

Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
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Return of the King, He will Judge the Living and the Dead!

Good morning Fil-Am we are continuing this morning on the series on the apostle's creed. This morning we will be discussing the part where Jesus will come back to Judge the **Living and the Dead**.

*"I believe in God, the Father almighty, **creator of heaven and earth**. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, Amen."*

The first point we will discuss this morning is...

I. The Return of the King

The New Testament refers to the 2nd coming of Christ in over 300 verses, that's approximately one of every 13 verses in the New Testament that deals with some aspect of our Lords return to the earth.

The **Return** of Christ and his **Judgment** is a central or core belief among Christians.

Christ said I will return...

John 14:3 (NASB)

³ *“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”*

His second coming will be...

- ✓ Personal (It will be Jesus and not a Substitute)
- ✓ Literal (Not a Vision or a Dream)
- ✓ Visual (Every Eye will see him)
- ✓ Sudden (Not a gradual return)
- ✓ Unexpected (Like a thief in the night)

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NASB)

² *“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.”*

The future event, the literal, visible, return of Christ to the earth, will be more marvelous, more startling, and more spiritually dynamic than anything that has happened in the last 2000 years.

In fact you probably don't recall too many sermons preached on the subject, but ignoring it would be unfaithful to you, unfaithful to God.

We can look through both the Old and New Testaments and see that the prophets had much to say about it, The Apostles had much to say about it, and even the Lord Jesus himself had much to say about it. So that means it is something that we too should be concerned about.

Matthew 24:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ *And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.* ³¹ *And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

Matthew 24:36 (NASB)

³⁶ *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.*

Notice the “**Days of Noah**” What was happening during the days of Noah?

In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking not having a care on the world.

UNTIL, the day that Noah entered into the ark.

The thing you need to remember that Noah had preached for 120 years, warning, preaching righteousness, warning them, they were **indifferent** to what he had to say.

They remained **indifferent** until the flood came and washed them all away, so too will be the coming of man the **Son of Man**, it will be unexpected, because they were indifferent to the signs and warning.

Jesus reminded us of the signs as found in...

Matthew 24:6-10 (NASB)

⁶ *You will be hearing of **wars** and **rumors of wars**. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ But all these things are merely the **beginning** of birth pangs.*

Matthew 24:27 (NASB)

²⁷ *For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Christ will come to **Judge** the **living** and the **dead**.

The second point we will discuss this morning is...

II. The Day of Christ

The “**Day of Christ**” will refer to the coming of the Lord for his people; it is also called the “**Day of Resurrection**”, it is an assembling of God’s people with Jesus, also referred to it in scripture as the rapture.

It is a day of our reward.

Revelation 22:12 (NASB)

¹² *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”*

- ✓ The day of our seeing Jesus,
- ✓ The day of our translation,
- ✓ Our resurrection,

Is the day that we shall receive our reward, It will be a...

- ✓ A Glorious day,
- ✓ A Triumphant day,
- ✓ A Victorious day,
- ✓ The Day of Christ.

Day of Christ, where he will bring his Judgment...

Because we were born into Sin and therefore cannot live up to God’s righteous standards, condemnation hangs over our head.

No Old Testament believer who trusted in God or New Testament believer who trusts in Christ will be condemned.

Psalm 34:22 (NASB)

²² *The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.*

John 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ *“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

John 5:24 (NASB)

²⁴ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **hears** My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*

Pioneers who were making their way across one of the central states to a distant place that had been opened up for homesteading. They traveled in covered wagons drawn by oxen, and progress was necessarily slow.

One day they were horrified to see a long line of smoke in the west, stretching for miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly. They had crossed a river the day before but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames would be upon them.

One man only seemed to have understanding as to what could be done. He gave the command to set fire to the grass behind them.

A space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it.

As the flames roared on toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror, "Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?" The leader replied, "My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are **standing where the fire has been!**"

What a picture of the believer, who is safe in Christ!

The fires of God's judgment burned themselves out on Him, and all who are in Christ are safe forever, for they are now standing where the fire has been.

Jesus came to save rather than condemn, he came to free us from **condemnation.**

John 3:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

All of us are judged ultimately after death

Acts 17:31 (NASB)

³¹ *“Because He has fixed a day in which He will **judge** the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”*

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NASB)

²⁷ *“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.”*

Those who are redeemed according to the **New Covenant** in Christ will be judged righteous, for their Sins will be washed away by his blood.

The next point we will discuss this morning is...

III. The Day of the Lord

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

Everyone will rise from the dead to be judged, those who believe in Christ, repent of their sins, and try to lead a Godly life will be judged blameless and will receive eternal life.

However, those who chose not to believe and who lead a life of sin without repentance will die a 2nd death.

Thus those who are evil will rise to everlasting contempt and condemnation, those who are redeemed and are righteous will arise to everlasting bliss and peace.

A criminal who had once been before the courts was scheduled to appear once more. He rejoiced when he heard that an attorney who had defended him on previous occasions was now the trial judge.

His attitude changed, however, when the judge stated, "*When I was an attorney I defended you, but I am no longer an attorney.*"

*It is not my business now to **defend**, but to **judge**. I shall hear the evidence, and then I must deal with you in keeping with the oath I have taken in the office of judge."*

Jesus came once to this earth as Savior. He is even now at the right hand of God as our Intercessor, our Advocate with the Father. But the day is coming when **He will return as Judge.**

As Judge, He must perform His duty in keeping with the nature of His office.

Therefore right after the "**Day of Christ**" as soon as the believers are reunited with Christ, then will usher in the "**Day of the Lord.**"

It is a day of...

- ✓ Day of Darkness
- ✓ Day of Judgment
- ✓ Day of Battle
- ✓ Day of Purging
- ✓ Day of Mourning
- ✓ It's a Fearful and Terrible Day

One of the most frightening truths in all scripture surrounds the events of the "**Day of the Lord**" It is a time when Jesus returns and brings back the flaming fury and anger of God on all the **SINNERS** of the world.

It's a day of

- ✓ Day of Devastation and Destruction,
- ✓ Day of Doom and Damnation

It is not at all popular to talk about

- ✓ God Fury,
- ✓ God's Anger,
- ✓ Gods Vengeance,

The “**Day of the Lord**” is mentioned a number of times in both the Old and New Testament and every time it is negative.

All the prophetic word on the “**Day of the Lord**” is about his Judgment on SINNERS.

Six times it is referred to as a “**Day of Gloom**” Four times it is referred to as “**Day of Vengeance.**”

Joel 2:30-32 (NASB)

The Day of the LORD

³⁰ “I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ “The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ³² “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered;

In 1988 **Ben Johnson** of Canada broke out of the starting gate like no other in history as he ran the 100 meters race.

He had broken the Olympic record; he had turned that sprint for the fastest human alive upside down, as it has never been demonstrated before. He had beaten the American Carl Lewis who had won the Gold in 1984 and had beaten Johnson in the prelims for the 1988 Olympics.

The crowd went wild; the other runners congratulated him, what a performance he put on, he was the fastest man in the world.

When everything went before the **Judges** they tested his blood and found steroids!

They sent the word to Ben Johnson and the rest of the world that he needed to give up his Gold medal as they awarded it to the second place runner.

The Gold Medal that ben Johnson had won was snatched away and awarded to another.

He went back to Canada a disgrace...

- ✓ The crowd didn't know when he was running away from everybody
- ✓ When he darted from the starting blocks, they didn't know
- ✓ When he was sprinting down the track, they didn't know
- ✓ When he ran his victory lap, they didn't know
- ✓ He looked like an Olympic Winner
- ✓ He felt like an Olympic Winner

The only problem is the Judges went **inside his body** and extracted what was on the **inside** and brought it to **light**.

On that day many of us who think we have won will find out that we have to return our medal, because of what's on the inside, we didn't run according to the rules.

The question is, will he **call your name** or will you be stripped of your medal, your crown?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NASB)

¹⁴For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."

Luke 8:17 (NASB)

¹⁷"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light."

The time that we live in right now...

A man can sin against and blaspheme God, he can mock the Lord, and the Holy Spirit, he can trample the things of the church and mock its very existence.

He can curse the Lord and say, God is dead, or where is God, let him strike me down if there is a God in heaven. He can do all this and walk away and live, because we are under a period of time called a period of Grace, it is a day of longsuffering of God.

His arms are still outstretched humanity; his hands are still extended our way.

It is a day of...

- ✓ Privilege
- ✓ Opportunity
- ✓ Repentance

A time of coming down the aisle and repenting of our sins asking Jesus to come into our life as our Precious Lord and savior.

However there is a time when the wrath and fury of God will be seen and felt, the judgment of God will be visited upon sinful man, and woe to anyone during that time that is not covered by the blood of the lamb.

The "**Day of Christ**" is a day for his people, and as that day ends it ushers in the beginning of the "**Day of the Lord.**"

The great "**Day of the Lord**" is at hand,

- ✓ Who will turn and believe?
- ✓ Who will come and trust?

✓ Who will look up in faith to Jesus?"

Would you today?

The path way is clear for all those that want to come down, in repentance and in faith; I hide my soul in Jesus.

I Come

I Come

Would you come just as you are?