

COMING KING

THE LESSON: 2 PETER 3

By thy Coming again in glory, Good Lord, deliver us.

Jesus humbled himself to come among us and die for our sins, but now he has been raised to life and is seated at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for us! Jesus promised that he would return again and when this happens it will be “in glory” – a contrast to his first coming.

When Jesus told his disciples that he was going where they could not follow, they were dismayed, but he comforted them saying, “if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3). And though his words to the disciples had been words of comfort, Jesus also made clear that his second coming would be very different from his first one: “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done” (Matthew 16:27).

The second coming of Jesus is one of the mysteries included in the “last things”, along with the resurrection of the dead, the judgement of humanity, and eternal life (heaven/hell). Scripture doesn’t give us a timeline for when these things will happen, but challenges us to hold fast to the hope of Christ’s return, and to live holy lives so that we are sure to be ready when it does happen. And in the very last words of the very last book of the New Testament, Jesus says, “Surely I am coming soon”, and with St. John our hearts respond: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20)

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Scripture is filled with prayers and praises in the form of poetry and songs. During this unit, try your hand at song-writing; drawing inspiration from the love God has for you, made evident in the work of Jesus Christ.

Spend some time this week writing your own song of praise inspired by the second coming of Christ.

(Stuck? Spend some time instead reflecting on the words of this hymn penned by John Cennick in 1752 (modified by Charles Wesley and Martin Madan during the same period): “Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending, swell the triumph of his train; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ appears on earth again”.)

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

(THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, BCP PAGE 95)

COMING KING

2 PETER 3: **THE PROMISE OF HIS RETURN**

¹This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ²that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles, ³knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgement and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.