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*Saint Mark's Church  
Sunday School*

## **The Second Coming** *Code 12/SP/8*

***“You also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him”  
(Matthew 24:44).***

### **General Aims of the Unit:**

To better understand the signs of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

### **2. Special aims of the lesson**

1. To know some of the prophecies about the second coming.
2. To compare between the first and the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. To be prepared for the Second Coming any time.

### **3.Outcomes :** By the end of this session , the teens are able to:

1. Define the Orthodox understanding of the second coming and be aware of other beliefs surrounding this event.
2. Be encouraged to lead a life of constant repentance as the Lord could return at any time.
3. Memorise the key Old Testament and New Testament verses about the second coming.
4. Know the Lord's parables that speak about readiness for the Second Coming eg the Ten Foolish Virgins.

### **5. References :** “Doctrinal Theology” by Amir Hanna Notes on Page 2 below

## **Introduction:**

Many scientists and religious leaders have spent exhaustive efforts trying to predict and calculate a date for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. They used the prophecies and mathematical calculations to be able to resolve the great mysteries around the Second Coming. Many of us also wonder and try to imagine what would the Second Coming be like and what are the signs of the times?

## **Lesson Outline:**

It might seem contradictory that the Lord rebuked the Pharisees who could not discern the signs of the times (Matthew 16:2-3) while mentioning on the other hand that "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in his own authority" (Act 1:7, Matthew 24:36). It is not for anyone to know the exact time when the second coming will take place, but the Lord gave us some signs to indicate His coming and to be prepared at all times (Matthew 24:4-31). We also have to keep in our minds "that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8).

## **Warm up Questions:**

1. Why will he come?
2. What do we do until he comes?
3. What will happen when he comes?
4. What signs need to be completed before he comes?
5. How will he come?
6. What is the difference between the first and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming?

## **I. Signs of the Second Coming**

### **A. Great Earthquakes**

One of the signs of Christ's Second Coming is great earthquakes (Luke 21:11). What is happening around the world at the present time confirms this sign? There are many major earthquakes that have killed thousands of people such as those in Turkey, Iran, Mexico, Korea, Taiwan and California.

### **B. Apostasy**

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). And St. Paul mentioned that apostasy will occur before the second coming: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

The seeds of this apostasy are being sown everywhere. All kinds of weeds and thorns are choking faith in the living God, in Christ and in the Bible. This abomination of desolation is sitting in the temple of God. Many now teach that:

1. Belief in God is fiction, a myth!
2. As modern people we have to abandon theological realism.
3. The idea that God actually exists as the Creator of the Universe, and that Christ was actually raised from the dead could not be true.
4. We must now learn to view Christianity, like Buddhism or any other religion, as a historical human construction.
5. All of our beliefs originate in the human imagination.

The worldwide spread of crimes, sexual addiction, drug addiction, alcoholism, same-sex marriage, gay rights, devil-worship, human sacrifice, abortion, pornography, atheism, rape and murder, are the common characteristics of the generation of the flood. The time of Noah has returned on earth!

### **C. Modern Heresies**

There are many new beliefs and modern heresies that are engulfing millions of people at the present time. Examples of those who spread strange beliefs are Jehovah's Witness and Mormons. They all deny the divinity of Christ and are modern versions of Aryanism and the Gnostic heresies.

#### **D. Persecution**

There are still violent waves and vicious attacks from Muslims, Buddhists and atheists against Christians in India, Pakistan, Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, China and Indonesia. This is also one of the signs of the times.

#### **II. Comparison between the First and the Second Coming of our Lord**

- The first coming of our Lord was quiet and calm and only a few people knew about it. The Second Coming is going to be awesome and full of glory. He will be coming on the clouds with the shouts of the angels and the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky (Matthew 29:24).
- Both the first and second coming fulfill the prophecies.
- In the first coming the kings plotted the death of the Lord on the cross but in the second coming all the kings and the rich will hide in the mountains and in the caves (Revelation 6:12-17).
- In the first coming He came as a poor man, but in the second coming He will come as a Glorious King and every knee shall bow to Him (Philippians 2:5-11).
- In the first coming He came to save us and in the second coming He will come to judge everyone (Matthew 25:22).
- In the first coming He came first to the Jews and they rejected Him but in the second coming He will come for everyone and all nations will come to Him.
- In the first coming He took the righteous to paradise and in the second coming He will take them to the heavenly kingdom.

#### **Conclusion:**

The second coming can happen at any day and at any time. Actually the moment of death is the end of life and resembles the second coming for every human. At that moment the chance to inherit the kingdom is gone. Therefore, we should be prepared at anytime for the second coming of the Lord or the end of our life.

#### **Application:**

- Where are the 24 priests mentioned in the Bible?
- Make a list of the seven seals mentioned in Revelation Chapters 6-8.

## OTHER RESOURCES

With the Doctrinal Theology attachment pls refer to chapter 11.

As discussed in our previous group meeting, it may be worthwhile asking the class the following questions to get the ball rolling, (make sure you know the answers).

1. Why will he come?
2. What do we do until he comes?
3. What will happen when he comes?
4. What signs need to be completed before he comes?
5. How will he come?
6. What is the difference between the first and 2nd coming?

Here is the link for the sermon by Father Anthony Messiah:  
<http://orthodoxsermons.org/sermons/second-coming-christ>

I couldn't find the sermon by Fr Antonios Kaldas, but if anyone knows where it is pls share.

There is also a power point lesson on the CD, however I found it a little long and didn't flow very well, but if you would prefer it then no problem.

Also the Yr 12 girls will be going to the monastery this weekend so pls remember them in your prayers.

Finally a reminder that all the servants should be in their classes at least 5min before the start of the lesson.

God Bless your service for the glory of his Holy name.