

Jesus Christ—Our Returning King

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. Most people know some about Jesus' first coming, but they usually do not know much about His return.
- B. Jesus' return will be triumphal and majestic.
- C. Text: Luke 2:1-14.

II. When Jesus came the first time He came as a baby.

- A. It is interesting that God the father would choose to send Jesus as a baby.
- B. It was fitting that Jesus would be able to identify with man.
- C. Jesus could completely identify with man with the exception of sin.

III. When Jesus returns He will not come again as a baby. Matthew 24.

- A. He is pictured as a full-grown mature man – as a bridegroom.
- B. Jesus was God, but He identified Himself with man the first time. When He returns, you return of all of His glory. John 17.
- C. Believers' eyes will be transformed to behold the glory of the God at Jesus' second coming.
- D. Jesus' second coming will be accompanied by the loudest noise. The noise will penetrate the whole globe and every single believer will know that it is the signal of His coming. (I Thessalonians 4:16)
- E. Jesus will return unexpectedly. There will be no warning. There will be no time to get ready. Now is the time to be saved. (I Corinthians 15)
- F. The signs of the times will be the only warning that a person will get. (Matthew 24-25)
- G. The first coming was quiet because God knew that wicked men would have tried to kill a King by who they would have been threatened. When Jesus comes again, all believers will see Him. When Jesus comes again, He is coming again for His church. (I Thessalonians 4, I Corinthians 15)
- H. The first coming of Jesus was announced by Gabriel, and the second coming will come by the archangel Michael. (Luke 2:19, Daniel 8, Jude 1:9)

I. Jesus came to be our Savior, but when He comes again, He will not come to be our Savior. He is going to come again as the judge of mankind and to reward the saints. (I John 2)

J. When He comes back we must be ready, and our investment must merit His blessing. We must receive the message of Christ and share it with others.

Application questions:

1. How would you differentiate Jesus' first coming with His second coming?

2. Why was Jesus' first coming different from His second coming?

3. In light of the urgency of Jesus' imminent return, who can you share the gospel with this week and how do you plan to do it?
