Second Coming, Judgment, And Beyond

Intro: We have before us an interesting study in the area of eschatology (a study of last things). Jesus and the Biblical writers spoke and wrote often concerning last things. They wanted us to be aware of what was going to happen. Thus, we should study and be prepared. We will divide this into the three areas spoken of in our title.

I. The Second Coming
   A. The fact of His coming
      1. John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In 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. 3And 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.”
      2. 2 Thc. 1:7-10 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”
         a. The “when” of verse 10 is aorist subjunctive
         b. An aorist subjunctive indicates the certainty of the event yet the uncertainty of the time of it.
      3. 2 Pet. 3:3-13 “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”
   B. When He will come.
      1. There are many who have set a specific time for His coming.
         a. The founder of Adventism, William Miller, claimed in 1831 that Christ would come in 1843. Next he set a day in Oct. 1844. When that failed Elder White set a date of 1845.
         b. The founder of the Worldwide Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong in 1956 predicted an end to the present order of things and Christ coming to reign in person on earth by 1975.
         c. Jehovah's Witnesses.
            (1) Charles Russell contended Christ came in 1874 and the consummation of the ages would come in 1914.
            (2) More recently they set the date of 1975.
d. Hal Lindsey in his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth* set the date of 1988 for the rapture, and then 7 years of great tribulation; thus, 1995 Jesus will return to establish his 1000 year reign on the earth.


2. Others, such as Billy Graham, while not setting a specific date are saying that the end is now upon us (we are in the end time).

3. No one knows the time.
   a. Mat. 24:34-35, 42 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 35 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only... 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”
   b. Mat. 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
   c. 2 Pet. 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
   d. 1 Thc. 5:2 “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

C. How He will come.

1. He will come visible
   a. Acts 1:11 “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”
   b. Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

2. He will come in the clouds
   a. Mat. 26:64 “Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”
   b. Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

3. He will come as a ball of fire; 2 Thc. 1:8 “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. He will come with:
   a. His saints
      (1) 1 Thc. 3:13 “To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
      (2) 1 Cor. 15:52 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
   b. an innumerable company of angels
      (1) Mat. 13:49 “So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,”
      (2) 2 Thc. 1:7 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,”
      (3) They will be sent forth to execute Christ commands: calling the dead from their graves and separating the righteous from the wicked.
5. There will be a shout, the voice of the archangel, the trumpet sounds, and the dead raised and given an incorruptible body.
   a. 1 Cor. 15:52 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
   b. 1 Thes. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”
   c. Those who are alive will be changed and given an immortal body.

II. JUDGMENT
   A. Reality and Certainty of that day
      1. God made man with volition
         a. Man has the right to choose to do something or not to do it.
         b. He has the right to become a Christian, live the Christian life, etc, or not to do such.
      2. Concerning the judgment, there is no choice.
         a. Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
         b. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
         c. This is an appointment that God has made for us and no one has the choice to be there or not be there. We will all be there.

   B. Its Universality
      1. All men will be there.
         a. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
         b. Rev. 6:15-17 “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”
      2. It does not matter whether rich or poor, small or great, everyone from Adam on will be there.

   C. Its Individuality
      1. We will be judged according to our own actions.
         a. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
         b. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
         c. Rev. 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”
      2. Often, today people try to base their salvation on what others have done.
         a. If the congregation is sound and faithful, they think being a member of that congregation will save them.
         b. Their spouse is faithful, thus they expect God to save them.
         c. Others basing they salvation on what their parents or family did.
         d. Judgment is an individual matter, whether I am faithful to God or not.
D. Its Impartiality
1. God is not subjective or biased in His judgment.
   a. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
   b. 1 Pet. 1:17 “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:
      (1) Peter’s declares that God judges as a Father (that is the import of the omission of the definite article in Greek).
      (2) He judges “without respect of persons.”
         (a) It is from the one Greek word ἀπροσωπολήμπτως (aprosopolemptos) which literally means “to lay hold of the face “ with the negative “not.”
         (b) It expresses the idea of not bowing the face or not lifting up the face.
         (c) Out of this the idea of not showing partiality or preference to someone.
2. God does not see as man sees.
   a. 1 Sam 16:7 “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth: for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”
   b. While man has the tendency to look on the outward appearance (Jas. 2:1-4 “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?”), God is not partial to the outward in His judgments.
3. Rom. 2:6 “Who will render to every man according to his deeds;”
   a. Paul speaks of those who continue in well doing will receive eternal life.
   b. Those who do not obey the truth will receive damnation.
   c. Rom. 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

E. Its Purpose
1. Some think that the judgment is to rehearse all that a person has done in his or her life.
2. Mat. 25:31-46
   a. Judgment is a separation of the righteous and the wicked.
   b. Judgment is the passing of sentence.

F. Its Standard
1. The words of Christ
   a. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
   b. This is because the source of His words were the Father; Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”
2. We have those words in the Bible.
   a. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
   b. Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
   c. The apostles and holy prophets wrote down the words Jesus spoke.
      (1) Eph. 3:3-5 “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ‘Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ‘Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”
      (2) They being guided by the Holy Spirit.
         (a) John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
         (b) 1 Cor. 2:9-13 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
   d. God will judge us in righteousness.
      (1) Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
      (2) Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
      (3) Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
   e. We will be judged by the law of liberty.
      (1) Jam. 2:12 “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”
      (2) That which makes us free is the truth; John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
      (3) God’s word is truth; John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

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   a. They have their creeds, catechisms, disciplines, etc.
   b. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

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b. God will judge our words; Mat. 12:36-37 “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

c. God will also judge our secret things.

(1) Ecc. 12:14 “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.”

(2) Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

(3) God will judge us by what we fail to do.

(a) Jas. 4:17 “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

(b) Mat. 25.

(i) Parable of the talents.

(ii) Judgment scene.

III. BEYOND

A. When the judgment takes place time will end and eternity will begin.

1. Jesus speaks of the judgment as the last day; John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

2. Rev. 10:6 “And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:”

3. In that eternal realm, there are only two places.

B. Heaven

1. A blessed place; Mat. 25:34 “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

2. A place of joy; Mat. 25:21, 23 “His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

3. A place of comfort

a. Luke 16:25 “But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

b. Where one can rest from his labors Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

4. 1 Pet. 1:4 “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”

a. Heaven is not subject to corruption.

(1) It will not decay (either in essence or continuance), it will not be brought to a worse state.

(2) Mat. 6:19-20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
b. There is no defilement in heaven.
   (1) It is free from all contamination or pollution.
   (2) 2 Pet. 2:20 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”
   (3) Rev. 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

C. Hell

1. One of the purposes of Christ coming is to take vengeance.
   a. 2 Th. 1:6 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;”

b. This is a result of God's righteousness.
   (1) God is holy.
      (a) 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
      (b) Thus, He cannot associate Himself with sin; Hab. 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”
   (2) God is just.
      (a) Psa. 145:17 “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
      (b) God's justness demands His punishment of sin.
      (c) Rev. 16:7 “And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”

2. A brief description of that punishment:
   a. A place of torment
      (1) Intense, agonizing pain
         (a) Mat. 13:41-42 “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”
         (b) Mat. 25:30 “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
         (c) Luke 16:23-24 “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”
      (2) Fire
         (a) Mat. 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
         (b) Rev. 14:10 “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:”
         (c) Rev. 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”
(d) A fire that is unquenchable; Mark 9:43-48 “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

(3) A sorer punishment than death without mercy; Heb. 10:28-29 “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

(4) No rest; Rev. 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

b. A place of destruction:
(1) 2 Thes. 1:9 “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
(2) The application in the scriptures of this word is not annihilation, but to come to ruin or devastation.

c. A place of separation from God:
(1) They depart from God’s presence:
   (a) Mat. 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
   (b) 2 Thes. 1:9 “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
(2) The wages of sin is death.
   (a) Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
   (b) Death is a separation; Jas. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
(3) Since God is light they are separated from light.
   (a) 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
   (b) Jude 13 “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”
(4) Since God is love (1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”) there is no love in hell.
(5) Since God is the source of all good (Jas. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”) in hell there is nothing good.

3. The eternal nature of that punishment:
   a. Mat. 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
      (1) everlasting and eternal are the same Greek word (αἰώνιον — aionion).
      (2) Thus however long the life is that is how long the punishment is.
b. 2 Thess. 1:9 “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

c. Rev. 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

d. This is the saddest of the portrayals of hell; there will be no end to the vengeance of God, the torment, and punishment they will receive.

Conclusion: When Jesus comes again, this world will be destroyed. Thus notice the manner of life we should live according to Peter. “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,...” Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Pet. 3:11, 14). We sing the song, “There’s A Great Day Coming” which aptly serves as a conclusion to this lesson.

“All there’s a great day coming, A great day coming, There’s a great day coming by and by; When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left, Are you ready for that day to come?
“All there’s a bright day coming, A bright day coming, There’s a bright day coming by and by; But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord, Are you ready for that day to come?
“All there’s a sad day coming, A sad day coming, There’s a sad day coming by and by; When the sinner shall hear his doom, ‘Depart, I know ye not,’ Are you ready for that day to come?
“All Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready for the judgment day? Are you ready? Are you ready for the judgment day?”

The great question is: Are you ready for that day?