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WHY CHRIST MUST RETURN

The overall message of the Bible is a threefold proclamation all centered around Jesus: 1) Jesus Is Coming, 2) Jesus Came, 3) Jesus Is Coming Again. Despite the skeptical mocking of unbelievers, Christians must live each day anchored in the hope of that promise of Christ's return. *"Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.' For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the*

heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the

heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up,” (2 Pet. 3:3-10). Consider a few points from Scripture which give us a strong faith in the promise of Christ’s return amidst the skepticism.

The Promise of God Demands It

The Old Testament is full of Messianic promises prophesying of the coming Deliverer from beginning to end (Gen. 3:15; Mal. 4:2). Of the more than 100 prophecies dealing with the first coming of Christ, every single one of them was fulfilled precisely. From where He would be born, to His riding on a donkey, the parting of His garments, the piercing of His hands and feet – all of these were repeatedly reported in the New Testament “to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets,” (Mt. 26:56; 2:15; 4:14-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:35; 21:4-5; Jn. 12:38; 15:25). God’s track record in regards to His promises

reveal God cannot lie and what He has promised, He will do (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2). God’s word is at stake in regards to the promise of Christ’s return, and so far, nothing has failed yet. “Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass,” (Josh. 21:45).

The Teaching of Christ Demands It

Christ’s earthly teaching was filled with references to His second coming (Mt. 24:42-51). When He was on trial for His life before the Sanhedrin, Jesus defended His deity with a powerful reference to His second coming with a promise that when He did, the tables would be dramatically turned as it would be His accusers standing before Jesus as He would ultimately judge them! He told the high priest, “You shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven,” (Mk. 14:62). Not only is the

credibility of God at stake, but so is the credibility of His Son through His own teaching.

The Testimony of the Holy Spirit Demands It

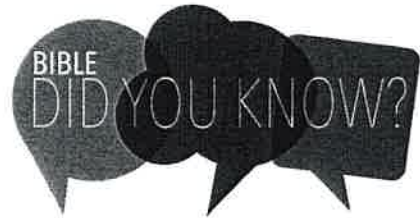
Whether the apostle Paul (1 Cor. 1:4-7; Philip. 3:20; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:16-17), the apostle Peter (1 Pet. 1:13; 5:4; 2 Pet. 3), or the apostle John (1 Jn. 3:2), the promise of Jesus' return is the very foundation on which all direction for holy and pure living are founded upon as the Holy Spirit moved through these writers. "And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure," (1 Jn. 3:3). "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," (2 Cor. 7:1).

The Destruction of Satan Demands It

Satan still exercises a kind of dominion over this world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2

Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; 1 Jn. 5:19). But Christ, who is the only rightful ruler of this world, will overthrow and destroy Satan completely when He returns (Rev. 19:1-20:15). While we may overcome and be free from Satan's grip through the gospel of Christ (2 Tim. 2:24-26), the final grip he has over us in death will ultimately be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:20-26).

– Daniel Ruegg

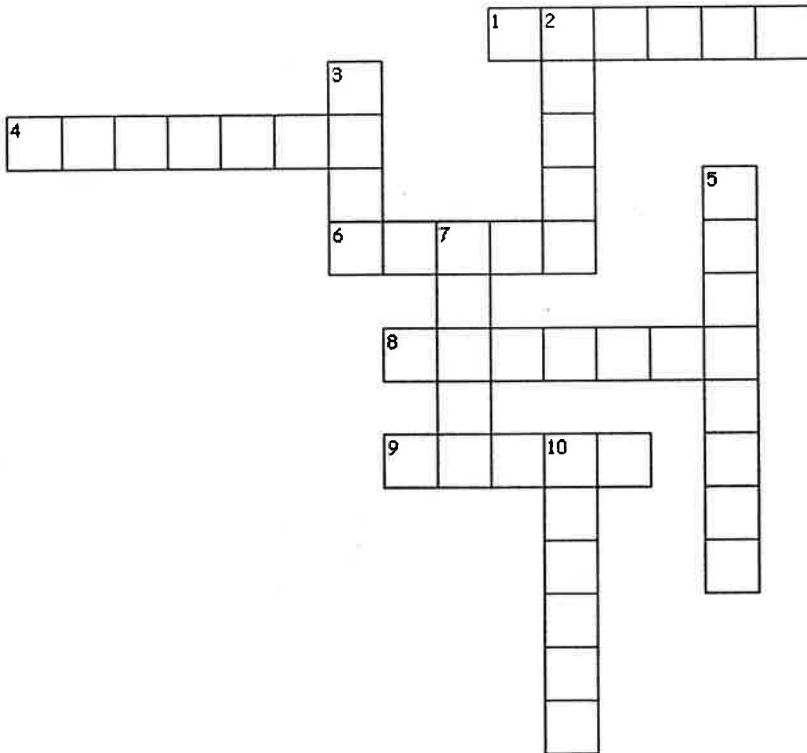


Moses renamed Joshua from his original name, Hoshea. "Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua," Num. 13:16. Hoshea means "Salvation" while Jehoshua means "Jehovah is Salvation."

The

U L T M T E

C R S S W O R D



ACROSS

- 1. David narrowly avoids Saul's pursuit on the Rock of ___ (1 Sam. 23:28)
- 4. Her act of kindness kept David from an act of vengeance (1 Sam. 25:32-35)
- 6. David called him out for not guarding the king (1 Sam. 26:15-16)
- 8. Offered to kill Saul for David with one quick stroke (1 Sam. 26:8)
- 9. God caused Saul and his men to do this when David passed (1 Sam. 26:12)

DOWN

- 2. David found this stuck in the ground by Saul's head (1 Sam. 26:7)
- 3. David told Saul pursuing him was like searching a single ___ (1 Sam. 26:20)
- 5. David refused to kill Saul because he was the Lord's ___ (1 Sam. 26:23)
- 7. His own wife said he was a worthless man (1 Sam. 25:23-25)
- 10. Saul wound up in the same cave as David in this stronghold (1 Sam. 23:29)