

THE THREE APPEARINGS OF JESUS

Hebrews 9:24, 26, 28:

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the Presence of God for us:

26 For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto Salvation.

Very clearly, the three appearing of our Lord Jesus are set forth by the Apostle Paul within two verses of each other:

- **The First as Saviour of the world.**
- **The Second as our Great High Priest interceding in Heaven for us now.**
- **The Third as our Glorious, Coming King at the translation of the redeemed from the earth.**

1. THE FIRST APPEARING.

Hebrews 9: 26: For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Jesus appeared according to Divine promise to close out the Mosaic Dispensation and bring in the Dispensation of Grace by making a complete sacrifice of Himself as an Atonement for our sins. How glorious and wonderful! How full of meaning! No one else could make the sacrifice. **It must be God's only Begotten Son, for not an angel in Heaven, nor a man on earth, was equal to, or good enough, to redeem us from all iniquity.**

Unlike the ancient high priest, Jesus did not have to make the sacrifice yearly for our sins. But now "Once in the end of the dispensation", the spotless Lamb of God appeared to bear the burden of your sins and mine.

Isaiah 53:3-6:

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.



⁴ Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was wounded for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

In Gethsemane He shed, as it were, great drops of blood as the powers of darkness sought to destroy Him 'ere He reach the Cross to make complete Atonement for us. See Him in Pilate's Judgment Hall and before Herod, smitten, spit on, stripped, then beaten with the lash until the blood flowed over His body.



How can they mock Him so? They led Him away to Calvary. There they drove the nails through His hands and feet. Who can bear to look on such a scene? Hear the dull thud of the cross as it drops into the ground. There He hangs, between Heaven and earth, dying for the sins of the world, God's Son.

The cross points downward to Hell as a warning to those who reject Him; but it points Heavenward for all who will trust in His redeeming Blood. Oh!! How hard and fiendish must be the heart that can see such love displayed and not be moved toward Him.



The Lord God hath laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. As when Moses lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, those who look to Calvary shall live. *"Look unto Me and be ye saved, saith the Lord."*

Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

I am persuaded that all the sins of every penitent sinner above ground, until time

shall be no more, can be forgiven; for He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. He cried, *“It is finished”*.

John 19:30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost [died].



The debt was paid. Our pardon and cleansing was purchased. Thank God for the first appearing of Christ!

II. THE SECOND APPEARING.

Hebrews 9:24: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the Presence of God for us:

This means that Christ is right now on His mediator throne on High, in the Holy of Holies, interceding for our cause and for the cause of all lost humanity. Our Blessed Great High Priest is constantly pleading with groaning which cannot be uttered. He is a sympathetic High Priest, touched with the feelings of all our infirmities, because He was “tempted” in all points like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15: For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

No matter how stammering our petitions, He understands and makes known our needs before the Father.

People pay large sums of money to secure the services of a certain attorney or lawyer who are specialists and known for their success in certain legal matters and crimes in making pleas before judges and juries. But our Blessed Intercessor on High is a two-fold specialist.



- **First — in pleading for sinners.**
- **Second — in pleading for His tried and true saints here on earth.**

He pleads just as willingly for the poor as for the rich. Are you seeking pardon? Jesus is a specialist in this line. Are you seeking heart purity and deliverance from evil? Jesus will take your case before the Father, right now. Why? Because He suffered outside the gate (of the city) that He might *“sanctify the people with His*

Own Blood”.

Hebrews 13:12: Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His Own blood, suffered without the gate.

The Atonement has a two-fold aspect. You need not be short-changed.

This Great High Priest is a billion times better than any of the saints or the Virgin Mary, for the Bible teaches:



1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus;

Hebrews is the Book of Better Things. Our Lord is shown to be better than the former high priests, in that He ever liveth to make intercession for us. He does not have to offer continually a sacrifice, “*but Once in the end of the age He appeared to put away sin for us..*”

Hebrews 9:26: For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

He is the God Man in:

Hebrews 2:11: For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

He is The Sympathetic High Priest in:

Hebrews 4:15: For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

He is the Divinely Anointed High Priest in:

Hebrews 7:26: For such an High Priest became us, Who is Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

He is the Exalted High Priest in:

Hebrews 9:11: But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 10:21: And having an High Priest over the House of God;

III. THE THIRD APPEARING

Hebrews 9:28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto Salvation.

It was required of every earthly high priest in the Holy of Holies to constantly be moving about so that the bells ringing against the pomegranates on his garments would let the people know that the priest was still alive. For if he entered the Holy of Holies without a blood sacrifice — first for his own sins, and then the for the sins of



the people —he would be struck dead. They waited breathlessly outside the Temple while the atonement ceremonies were going on to see if the sacrifice had been accepted by God. Then, what joy sprung up in their hearts when he appeared from within that hallowed atmosphere with the smile of God on His countenance.



So it is with the blood-washed saints here below. We wait and look for our Blessed High Priest to appear. We know He has found favor with God in the Holy of Holies, and there is no doubt He will come out alright.

“Unto them that look for Him . . . ” Oh, dear saints, are you looking for Him?

1 John 3:2-3:

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

Some Christians act like they do not want Him to appear. Could you imagine a

young woman who is engaged to be married being so indifferent about the coming of her intended husband, as many professed followers of Christ are about His coming?

You will hear them say something like this: “*Oh, I don’t care when He comes, just so I am ready.*” Ridiculous! Suppose a girl would say, “*Oh, I don’t care when my lover comes for the marriage, just so I am not flirting with some other fellow when he arrives.*” You surely would not think she loved him very much, would you?



Hebrews 9:28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.



If you are looking for Him, you will be talking about His Coming, reading, studying, and preparing for it. You will be eager for all the latest news about His Coming and the fulfillments of Prophecy. You will want others to know about His Coming and will want them to be ready for Him.

Oh, brother, sister — soon we shall hear the shout of our Lord and the Trump of God, and the voice of the Archangel, then the triumphant response will come from the air-bound saints to complete the symphony of rejoicing.

The two other appearances have come true to Prophecy, and literally. Who, then, can doubt the reality of the Third Appearing? He is coming in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye:

1 Corinthians 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.



Oh, joy divine, “*So shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:

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:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together

with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Therefore, comfort one another with these words Paul commands us, as ministers, to do in the last verse of this chapter:

Hebrews 9:28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto Salvation.

Continue to Look for Jesus' Soon Return!

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