)

5 Which event signaled the close of the 490-year probationary period in AD 34? (Acts 7:57-60)

6 It is now possible for all followers of Christ to consider themselves descendants of Abraham. (Galatians 3:29; Acts 10:34, 35; Romans 10:12)

TRUE FALSE

—CONTINUED ON BACK—

This means that when Christ returns, there will be no further opportunities to make things right with God—which tells us that Christ’s return is _____.

8 There will only be two groups of people when Christ returns, and each group will react differently to the sight of Jesus’ return. One reaction is found in Revelation 6:15-17; a description of the other is found in Isaiah 25:9. What is the difference between these two groups of people? Which reaction are you planning to experience?

NEXT TIME: We’ll search through history to discover why there is so much confusion about Bible prophecy in the 21st century.



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LESSON THREE THE APPEARING

With more than 2,500 references or allusions to it throughout the Bible, the Second Coming is clearly one of the most important subjects in Scripture. Yet in spite of the abundance of material describing it, many Christians find themselves disagreeing about the manner of Christ's return. Fortunately, if we take the time to read through all of the data, a clear picture emerges with a number of things we can know for sure when it comes to Jesus' appearing.

1 In John 14:29, Jesus reveals an interesting principle of Bible prophecy. Even though many prophecies clearly and accurately predict the future, prophecy is not primarily about prediction. What is the primary purpose of Bible prophecy?

There are several well-established facts about the nature of Christ's appearing that we can know for sure. Let's review those facts.

2 "This _____ Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like _____ as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) This tells us that Jesus will return _____.

3 Jesus had a body made of _____. This same Jesus will return, which tells us that He will appear _____. (Luke 24:38-40)

4 When Christ returns, _____ will see Him. This means that His coming will be _____. (Revelation 1:7)

5 When Christ returns, there will be a _____, with the voice of an _____, along with the sound of a _____. It will be so loud that it will wake the _____. (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 24:31) Furthermore, in John 5:28, 29, we learn that _____ who are in their graves will hear Jesus' _____. This tells us that Jesus will appear _____.

6 When Jesus returns, how many of the angels will accompany Him? (Matthew 25:31)

How many angels are there in the universe? (Revelation 5:11)

Also, when Jesus comes, He will come with the _____ of His _____. (Matthew 16:27) This demonstrates that Christ's return will be _____.

7 When Jesus appears, what will He bring with Him? (Revelation 22:12; John 5:28, 29) _____.

6 Old Testament prophecy was very open about pointing out the sins of God's Old Testament people. Is the same true of the New Testament? (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7; Revelation 3:14-18)

7 What prophetic symbol is used throughout Scripture to describe God's people? What does this tell us about God's feelings toward us? (Jeremiah 6:2; Matthew 25:1, 6; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 21:1, 2)

8 Knowing the love that Jesus has for His bride, is it your desire to be one of the people who is ready for His return? _____

NEXT TIME: The battle of Armageddon!



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LESSON FOUR
PROPHECY INTERRUPTED

1 In the second chapter of Daniel, what did God use to represent world history from Daniel's day to our day? What did the head of gold represent? (Daniel 2:31-38)

2 What did the lower sections of the statue represent? (Daniel 2:32, 39-45)

3 According to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, when is the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom going to take place? (Daniel 2:44; Matthew 25:31)

4 a) God has used several different methods to save sinners over the centuries. (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 10:4; Romans 4:2, 3)

TRUE FALSE

b) Why or why not?

5 What was the point of the sacrificial system if the blood of animals (Hebrews 10:4) could not save sinners? (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 5:6-9; Hebrews 8:1, 2)

— CONTINUED ON BACK —

8 What does this tell us about what is important when Christ returns?

9 The battle of Armageddon is ultimately a struggle for the hearts and minds of human beings. It is a warning that time *will* run out. Today, we are faced with the same decision that Elijah leveled at ancient Israel—if the Lord is God, follow Him; if He is not, follow another. In the end, the whole human race is figuratively gathered on the “Mountain of Megiddo” to make a decision. What decision will you make?



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LESSON FIVE

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

1 One of the most important keys to understanding the book of Revelation is to understand that approximately two-thirds of the imagery John uses is lifted from the Old Testament. This is especially true of one Old Testament prophet in particular who described the night Babylon fell. Which prophet told that story? _____

2 The word *Armageddon* is derived from the Hebrew words *Har Megiddon*, which mean what?

3 What is the most prominent mountain bordering the Valley of Megiddo, and what happened there? (1 Kings 18:19-21)

4 Revelation 16:12 refers to the drying up of the Euphrates River. Historically, this literally happened in conjunction with which event? (Isaiah 44:27-45:1; Daniel 5)

5 The literal city of Babylon is used throughout the book of Revelation as a symbol for religious confusion and rebellion against God. In Revelation 16:19, God promises that He will put an end to modern-day *spiritual* Babylon, ending the struggle with the appearing of Christ. (Revelation 19:11)

God gives His reason for the overthrow of ancient *literal* Babylon in Jeremiah 29:10, which foreshadows His reason for overthrowing last-day *spiritual* Babylon. What reason is given?

6 Are miraculous events a sure sign that God is at work? (Revelation 16:14; Revelation 13:11-14)

7 At the conclusion of the battle, Jesus is pictured with a sword coming out of His mouth. What does a sword represent? (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17)
