

# *The Second Coming Of Christ*

## *Syllabus / Study Guide*

Course # NT710

Christian Life School of Theology Global  
P.O. Box 1750  
Fortson, GA 31808

Instructor: Rev. Greg Hinnant

Course Textbook: *The Second Coming of Christ: His Appearing,  
His Return, Our Preparation* (By Greg Hinnant)

Presented by:



GREG HINNANT MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 788

HIGH POINT, NC 27261

[greghinnantministries.org](http://greghinnantministries.org) - (Revised July/2022)



# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction  | 4  |
| Bibliography  | 6  |
| 1. Why Are We Sure Jesus is Coming Again?                       | 9  |
| 2. When Will Jesus Come for Us?                                 | 14 |
| 3. How May We be Sure Jesus Will Appear Before the Tribulation? | 20 |
| 4. Why Will Jesus Appear Before the Tribulation?                | 25 |
| 5. What Happens on Earth After We Are Taken?                    | 32 |
| 6. What Happens in Heaven After We Are Taken?                   | 39 |
| 7. How Do We Prepare? Be Wise!                                  | 46 |
| 8. How Do We Prepare? Be Worthy!                                | 54 |
| 9. How Do We Prepare? Be Watching!                              | 60 |
| 10. How Do We Prepare? Be Ready!                                | 67 |

# The Second Coming of Christ

Rev. Greg Hinnant

## INTRODUCTION

### I. Course Description

Christ's Second Coming is the most consequential, highly anticipated event since His Ascension—and the most controversial. Yet Jesus plainly promised, “I will come again” (John 14:3). The crucial questions, then, are: when will He come, how will He come, who will be ready, and what will follow His coming? This course advocates a partial (select), pre-Tribulation, pre-Millennial rapture of the church as the first phase of Christ's two-part Second Coming. The rapture (His appearing) will be followed by the 7-year Tribulation, after which Christ will return bodily to this earth (His return) with His church to rule for 1,000 years. The course textbook details 18 unprecedented signs of the times that confirm Jesus' appearing is near. The course materials emphasize prophecy and preparation, presenting many biblical prophecies establishing a partial (select) pre-Tribulation rapture and many biblical instructions for spiritual readiness. The course textbook closes with a very informative, concisely written comparison of the major Christian End-Times views.

### II. Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to:

- A. RECALL the major Old and New Testament prophecies of the Second Coming and identify the End-Times characters and events they describe: the pre-Tribulation rapture of the church; the church's experience in heaven; the Tribulation period on earth; Israel's conversion and ministry to the Gentiles; the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl judgments; the successive ministries of the 144,000 Jews and Israel's “two witnesses”; Christ's powerful and glorious return to earth; and His subsequent millennial kingdom. (Knowledge)
- B. UNDERSTAND the Old and New Testament prophecies describing the major, biblically prophesied End-Times characters and events AND EXPLAIN how they link and agree to give us a strong, sure, joyful hope; and also UNDERSTAND Jesus' and His apostles' spiritual readiness warnings, AND EXPLAIN how they provide us with an urgent call to walk closely with Christ now in this time. (Comprehension and synthesis)

- C. APPLY spiritual lessons learned from Old Testament examples (Enoch, Noah, Lot) and New Testament teachings (Jesus', Paul's, Peter's, and John's spiritual readiness warnings) to his (or her) personal life that change his viewpoint, life goals, behavior, testing, ministry, and character, and result in readiness for Jesus' appearing. (Application)
- D. FORMULATE TEACHINGS, HOMILIES, AND COUNSELS with which to instruct others in the truths presented in this course, so that they, too, will develop a strong, purifying, and blessed hope in Christ's appearing and cultivate spiritual readiness for it. (Synthesis)
- E. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER the specific ways other major End-Times views are inconsistent with Old and New Testament prophecies; and, when given opportunities, offer their proponents and adherents effective biblical arguments and loving exhortations to correct their End-Times view and inspire spiritual readiness for Christ's appearing. (Analysis, Evaluation, and synthesis)

### **III. Study Tools**

- A. The Holy Bible (KJV, NKJV, or NIV)
- B. This Syllabus / Study Guide
- C. Textbook: Hinnant, Greg. *The Second Coming of Christ: His Appearing, His Return, Our Preparation*. Columbus, OH; Gatekeeper Press, 2022.

### **IV. Course Requirements**

- A. Read and study the course textbook and syllabus prior to the intensive. I particularly urge you to read the entire textbook, as it contains a tremendous amount of prophetic and exhortative material which we will not have time to cover adequately in the intensive. It will enrich not only your knowledge of Christ's End-Times plan but also your spiritual life and, thus, your spiritual readiness for His appearing.
- B. Attend all the class lectures.
- C. Attend all Q & A sessions. Each evening, or day, of classes will be followed by a brief question and answer period. Participation is very important, as these periods will help you understand and link the many, sometimes confusing facets of End-Times prophecy.
- D. Complete the final examination as assigned by your learning center director / dean.

**V. Course Evaluation**

A. The final, open-book examination will be used to evaluate each student.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barry, J. D., Bomar, D., Brown, D. R., Klippenstein, R., Mangum, D., Wolcott, C. Sinclair, Widder, W., Eds. *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016.
- Benware, Paul N. *Understanding End Times Prophecy: A Comprehensive Approach*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2006.
- Berlin, Adele, Marc Zvi Brettler, Eds. *The Jewish Study Bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Boettner, Loraine. *The Millennium*. Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1958.
- Elwell, W. A., Beitzel, B. J. *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Ada, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Elwell, W. A., Comfort, P. W. *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001.
- Follette, John Wright. *Broken Bread*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1957.
- Hinnant, Greg. *The Day of The Lord Commentary: Interpreting Old Testament End Times Prophecy*. Columbus, OH: Gatekeeper Press, 2021.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *RevelationNotes*. Columbus, OH: Gatekeeper Press, 2019.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Tribulation Story: A Story You Need to Read About a Time You Need to Escape*. Columbus, OH: Gatekeeper Press, 2020.
- Keener, C. S., *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Kittel, G., Bromiley, G. W., Friedrich, G., Eds. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964.
- Levine, Amy-Jill, Brettler, Marc Zvi. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Liddell, H. G. *A Lexicon: Abridged From Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon*. Bellevue, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., McKenzie, R. *A Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press, 1996.

Louw, J. P., Nida, E. A. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* New York, NY: United Bible Societies, 1996.

Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Klippenstein, R., Hurst, R., Eds. *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014.

Mansfield, Stephen. *Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill*. Elkton, MD: Highland Books, 1995.

Myers, A. C. *The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.

Pfeiffer, Charles F., Rea, John, Vos, Howard Frederic, Eds. *The Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1975.

Powell, M. A. *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2011.

Scofield, C.I. *The New Scofield Study Bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1967.

Spicq, C., Ernest, J. D. *Theological Lexicon of The New Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2106.

Stern, David H. *The Complete Jewish Study Bible*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016.

Tenney, Merrill C., Silva, Moises, Eds. *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Tozer, A. W. *Of God And Men*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1960.

Walton, John H., Keener, Craig S., Eds. *The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. East Sussex, UK: Kingsway Communications, 1985.

Wiersbe, W. W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996.

## Lesson One

### *Why Are We Sure Jesus is Coming Again?*

#### **I. An Introduction: Let us review the basic facts about the Second Coming.**

##### **A. Jesus Christ is coming again—and soon!**

1. Jesus' coming is of utmost importance, superseding all other issues.
2. It is the only thoroughly good news in our times!

##### **B. The Second Coming occurs in two parts:**

1. Jesus' Appearing:
  - a. To *rescue* His bride church
  - b. To *begin* (the Interlude before) the Tribulation period

2. Jesus' Return:
  - a. To *rescue* Israel's hidden remnant
  - b. To *end* the Tribulation period
  - c. To *begin* the Millennium

## II. Why are we sure Jesus will come again for His People?

### A. He promised it!

1. And His promise is:

Let not your heart be troubled; ye 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 unto myself*, that *where I am* there ye may be also.

—JOHN 14:1-3

2. And He performs all His promises!

### B. He prayed it! (Jn. 17:24; see 17:15)

1. And the Father will surely answer His prayer!
2. And the Holy Spirit will surely execute His will!

### **C. He prophesied it!**

1. Personally, in the Gospels (Jn. 14:1-3)
2. Posthumously, in the Epistles (1Th. 4:13-18; 1Cor.15:50-53)
3. And Scriptural prophecies cannot fail! (Mk. 14:49; Jn. 10:35)

### **D. He is preparing for it!**

1. In antiquity, Jewish bridegrooms built rooms on their fathers' houses for their brides during the betrothal (engagement period).
2. As stated earlier, Jesus promised to prepare "a place" for His bride church. (Jn. 14:2)
3. Over sixty years later (AD 95) the apostle John saw this amazing "place" and described it. (Rev. 21-22)

### **E. He paid for it!**

1. In antiquity Jewish bridegrooms paid a "bride price" to the bride's father.  
—This compensated the family for the loss of the bride's labor.
2. The bride price was usually a *large* sum, which ensured:
  - a. The bridegroom was serious about his marriage contract.

- b. The bridegroom would pursue his betrothal responsibilities diligently.
  - c. The bride could be confident—absolutely *sure*—he would return for her!
3. Jesus paid a *very high* price for His bride church. (Jn. 19:30; Eph. 5:25-27)  
—So we can be *sure* He is coming back for us!

**F. He planned it! (Acts 15:18)**

- 1. As our *awakening* (or reviving) hope (Matt. 25:6-7)
- 2. As our *purifying* hope (1 Jn. 3:2-3)
- 3. As our *comforting* hope (1Thess. 4:18; 5:11)
- 4. As our *blessed* hope (Tit. 2:11-13)
- 5. As our *rescuing* hope (1Thess. 1:9-10; 5:9-10)
- 6. As our *anchoring* hope (Heb. 6:19)

- a. In the ocean an anchor serves two purposes:
  - i. It prevents ships from drifting due to winds or currents.
  - ii. It slows and steadies ships in storms.
- b. So even when everything else fails or is lost, our anchor holds!

**G. This is the only thoroughly good news in our times!**

—It is the most important topic of our generation!

1. Are you sure Jesus is coming?
2. Is your anchor in place?

## Lesson Two

### *When Will Jesus Come For Us?*

#### **I. Let us review what we do and do not know about when Jesus is coming.**

**A. We do *not* know the year, month, or day in which Jesus will appear. (Matt. 24:36)**

**B. We *do* know the position of His appearing in the sequence of End-Times events.**

1. He will appear at the end of the Church Age.

2. He will appear to begin the Day of the Lord. (1 Thess. 5:1-2, 4)

—The DAY OF THE LORD is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **II. Jesus will appear *before* the Tribulation period—as a “thief” in the “night.”**

**A. Jesus said He would come as a “thief.” (Matt. 24:42-44)**

1. Thieves always come unexpectedly.

2. Thieves usually come at night.
3. So, as a thief, Jesus will come *unexpectedly* and in the (spiritual) *nighttime*.  
—SPECIFICALLY, the church’s and world’s “midnight” hour (Matt. 25:5-6)

**B. Spiritual nighttime is a “falling away,” or time of apostasy. (2 Thess. 2:3)**

1. “Falling away” (Greek, *apostasia*) means “defection, revolt, rebellion.”
  - a. The revolt Paul speaks of in this text is *against God and His truth*.  
—SPECIFICALLY, the “truth” of God’s Word, existence, or authority
  - b. During apostasy, Christians fall *away* from God and His truth *into* worldliness, sin, or error.
2. We are already in the great “falling away,” or spiritual nighttime.  
—THIS PRESENT spiritual nighttime:
  - a. Began with biblical “historical criticism”
  - b. Has produced godless theories, philosophies, and ideologies
  - c. Has produced liberal theology
  - d. Has in the public mind discredited the Bible as God’s infallible Word

- e. Has produced our radically liberal, post-modern secular world
- f. Has aided “Laodiceanism” in the post-Second World War church (USA)

**C. Jesus’ “thief in the night” teaching parallels first-century Jewish wedding tradition. (Matt. 25:1-13)**

—JESUS, OUR BRIDEGROOM, will appear in the night to steal away His bride church!

**D. The New Testament is looking for (expecting) the “Thief in the night.”**

1. The apostle Paul taught this expectancy. (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 5:1-11)
2. The apostle Peter taught this expectancy. (2 Pet. 3:10)
3. The apostle John taught this expectancy:
  - a. At the beginning, middle, and end of Revelation (Rev. 3:3; 16:15; 22:20)
  - b. Especially in his epilogue to Revelation:
    - i. Three times Jesus reminded His bride church He is coming “quickly.” (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)

- ii. John, speaking for the bride church, responded, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20)
- iii. These *four references* to Jesus’ appearing are John’s *last words*. (Verse 21 is a standard biblical valediction.)
- iv. So, Revelation, the New Testament, and the entire Bible close *looking for Jesus!*

4. But not all views of the End Times agree with John’s words.

**E. Let’s briefly describe and compare major End-Times views concerning: (1) the Rapture; (2) the Tribulation; (3) the Millennium; (4) the testing of Christians; (5) the trend in the world; and (6) Israel’s End-Times prophecies.**

- FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE TEXTBOOK: (1) “A Brief Review of the Major End-Times Views” (pp. 95-102); and (2) the Appendix. (pp. 417-434)

1. THE PRE-MILLENNIAL VIEWS:

- a. Partial (Select) Pre-Tribulation -
- b. Pre-Tribulation –
- c. Mid-Tribulation -
- d. Pre-Wrath -

e. Post-Tribulation -

2. THE POST-MILLENNIAL VIEWS[S]:

a. Post-Millennialism -

b. Dominion Theology -

3. THE AMILLENNIAL VIEW:

**F. Why should we expect Jesus' appearing before the Tribulation?**

1. Only those who “look” for Jesus are *guaranteed* escape. (Heb. 9:28b)

—THEREFORE, those *not* looking for Jesus will “not escape.” (1Th.5:2-11, see “they” and “ye”; see Matt. 25:10-13; Heb. 2:3)

2. Therefore, we should prepare earnestly, and immediately! (1Th5:4-8)

a. Revelation is for preparation, *not* curiosity!

b. That is, prophetic revelation is given to inspire practical preparation.

3. It has been wisely said: “If we are caught up with Jesus now, we will be caught up by Jesus when He appears!”

a. Are you “caught up” with Him? Or with other interests?

b. Are you “rapt” with devotion to Him? Or for other things?