

Briefing Document: “He Must Return” Lesson 2

Sunday PM-October 18, 2024

Executive Summary

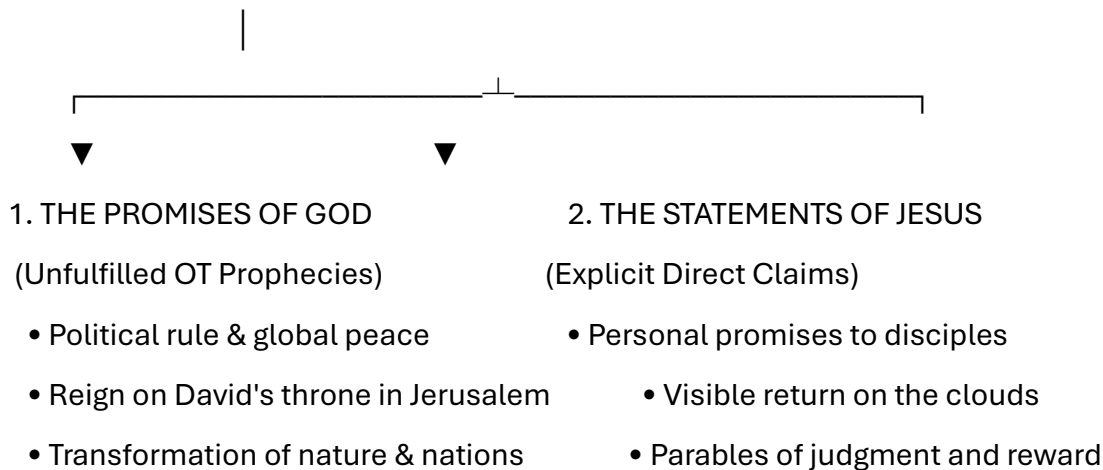
This briefing document synthesizes the key themes, theological arguments, and community updates from the presentation titled "He Must Return" (Lesson 2). The core premise of the text is that the second coming of Jesus Christ is a literal, physical necessity. This necessity rests on two foundational pillars: **the absolute trustworthiness of God's promises** in Old Testament prophecy, and **the explicit statements made by Jesus Christ Himself** during His earthly ministry.

The document directly addresses and refutes amillennialism—the belief that end-times prophecies and the thousand-year reign of Christ are merely spiritual or symbolic concepts. Through a systematic review of scriptural evidence, the source material establishes that numerous prophecies regarding global peace, political rule, and the restoration of Jerusalem were not fulfilled during Christ's first coming. Therefore, for God's Word to remain true and without error, these prophecies must be literally fulfilled in a future second coming.

Theological Framework: Why Christ Must Return

The teaching presents two primary reasons why the physical return of Jesus Christ is mandatory according to Christian theology.

WHY CHRIST MUST RETURN



1. The Promises and Character of God

The first major argument is based on the unchangeable character of God. The Scriptures teach that God cannot lie, and His covenant promises must come to pass:

- "God is not a man, that He should lie..." (Numbers 23:19)
- "...let God be true but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4)

- "...God, who cannot lie..." (Titus 1:2)

If Jesus does not return to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies that remain unaccomplished, then those prophecies would be false, which would contradict the truthfulness of God.

Unfulfilled Old Testament Prophecies

During His first coming, Jesus came as a servant and was crucified as a criminal. However, Old Testament prophets foresaw the Messiah as a reigning King who would bring earthly peace and justice. Because these events did not happen during His first coming, they must occur at His second coming:

- **Global Rule and Justice:**
 - Psalm 2:6, 8-9: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion... Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron..."
 - Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder... Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice..."
 - Jeremiah 23:5-6: "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely..."
- **Cessation of War and National Rebukes:**
 - Micah 4:3: "He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."
- **Gentile Seeking and National Rest:**
 - Isaiah 11:10: "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."
- **Peace and Stability for Jerusalem:**
 - Isaiah 33:20: "Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken."
- **Physical and Spiritual Transformation:**
 - Isaiah 35:1-2, 8-10: The desert will bloom, and a "Highway of Holiness" will exist where only the redeemed will walk. Physical and spiritual transformation will occur,

and "sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (This aligns with Romans 8:22-23, which states that creation groans waiting for this redemption).

- **Universal Submission:**

- Isaiah 45:23: "I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath."

- **Removal of Evil Rulers:**

- Ezekiel 21:25-27: God promises to remove the crown from the "profane, wicked prince of Israel" (referring to demonic forces controlling governments) and give earthly authority to Jesus, "whose right it is."

- **Everlasting Dominion:**

- Daniel 7:13-14, 18: The Son of Man approaches the Ancient of Days and receives a kingdom where all nations and languages serve Him, and the saints possess the kingdom forever.

- **Physical Touchdown on the Mount of Olives:**

- Zechariah 14:4, 7-9: Messiah's feet will physically stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, causing the mountain to split in half from east to west and creating a large valley. Living waters will flow, and "the LORD shall be King over all the earth."

2. The Direct Statements and Parables of Jesus

The second major argument is that Jesus Himself repeatedly promised that He would return. He spoke about His second coming over 50 times during His ministry.

Personal Promises to the Disciples

In John 14:1-3, during the Upper Room discourse prior to His arrest, Jesus offered direct comfort to His disciples:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And 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."

The text emphasizes that believers are not merely waiting for an end-times event, but for a **person**—Jesus Christ Himself—who will personally receive them.

Declarations in the Olivet Discourse

In Matthew 24 and Matthew 25, Jesus explicitly describes the manner and timing of His return:

- **Visibility:** "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Matthew 24:27)
- **Power and Glory:** "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30)
- **Gathering of the Elect:** Angels will be sent with a great sound of a trumpet to gather His elect from the four winds (Matthew 24:31).
- **Throne of Glory:** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory." (Matthew 25:31)

Teaching Through Parables: The Parable of the Minas

In Luke 19:11-27, Jesus tells a parable specifically to correct the misconception that the political Kingdom of God would appear immediately:

1. **The Nobleman:** A nobleman goes into a far country to receive a kingdom and then return (representing Jesus departing to heaven).
2. **The Charge:** He entrusts ten servants with ten minas (about three months' wages) and instructs them to do business until he comes back.
3. **The Rejection:** His citizens hated him and declared, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (representing the rejection of Jesus by His own people).
4. **The Return in Judgment:** The nobleman returns after receiving the kingdom, rewards faithful servants, and orders the execution of those enemies who refused his reign.

The fundamental message of the parable is plain: Jesus came once, was rejected, departed, and **will return in judgment** to establish His kingdom.

Critical Analysis: Amillennialism vs. Premillennial Literalism

The lesson provides a direct critique of **amillennialism**. Below is a summary comparison between the amillennial view and the literal premillennial view presented in the text:

Feature	Amillennialism	Literal Premillennialism (Source View)
Meaning of "Amillennial"	"A-" means "no"; denial of a literal 1,000-year earthly reign.	Believes in a literal 1,000-year earthly kingdom (Revelation 20).

Interpretation Method	Treats end-times prophecies as spiritual or symbolic concepts.	Interprets prophecies literally regarding geography, politics, and events.
The Current Age	Views the current church age as the symbolic "millennium."	Views the current age as distinct from the future earthly reign of Christ.
Historical Proponents	Historically prominent; supported by the Roman Catholic Church, John Calvin, and Arthur W. Pink.	Supported by direct reading of Old Testament prophecies (e.g., Jeremiah 23:5).
Core Weakness	Difficult to justify scripturally, as prophecies specify events "in the earth."	Unfulfilled prophecies would mean God's promises failed, which is impossible.

Historical Clarification: Eyewitnesses of Jesus

To resolve historical questions raised in previous studies, two distinct groups of eyewitnesses were clarified:

1. **Post-Resurrection Eyewitnesses:** According to 1 Corinthians 15:6, Jesus was seen after His resurrection by Cephas (Peter), the twelve apostles, and subsequently by **over 500 people** at one time.
2. **Ascension Eyewitnesses:** According to Acts 1, the only eyewitnesses present at the physical Ascension of Jesus into heaven were His **apostles**.

Community Updates, Announcements, and Prayer Demands

October Memory Verse

"Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." (Jeremiah 32:17)

Local Church Calendar & Projects

- **Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Boxes:** Collecting items including flip-flops, clothing, small toys, socks, tools, small water bottles, cups, and backpacks. Boxes can also be built online.
- **New Life Kids Harvest Festival (Oct 28):** No evening church service on October 28 so members can volunteer. Requests for individually packed cookies and brownies (4 to a pack, strictly no nuts or peanuts) delivered by October 28.
- **Team Trivia Night:** October 24 at First Baptist Church.

- **Intended Hope Fundraiser:** October 24 at the VFW.
- **Kids Praise Team Performance:** Performing next Sunday morning (volunteers requested early).
- **Women's Fellowship:** October 31 at 10:00 AM (sign-up sheet in the foyer).
- **Leadership Meetings:** Elders meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 6:00 PM.
- **Celebration of Life:** Service for Marty Martindale on Saturday at 2:00 PM.
- **Christmas Store (Dec 16):** Collecting gift cards and gift items for children to buy for their families.

Prayer Requests & Praises

- **National Peace:** Prayer for the nation following a tragedy in Oregon, where a 16-year-old shooter attacked children in a special education class.
- **Praise for Healing:** Praise for cousin Sharon, who is out of rehab and walking better after a severe leg injury.
- **Special Health Needs:** Prayer for physical healing for church members, specifically mentioning "Sunshine" and her family.

Key Vocabulary & Language Guides

During the lesson, linguistic illustrations were used to emphasize how small a portion of total prophecy was being covered in the brief study session.

Term	Language	Phonetic Pronunciation Guide	Definition
Ligo (or Ligalo Poligo) [¹]	Greek	LEE-goh (lee-GAH-loh poh-LEE-goh)	A very small amount; "very little" or "a tiny bit."
Poquito	Spanish	poh-KEE-toh	Very little; a small amount.
Smidgen	English	SMIJ-un	A tiny or small quantity.

[¹]: **Footnote on Greek Usage:** In the context of the transcript, the speaker referenced the Greek phrasing "ligalo poligo" or "ligo" as an informal instructional illustration meaning "very little," emphasizing that the scriptural references presented in the lesson were only a tiny sample of the Bible's total end-times prophecies.