

Christian Beliefs Week 18: Teaching
Ch 18: What will happen when Christ returns?

Intro: Any steps of faith to share?

Today, we are going to answer these questions: When will Jesus return? What will happen before the return of Christ? What will happen at the return of Christ? Can Christ come back at any time? What are four different views of the millennium?

Discuss: Why do you think this is still an important topic for us to study and consider, especially since there are varied views, and we don't know for certain what will happen?

When will Jesus return?

Discuss: What is the danger of people putting a prediction on Jesus' coming?

Can Christ come back at any time? What events will happen before His return?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What is the Preterist View?

What will happen at the return of Christ?

- Most of the debate is around one passage:
Revelation 20:1-6. *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be released for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God and those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.”*
1. Amillennial View: Amillennialism believes that The millennium is now, and when it ends, Jesus will return. They believe Revelation 20 is the present church age.

2. Postmillennial: “Post” means after, so according to this view, Christ will return after the millennium.

3. Premillennial: “Pre” means before, so they believe Christ will come back before the tribulation.

4. Pretribulational premillennial view or Dispensational Premillennialism: This is also called the “pretribulation rapture” view. They believe Christ will return twice: once in a secret return to suddenly take Christians out of the world (before the millennium), and then after the Great Tribulation, He will return.

What should our response be considering all of this?

Discussion:

- What are some things about eschatology that all Christians should agree on?
- Why is it difficult to know if some of these signs have occurred?
- If one sign is that the whole world will hear the gospel, and then Christ will return, how can you be a part of making that happen through prayer, support of missionaries or ministries, or your own personal sharing of the gospel with others?
- What are some issues Christians may not agree on? How are we to deal with those differences?
- Do you believe Christ can return at any hour? How does this or should this affect your life?
- If you do not have a longing for Christ's return, what factors in your life do you think contribute to that lack of longing?
- If you knew Christ were to return in the next 24 hours, what situations or relationships would you want to straighten? Who would you share the gospel with?