

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 2
Online Course



THEON
THEOLOGY ONLINE
WWW.THEON.IN

LESSON 2

Purpose of the First Coming of Jesus Christ

Hi!

Welcome to Lesson 2 of your course, 'The Second Coming of Jesus Christ'. In this lesson we will try to understand and apply the purpose of the first coming of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy!

CONTENTS

Meet your Tutor	3
Lesson Outline	4
Introduction	5
Angel's Message	6
John the Baptist's Introduction	7
Jesus' Mission Statements	8
What's Next?	10

Meet your Tutor

Dr. Joshua Iyadurai,
PhD



Dr. Joshua has been a Bible Teacher for more than three decades. People love to hear his expository preaching; he is a powerful communicator of God's Word and brings out deeper truths from the Bible. He served as a missionary with an evangelical student movement in North India in the 1990s.

He is the Founder and Director of THEOn [Theology Online] and Marina Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion (MCISR), Chennai. He teaches theology online for the University of Roehampton, London and is a visiting faculty at several institutions in India. He has published a number of articles in international journals and authored a book on religious conversion titled: *Transformative Religious Experience: A Phenomenological Understanding of Religious Conversion*.

He did his theological education from Union Biblical Seminary, Pune and PhD from the University of Madras, Chennai. His post doctorates are from Fuller Theological Seminary, USA in 2015 and Trinity College, Bristol, UK in 2018.

He lives in Chennai with his wife and three daughters; they love to watch him watching Tom and Jerry cartoons. He loves eating peanuts and titled an article about contextual mission: "Consuming Peanuts in the USA and India."

Dr. Joshua can be reached at his email address: joshuai@theon.in

Lesson Outline

2.1 Angel's Message

2.2 John the Baptist's Introduction

2.3 Jesus' Mission Statements

Introduction

It is appropriate to know the purpose of the first coming of Jesus in order to understand the purpose of his second coming.

Only when the purpose of his first coming is applied in our lives, we will be ready to meet him at his second coming.

The purpose of the first coming of Jesus could be understood from three aspects:

1. The message given by an angel to Joseph
2. John the baptist's introduction of Jesus
3. Jesus' mission statements

2.1

Angel's Message

Matthew 1:1 says:

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

I am sure you are familiar with the story of Jesus' birth. An angel had appeared to Joseph in a dream. And the angel told him that Mary would give birth to a son and he was to give him the name 'Jesus'.

The angel also described the meaning of the name 'Jesus'. It means 'He will save his people from their sins'. Even before the birth of Jesus, the purpose of his coming was revealed to Joseph. Jesus was born to save us from our sins.

2.2

John the Baptist's Introduction

John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the public. When he introduced Jesus in John 1: 29, he said:

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

What is the meaning of "Lamb of God"?

We know that in the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed for the atonement of Israel's sin. John introduced Jesus as the lamb provided by God for the atonement of human sins. As a fulfillment of the sacrifice of a lamb in the Old Testament, Jesus was the sacrificial lamb for the remission of sins.

At the crucifixion, Jesus shed his blood for the remission of our sins. Jesus replaced the atonement lamb and died for our sins. We receive forgiveness of our sins from God because of Jesus' death on the cross.

John's introduction is similar to the angel's message. Both the angel and John the Baptist announced the purpose of the first coming of Jesus.

2.3

Jesus' Mission Statements

We read in Mark 10:45 Jesus said that he came to:

"give his life as a ransom for many."

What is the meaning of ransom?

Ransom means redeeming someone from captivity by paying a price. Jesus gave his life as a ransom to redeem us from the power of sin. Jesus used the word ransom here to indicate that his life was the price paid for redeeming humanity. However, we must understand, the ransom was not paid to Satan to release people from Satan.

His life was a sacrifice offered to meet the requirement of justice. God cannot forgive mankind simply because he loves us.

Why not?

Because he is a God of justice and he had to meet the requirement for justice. Therefore, he offered his son to pay the penalty of sin. Thus Jesus gave his life as a ransom to save people from sin.

We read in John 10:10,

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

In this verse we find Jesus came to give life to people. People are spiritually dead and Jesus came to give life so that everyone can be alive in God and respond to God's love. Further he said that his intention was for everyone to have life to the full. When we have a right relationship to God, we live a life of fullness. Jesus came to give us fullness of life, as God intended for humans.

There are many factors that prevent us from having a life of fullness. The most important factor is sin that causes disharmony within ourselves, with others and God. Jesus died on the cross to save us from the power of sin. When we receive the forgiveness of sins we are restored to have fullness of life.

Fullness of life does not mean accumulation of wealth and materials. Fullness of life means to have a balanced life. A life in which all aspects would be in harmony with God.

If you are not enjoying the fullness of life, you must come to Jesus. If you are not sure that the purpose of the first coming of Jesus is fulfilled in your life, this is the right time for you to receive the forgiveness of sins by believing that Jesus died for your sins.

Since you are interested in knowing about the second coming of Jesus, you must make sure that the purpose of his first coming is fulfilled in your life before we proceed to the next lesson.

What's Next?

Promise of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Did you know Jesus himself promised his disciples that he would return?

Did you know that someone also reaffirmed this promise?

In lesson 3, we will study the promise of the second coming of Jesus.

Stay tuned!