

Study Guide: He Must Return (Lesson 2)

Sunday PM-October 18, 2026

Introduction

Welcome to this study guide on the return of Jesus Christ. This lesson, titled "He Must Return," examines why the physical Second Coming of Jesus Christ is necessary. Based on the Bible, there are two primary reasons why Jesus Christ must return to Earth:

1. **The Promises of God:** Numerous Old Testament prophecies describe a reigning Messiah who will rule over world governments, bring total peace, and sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Because these prophecies were not physically fulfilled during His first coming, Jesus Christ must return to fulfill them literally. Otherwise, God's Word would not be true, and God cannot lie.
2. **The Statements of Jesus Christ Himself:** Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ stated over fifty times that He would return. He taught this through direct promises—such as His upper room discourse in John 14—and through parables, such as the Parable of the Minas in Luke 19. If Jesus Christ does not return, His own credibility as God would be compromised.

This study guide also examines the differences between a literal understanding of the Millennial Kingdom and **Amillennialism** (the belief held by groups such as the Roman Catholic Church, John Calvin, and Arthur W. Pink, which views the 1,000-year reign in Revelation 20 as symbolic of the current church age rather than an earthly kingdom). Through detailed scripture study, this guide establishes that Jesus Christ will literally return in power, judge His enemies, gather His redeemed, and establish His physical kingdom on Earth.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the following ten questions in complete sentences. Answers are located in the separate Answer Key section following this quiz.

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:6, the Apostle Paul records that over 500 eyewitnesses saw Jesus Christ after His resurrection. Who were the specific individuals mentioned as seeing Him prior to these 500 people? According to the teaching transcript, who were the only eyewitnesses present at His actual ascension as recorded in Acts?
2. Amillennialism is an end-times belief system held by the Roman Catholic Church and historical commentators like John Calvin. How do amillennialists interpret the prophesied thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ found in Revelation 20? How does their view differ from a literal expectation of an earthly kingdom?
3. Isaiah 9:6–7 contains famous prophecies regarding the birth and future government of the Messiah. Which specific parts of this prophecy were fulfilled during the first coming of Jesus Christ? Which parts were left unfulfilled, requiring Him to return a second time to establish them?
4. In Isaiah 35:8–10, the Prophet Isaiah describes a special path called the "Highway of Holiness." Who are the specific people permitted to walk upon this road, and who is

excluded from it? What will happen to sorrow and sighing when the redeemed return to Zion?

5. Zechariah 14:4–9 provides a detailed physical description of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Jerusalem. Where exactly will His feet stand on that day when He returns to Earth? What physical event will happen to that geographic location the moment His feet touch it?
 6. Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2 both state essential truths regarding the nature and character of God. What do these scriptures declare about God's ability to lie? How does this attribute guarantee that all unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies regarding Jesus Christ must happen in the future?
 7. In John 14:1–3, Jesus Christ offered comforting words to His troubled disciples in the upper room before His arrest. What specific promise did He make regarding preparing a place for them? How does the phrase "receive you to Myself" change how believers should view the event of His return?
 8. In the Parable of the Minas found in Luke 19:11–27, a nobleman travels to a far country to receive a kingdom for himself. How did his citizens feel about him, and what message did they send after him? What did the nobleman order to be done to those enemies when he returned as king?
 9. During the lesson discussion, a question was raised about why many Jewish people historically and currently do not believe Jesus Christ is the Messiah. According to the teacher's explanation, what type of Messiah were they expecting based on Old Testament prophecies? What role of Jesus Christ did they fail to foresee?
 10. Isaiah 33:20 describes Jerusalem as a quiet home and a tabernacle whose stakes will never be removed nor its cords broken. According to the lesson explanation, what do these stakes and cords represent? How does this biblical picture compare to Jerusalem's actual historical reality up to the present day?
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Answer Key

1. Before appearing to the 500 eyewitnesses, Jesus Christ appeared first to Cephas (Peter) and then to His twelve apostles. According to the teaching transcript, the only eyewitnesses present at His actual ascension were His apostles, as mentioned in Acts 2.
 2. Amillennialists believe that the thousand-year reign mentioned in Revelation 20 is symbolic rather than literal, representing the current church age in which we live today. They teach that the future reign of Jesus Christ is purely spiritual in nature, denying that there will ever be a physical, earthly kingdom ruled by Christ from Jerusalem.
 3. The birth of Jesus Christ as a child and the giving of the Son ("Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given") were fulfilled during His first coming. However, having the government upon His shoulder, sitting upon the throne of David, and establishing endless global peace and justice were not fulfilled during His first coming and require His Second Coming.
 4. Only saved, redeemed people—referred to as "the redeemed"—will walk upon the Highway of Holiness, while the unclean will not be permitted to pass over it. When the ransom of the Lord return to Zion with singing, everlasting joy will be upon their heads, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
 5. His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. When His feet touch the mountain, it will split in two from east to west, creating a very large mountain valley with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.
 6. These scriptures declare that God is not a man that He should lie, and that God cannot lie. Because God cannot lie, every single prophecy He inspired regarding the earthly reign, justice, and rule of Jesus Christ must come to pass literally, or God's credibility would fail.
 7. Jesus Christ promised that He was going to prepare a dwelling place for His followers and that He would return to receive them to Himself. This statement highlights that believers should not view His return merely as a cataclysmic theological event, but as a personal reunion with the Person of Jesus Christ Himself.
 8. The citizens hated the nobleman and sent a delegation after him saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us." When the nobleman returned after receiving his kingdom, he commanded that those enemies who refused his rule be brought before him and slain.
 9. Many Jewish people expected a triumphant King who would immediately overthrow foreign political rulers (such as the Roman Empire) and establish an earthly kingdom. They failed to foresee that the Messiah had to come first as a suffering servant to lay down His life before returning as a reigning King.
 10. The stakes and cords represent the secure tie-downs of a tent or tabernacle that is permanently pitched and never torn down. This stands in sharp contrast to Jerusalem's actual history, which has experienced very few years of peace and has been a constantly contested crossroads of world conflict.
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Essay Format Questions

Directions: Write extended, paragraph-length responses for the following five topics based on the Bible passages and concepts covered in the lesson. Answers are not provided.

1. **Amillennialism vs. Literal Premillennialism:** Explain the core differences between the amillennial view of end-times prophecy and the literal view presented in this lesson. Using specific examples from Old Testament prophecies, explain why treating these passages as purely "spiritual" creates theological problems regarding the truthfulness of God.
2. **The Two Comings of the Messiah:** Compare and contrast the first coming of Jesus Christ with His prophesied Second Coming. Discuss how passages such as Isaiah 9:6–7, Isaiah 35, and Matthew 25:31 demonstrate that His first coming focused on salvation and service, while His Second Coming will focus on governmental rule, physical transformation, and judgment.
3. **The Character and Promises of God:** Analyze how the truthfulness of God the Father and Jesus Christ is directly linked to the Second Coming. Cite Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2, and John 14:1–3 to show why a failure of Jesus Christ to return physically would undermine the moral character and divine nature of God.
4. **Analysis of the Parable of the Minas:** Deeply examine the Parable of the Minas in Luke 19:11–27. Identify who the nobleman, the citizens, and the servants represent. Explain what the parable teaches about Jesus Christ's departure, the present duty of His followers, Israel's initial rejection of Him, and the ultimate nature of His return in judgment.
5. **Physical and Spiritual Restoration of Zion:** Describe the physical, geographic, and spiritual changes predicted for Jerusalem and the land of Israel during the Second Coming, drawing from Ezekiel 21:25–27, Zechariah 14:4–9, and Isaiah 35. How do these passages describe the defeat of demonic forces, changes to the landscape, and the global worship of God?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Amillennialism:** A system of end-times theology holding that the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ mentioned in Revelation 20 is symbolic of the present church age rather than a literal, future 1,000-year physical kingdom on Earth.
- **Ascension:** The bodily lifting up of Jesus Christ from Earth into heaven in the presence of His apostles, recorded in the first chapter of Acts.
- **Cephas:** The Aramaic name given to the Apostle Peter, listed in 1 Corinthians 15:5–6 as one of the early eyewitnesses to the resurrected Jesus Christ.
- **Ensign (Banner):** A standard, flag, or signal used to rally people together; used in Isaiah 11:10 to describe how Jesus Christ will stand as a symbol for all Gentiles and nations to seek.
- **Highway of Holiness:** A prophesied holy road described in Isaiah 35:8–10 that leads to Zion, reserved exclusively for the redeemed of the Lord.

- **Millennial Kingdom:** The literal, future 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth, during which He will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and rule all nations with justice and peace.
- **Mina:** An ancient unit of currency mentioned in the parable in Luke 19, worth approximately three months' wages for an ordinary worker.
- **Mount of Olives:** A prominent mountain ridge east of Jerusalem where Jesus prayed prior to His arrest, and the exact physical location where His feet will touch down upon His Second Coming (Zechariah 14:4).
- **Plowshares and Pruning Hooks:** Agricultural tools used for tilling soil and trimming plants; referenced in Micah 4:3 to show how weapons of war (swords and spears) will be transformed into productive farming tools during Christ's global reign of peace.
- **Rapture:** The event in which Jesus Christ catches up believers to meet Him in the air before He returns physically to Earth to judge the nations and set up His kingdom.
- **Throne of David:** The rightful royal seat of authority over Israel, promised to David's lineage and ultimately assigned to Jesus Christ to rule over an eternal kingdom.
- **Zion:** A biblical name for Jerusalem, emphasizing its status as God's holy mountain, the city of appointed feasts, and the future capital of Messiah's global rule.

Greek Word Analysis and Pronunciation Guide

During the lecture transcript, a brief reference was made to foreign translation terms when illustrating how small a sampling of prophecy was being reviewed relative to the entire Bible. The teacher referred to a Greek phrase alongside the Spanish term *poquito* and the English word *smidgen* to mean "a very small amount."

Greek Terms Referenced

- **Oligo / Poligo**^[1]
 - **Phonetic Pronunciation:** oh-LEE-go / po-LEE-go (Greek: ὀλίγο / πολύ ὀλίγο)
 - **Brief Definition:** A Greek adjective/adverb meaning "a little," "a small amount," or "very little." In the context of the lesson, it was used informally to illustrate that the numerous Old Testament prophecies cited in the teaching were still only a tiny fraction ("a smidgen") of all the prophetic scriptures in the Bible regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

[^1]: Referenced in the lesson text when explaining that the scripture list reviewed in the teaching represents only a very small fraction (oligo) of total biblical end-times prophecy.