

Study Guide: He Must Return (Lesson 3)

Sunday PM-October 25, 2026

Introduction and Overview

This study guide reviews the fundamental Biblical reasons why Jesus Christ must physically and literally return to Earth, based on the teaching from Lesson 3 of the series "He Must Return." The return of Jesus Christ is not merely a future possibility; it is an absolute necessity guaranteed by the character and word of Almighty God.

The necessity of the Second Coming rests upon three foundational pillars of truth:

1. The Character and Credibility of the Trinity:

- **God the Father:** God cannot lie, and His credibility is bound to the promises He recorded throughout the Old Testament regarding the return of His Son.
- **God the Son:** Jesus Christ stated directly that He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). After His ascension into Heaven, Jesus Christ repeatedly proclaimed six times to John on the Isle of Patmos in the Book of Revelation: "Behold, I come quickly."
- **God the Holy Spirit:** As the "Spirit of truth" (John 16:13), the Holy Spirit guided the New Testament writers—including Paul, James, Peter, and John—to testify continuously that Jesus Christ will return.

2. The Evaluation and Stewardship of Believers (Luke 12:41–48): Jesus Christ taught through the Parable of the Steward that He is like a house owner who has gone away, leaving His servants in charge of His household. Upon His unexpected return, He will evaluate how His stewards managed His provisions:

- **The Faithful Steward:** The servant who faithfully manages the Master's household will be rewarded by being made ruler over all that the Master possesses, receiving a crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8).
- **The Unfaithful Steward:** The servant who presumes the Master delays His coming, abuses fellow servants, and indulges in drunkenness will face sudden judgment. He will be cut in two and appointed his portion with unbelievers. Judgment carries degrees of punishment based on knowledge and responsibility (Luke 12:47–48).

3. God's Program for the Church and Israel (Acts 15:14–17): At the Jerusalem Council, James quoted Amos 9:11–12 to outline God's distinct sequence for world redemption:

- First, God visits the Gentiles to call out a people for His name during the Church Age.
- Second, after the Church dispensation is consummated, Jesus Christ will return.
- Third, Jesus Christ will rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David and restore the kingdom to Israel.

- Fourth, the rest of mankind and all Gentile nations will seek the Lord.
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Short-Answer Quiz Questions

1. In the lesson, three major reasons for the return of Jesus Christ are connected to the Person of God. How do the promises of God the Father, the statements of God the Son, and the guarantees of God the Holy Spirit ensure that the Second Coming will happen?
 2. What specific message did Jesus Christ announce six times from Heaven to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos in the Book of Revelation? Why does this repeated message directly involve the personal credibility of Jesus Christ?
 3. According to John 16:13, what is the specific role of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth? How did the Holy Spirit work through New Testament authors to testify about the return of Jesus Christ?
 4. In the Parable of the Steward recorded in Luke 12:41–48, what duty was assigned to the steward while his master was away? What promise is made to the steward who is found faithfully performing his duty when the master returns?
 5. What wrongful actions does the evil steward commit when he believes his master is delaying his arrival? What severe judgment does the master execute upon this unfaithful servant when he arrives unannounced?
 6. How does Luke 12:47–48 explain the concept of varying degrees of punishment in judgment? What determines whether a servant receives many stripes or few stripes?
 7. According to 2 Timothy 4:8, what specific reward is prepared for the Apostle Paul and other believers upon the return of Jesus Christ? What criteria must a believer meet to receive this award from the Righteous Judge?
 8. What primary issue led to the assembly of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15? How did Peter's account of Cornelius demonstrate that God was working among the Gentiles?
 9. Based on James's quote of Amos 9:11–12 in Acts 15:14–17, what is the exact four-step order of events in God's divine timeline? Why can God's plan for Israel not be finished while the Church Age continues?
 10. What illustration about a father and autumn leaves is used in the lesson to describe the timing of the Second Coming? How does this story encourage believers to view current world events?
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Answer Key

1. The Second Coming is guaranteed because the character and credibility of all three Persons of the Trinity are at stake. God the Father cannot lie regarding His Old Testament promises, Jesus Christ is the absolute truth who promised His own return (John 14:6), and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who inspired scripture to declare His coming (John 16:13).
2. Jesus Christ proclaimed through the clouds, "Behold, I come quickly." Because Jesus Christ cannot lie and is truth itself, His personal credibility depends upon Him fulfilling this physical, literal return to Earth to fulfill His promise to both His friends and His enemies.
3. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own authority, but speaks whatever He hears and guides believers into all truth while declaring things to come. He inspired writers such as Paul, James, Peter, and John to write scriptures urging believers to eagerly wait for the revelation and physical appearance of Jesus Christ.
4. The steward was charged with managing the master's household, taking care of provisions, and distributing food to the household at the proper time. If the master returned and found the steward doing his duty, he promised to reward him by making him ruler over everything he owned.
5. The unfaithful steward begins to scheme that his master is delaying his return, causing him to beat male and female servants while indulging himself in eating, drinking, and becoming drunk. When the master returns on an unexpected day and hour, he will cut the unfaithful steward in two and assign him a portion with unbelievers.
6. Judgment involves degrees of punishment based on a person's level of knowledge and responsibility before God. A servant who knew his Master's will but did not prepare or obey will be beaten with many stripes, whereas a servant who was ignorant of his Master's will will receive fewer stripes, because much is required from those to whom much was given.
7. A crown of righteousness is prepared for believers, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give on that day. This crown is promised to all believers who demonstrate love for His appearing and live in constant expectation of His return.
8. The Jerusalem Council was held because Jewish Christians insisted that Gentiles must be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses to be saved. Peter proved this was incorrect by sharing how God poured out salvation upon Cornelius and other Gentiles without requiring adherence to the Mosaic Law.
9. The four-step sequence begins with God visiting the Gentiles to gather a people for His name (the Church Age), followed by the return of Jesus Christ, the rebuilding of the fallen tabernacle of David (restoring the kingdom to Israel), and finally the rest of humanity seeking the Lord. The plan for Israel cannot be finished until the Church Age is fully consummated and taken out.

10. A father told his young son that he would return home when the green leaves turned red and brown and fell to the ground. The story illustrates that just as changing leaves signal a father's near return to a young child, spiritual signs show that the return of Jesus Christ is drawing near.

Essay Format Questions

1. Explain how the truthfulness and unity of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—guarantee the physical return of Jesus Christ to Earth.
2. Compare and contrast the conduct and outcome of the faithful steward versus the unfaithful steward in Luke 12:41–48. How does this parable apply to modern Christian stewardship?
3. Summarize the historical context and conclusion of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. Detail why the completion of the Church Age must occur prior to the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.
4. Select three scripture references from the New Testament epistles cited in the text (such as 1 Corinthians 1:4–7, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:4, Hebrews 9:28, James 5:7–8, 1 Peter 1:13, or 1 John 3:2) and analyze how the Holy Spirit instructed these authors to describe the Second Coming.
5. Explain the biblical principle "for everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Luke 12:48). How does increased knowledge of God's Word affect a believer's accountability and judgment?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Church Age:** The current period of time, starting at Pentecost and ending with the return of Jesus Christ, during which God calls out both Jews and Gentiles into one body, the Church.
- **Dispensation:** A distinct period of time in divine history during which God manages human affairs according to a specific plan of revelation and responsibility.
- **Jerusalem Council:** The gathering of Apostles and church elders recorded in Acts 15 that officially affirmed that salvation is by grace through faith, without requiring Gentile believers to follow the ceremonial Law of Moses.
- **Millennial Kingdom:** The literal one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth upon the throne of David following His Second Coming.
- **Rapture:** The event in which the Church is caught up and separated from the world before Jesus Christ returns to complete His program on Earth.
- **Steward:** A trusted manager or administrator appointed to oversee the property, servants, provisions, and financial affairs of a household or estate.

- **Tabernacle of David:** The royal kingdom, house, and throne of King David, which God promised would be fallen for a time but eventually rebuilt and restored under the reign of Jesus Christ.
 - **Trinity:** The foundational Christian truth that God exists eternally as one God in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
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Greek Words Used in This Study Guide

1. **Ecclesia** (ek-klay-SEE-ah)[^1]: A Greek term meaning "called-out ones" or an assembly of people gathered for a specific purpose. In the New Testament, it refers specifically to the Church—those called out from the world by God.
2. **Diaspora** (dee-as-por-AH)[^2]: A Greek word meaning "dispersion" or "scattering." It refers historically to the scattering of believers away from Jerusalem due to persecution, spreading the message of Jesus Christ to other nations.

[^1]: Sourced from the lesson's explanation of the Greek word for the Church, defined as the gathering of people called out by God for His name. [^2]: Sourced from the lesson's discussion regarding the persecution and dispersion of early Jewish Christians outward from Jerusalem.