

# **Climax of History**

*Billy Graham*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Texts: Matthew 24:3, Luke 17:28.
- B. Jesus spent more time talking about His return than almost anything else.
- C. Real peace on earth will only be made by God himself at the end of all things.

## II. Christ is coming back to judge the living and the dead.

- A. The Bible is the only book in the world that tells where the world is going.
- B. There is a sense that Christ comes with you at conversion, with the Holy Spirit, at cataclysmic events and at death.
- C. Yet there is also a sense that Christ is coming back to set up His kingdom.
- D. There is a problem of overemphasis.
  - 1. There may be doubt to this at the delay.
  - 2. Many mock Christians in derision.
  - 3. When you have hope in the future with confidence in Jesus Christ you can have peace.
- E. There is the problem of under-emphasis.
- F. The world will come to a cataclysmic end that will be similar to the time when God intervened in Sodom.
  - 1. Their prosperity led to a neglect of God. We do not look to God for strength. (Isaiah 31)
  - 2. There was the sin of merriment. There is only pleasure in sin for a season.
- G. We never know when our time will end. There is coming a time when the world will end for us.
- H. There will be judgment for sin. (Romans 1:25, Revelation)
- I. Your spirit was made in the image of God, but when we sinned as Adam sinned your spirits died to God - only when your spirit is reborn will things make sense.
  - 1. Therefore you must be born again.
  - 2. This happens through repentance and receiving what Christ did by faith.

3. It can happen right here.

4. At death if your spirit has been alive, you will immediately go to the presence of Christ. If not, you will be forever separated from God.

J. No one knows when Christ will come but He will come with the great sound of a trumpet setting up the great judgment. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

1. Believers will not experience this judgment because Christ took it.

2. Christ was made sin for us to take our penalty.

3. God can now make us alive by simple grace - something we do not deserve but something that God can do for you in Jesus Christ.

K. We ought to watch, purify ourselves and prepare for Jesus' Second Coming. (Matthew 24:42, Amos)

### **Application questions**

1. How is the Second Coming of Jesus also a reminder of immanent judgment for us?

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2. What condition does the spirit of a man suffer from and what relationship does it have with God in its normal state?

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3. What must one do to reverse the condition that man is born with? What central act of God makes this possible? Explain.

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