

# Bite Size Bible Study

## Second Advent #148 By Pastor Lee

This time of the year many of our thoughts go to the Advent (from Latin *adventus*, “coming”) of Jesus. We review the events surrounding His first years of his life. Rarely do we consider, in this season of year, the fact that He will be coming again.

This Second Coming (sometimes called the Second Advent or the Parousia) is a Christian and Islamic belief that Jesus will return again after his ascension to heaven about two thousand years ago. The concept is based on messianic prophecies and is part of most Christian eschatology (the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of humankind). This Second Advent is seen differently among Christian denominations and even among Jews, Muslims and Bahá'ís.

Orthodox Judaism believes that Jesus is one of the false Jewish Messiah claimants because he failed to fulfill all the Messianic prophecies, and the true Messiah will come at a later time. The true Messiah will fulfill all of the prophecies stated in the Tanakh, including those that Jesus did not. These include:

1. Build the Third Temple (Ezekiel 37:26–28).
2. Gather all Jews back to the Land of Israel (Isaiah 43:5–6).
3. Usher in an era of world peace, and end all hatred, oppression, suffering and disease. (Isaiah 2:4)
4. Spread universal knowledge of the God of Israel, which will unite humanity as one. (Zechariah 14:9).

In Islam, Jesus (or *Isa* in Arabic) is considered to be a Messenger of God and the messiah (*masih*) who was sent to guide the Israelites (*banī isrā'īl*) with a new scripture, the Gospel the (*Injīl*). The belief in Jesus (and all other messengers of God) is required in Islam, and a requirement of being a Muslim. However, Muslims do not recognize Jesus as the Son of God, but instead a prophet. They believe God has no equal.

The understanding in the Bahá'í Faith is that the Second Advent is a gradual process that coincides with the advancement of human civilization from the beginning of humanity. It teaches that the founders of the major world religions each represent a return of the Word and Spirit of God as a new, unique personification sent by God, who introduces new teachings, laws and revelations, such that all major religions are part of a progressive revelation.

Although we don't know when this Advent will occur, there are some vague details that we can try to understand.

He will return the way He left.

*As they were staring into the sky after him, suddenly they saw two men dressed in white standing next to them. The men said, “You Galileans! Why are you standing, staring into space? This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”* Acts 1:10-11 CJB

All the living and the dead will see Him. (Note: this doesn't say all at one time.) *Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him* Rev. 1:7 CJB

*For the Son of Man will come in his Father's glory, with his angels; and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.* Matthew 16:27 CJB

The time for His return will not be known ahead of time, so we must be ready at all times. *“But when that day and hour will come, no one knows — not the angels in heaven, not the Son, only the Father. . . . Therefore you too must always be ready, for the Son of Man will come when you are not expecting him.* Matthew 24:36, 44 CJB

*And this is the will of the One who sent me: that I should not lose any of all those he has given me but should raise them up on the Last Day. Yes, this is the will of my Father: that all who see the Son and trust in him should have eternal life, and that I should raise them up on the Last Day.”* John 6:39-40 CJB

*For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life. For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him.*

John 3:16-17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

*And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations (not individuals) — “He will rule them (the nations) with a staff of iron.” It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies. And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written: KING (Suzerain King) OF KINGS (vassal kings) AND LORD (Sovereign Lord) OF LORDS (subordinate lords).* Revelation 19:15-16 CJB

He is coming to redeem all people and guide the nations of peoples into Shalom (peace and well being). There will be no war, no hunger, no disease, all will be returned to the original intent of the Creator.

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