

# EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

## TRUTH CLAIM #12: *Jesus Is Coming Again*

In last month's Exploration Bible article, as we studied the biblical Gospel, we saw Jesus as the Lamb of God who was sacrificed on the cross to "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus came to earth the first time as our Passover Lamb [1 Corinthians 5:7].

Jesus fulfilled almost all the prophecies of the Jewish Messiah when He came the first time. The prophecies regarding His lineage, birth, life, death and resurrection were ALL fulfilled. What has yet to be fulfilled are the prophecies looking forward to His 2nd coming.

Many assume Jesus will come again as a humble Lamb – nothing could be further from the truth. When Jesus returns, He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, to save His people and judge those who have rebelled against His Gospel. "When the Son of Man comes in His glory... then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:31-32).



**These are ancient Royal Seals of the Kings of Israel depicting a Roaring Lion**

So, what distinguishes His sheep from the goats? Again, consider the words of Jesus, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord,

Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven [see John 6:26-29]. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:21-23). If "wonderful works" done in the name of Jesus were sufficient, these people would have passed the test with flying colors. In spite of their good works, they were condemned because JESUS DID NOT KNOW THEM. They never had a real and personal relationship with the Savior.



**The Bible tells us Jesus will one day return to this mount, the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:3-4).**

Our "righteous works" can never earn God's favor because God views our attempted righteousness as "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). In the end, the simple gospel is our only hope. Again consider the gospel as proclaimed by Jesus, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life... He who believes in the Son has eternal life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:16, 36).

Consider this sober warning to the Galatian churches, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, not that there is another

one; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9). Those who trust in a "gospel" which adds to or takes away from the true Gospel, as taught by Jesus and his Apostles in the Bible will be accursed – "The wrath of God" will abide upon them.

There are many prophecies pointing to the 2nd coming of Jesus. Since it has been 2,000 years since these prophecies were given, I am sure some reading this will scoff at the idea that Jesus will return. But, over the past year, in the monthly EXPLORATION BIBLE articles, we have proven that Jesus fulfilled ALL the prophecies pointing to His 1st coming. In like manner, ALL the prophecies of His 2nd coming will also be fulfilled. Matthew chapter 24 tells us what the world will look like just before Jesus returns and it pretty much describes the world we are living in today. Yes, Jesus did come the 1st time as a humble Lamb, but the 2nd time He will come in all His glory as the King of Kings, to judge all who have rejected His words, His Gospel.

Those who have a personal relationship with Jesus can eagerly await His 2nd coming. The question is, when He comes will He acknowledge you as one of His sheep? Do you have a real and personal relationship with Jesus? Have you trusted in the Gospel taught by Jesus? In a nutshell, His Gospel is: Salvation by grace alone; through faith alone; in Jesus alone – not based upon any of our works (which would then give us reason to boast), but fully trusting in the finished work of Jesus on the cross who died to pay the full penalty for your sins and mine [Ephesians 2:8-9].

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