

# The Three "Appearings" of Our Savior

Heb 9:24-28

## Introduction:

1. The book of Hebrews is an outstanding book of the Bible
  - a. Chapters 1-8 – The Superiority of Christ
    1. Better than the prophets – 1:1-3
    2. Better than the angels – 1:4-2:18
    3. Better than Moses – 3:1-4:13
    4. Better than Aaron – 4:14-8:6
  - b. Chapters 8-10 – Superiority of the New Covenant
    1. It is based on better promises 8:7-13
    2. It is based on a better sanctuary – 9:1-28
    3. It is based on a better sacrifice – 10:1-18
  - c. Chapters 11-13 – Exhortations from this superiority
    1. Draw near to God – 10:19-39
    2. Run the race of faith – 11:1-12:29
    3. Misc exhortations – 13:1-25
2. The May 1984 National Geographic showed through color photos and drawings the swift and terrible destruction that wiped out the Roman Cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in A.D. 79. The explosion of Mount Vesuvius was so sudden, the residents were killed while in their routine: men and women were at the market, the rich in their luxurious baths, slaves at toil. They died amid volcanic ash and superheated gasses. Even family pets suffered the same quick and final fate. It takes little imagination to picture the panic of that terrible day.

The saddest part is that these people did not have to die. Scientists confirm what ancient Roman writers record--weeks of rumblings and shakings preceded the actual explosion. Even an ominous plume of smoke was clearly visible from the mountain days before the eruption. If only they had been able to read and respond to Vesuvius's warning! There are similar "rumblings" in our world: warfare, earthquakes, the nuclear threat, economic woes, breakdown of the family and moral standards. While not exactly new, these things do point to a coming day of Judgment (Matt. 24). People need not be caught unprepared. God warns and provides an escape to those who will heed the rumblings.

## **I. Christ's Past Appearing**

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 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.

- Appeared = phaneroo - to become apparent after being hidden
- First appearance was on earth

### **A. In the Past He Appeared as a Prophet**

1. His appearing had been prophesied  
De 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
2. A prophet reveals God and Jesus came to reveal the Father  
Joh 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.
3. Jesus appeared as our prophet on earth

### **B. In the Past He Appeared to Free Us From the Penalty of Sin**

1. This was man's greatest need
2. This is our deliverance from the penalty of sin
3. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin
  - a) *Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*
  - b) *Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*
4. He came to "put away sin" by the sacrifice of Himself  
Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
5. Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
  1. *From the cross he said, "it is finished"*
    - a) *No further sacrifice had to be made*
    - b) *Not like the earthly high priest who yearly offered a sacrifice for sin*
      - (1) This went on yearly for the entire time under the Mosaic law
      - (2) This sacrifice of our Savior is not to be repeated

## **II. Christ's Present Appearing – vs 24**

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:

### **A. Presently He Appears as Our High Priest**

1. He appears before the Father as our advocate
2. He appears in heaven as our Advocate
3. Being from the tribe of Judah prevented Jesus ministering in the temple on earth
  - a) *Only those from the tribe of Levi could minister in the temple*
  - b) *Earthly temples / tabernacles were only representatives of the real temple in heaven*
  - c) *Homer Kent believes that heaven itself is the heavenly sanctuary*
  - d) *He does not believe that there was a heavenly structure that corresponded to the earthly structure board for board*
  - e) *He has entered into the actual presence of God not just the representational presence of God*
  - f) *He is not in a smoke clouded chamber where God's glory needed to be obscured lest the high priest die*
4. Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;
5. Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

### **B. This is Our Deliverance from the Power of Sin**

1. This is pictured in Zech 3
  - a) *Vs 1 – Zechariah saw Joshua, the high priest, standing before the Lord and Satan was there to resist him*  
1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.
  - b) *Vs 3 – Joshua was clothed with filthy garments*  
3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.
  - c) *Vs 4 – The Lord took away Joshua's uncleanness and clothed him with a change of raiment*  
4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.
2. This is seen in Job 1 where the devil goes to heaven and accuses Job

### **III. Christ's Promised Appearing**

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:  
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.

- Appear = optomai - to gaze at face to face

#### **A. In the Future, Christ Appears as Our King**

1. His future appearing to us will be just as real to us as his past appearing was to his disciples.

#### **B. This Will Be Our Deliverance from the Presence of Sin**

1. The earth is filled with sin
2. But there will be no sin in heaven
3. We will have our new bodies which will not have sin

#### **C. He Will Bring Our Salvation to Completeness**

*"without sin unto salvation"*

1. Jesus will bring our salvation to completion and deliver us from the wrath of God
2. Jesus' second coming will be apart from sin
  - a) *He is not coming back again to deal with sin again - he has already done that*
  - b) *When the OT high priest entered the holy of holies on the Day of Atonement, the people waited eagerly for his appearance to know that the sacrifices were accepted by God*
  - c) *When the Savior appears in the future then we will know that His sacrifice has been accepted and that our redemption is fully accomplished*
3. This is the blessed hope of the believer
4. In northern Italy, a tourist found this beautiful picture of what it means to be expectant of Christ's return. At the Villa Asconati, along the shore of Lake Como, he was introduced to a friendly older man who cared for the castle's garden. The grounds were immaculate and the gardener was doing everything he could to further improve their beauty. To his surprise, the tourist discovered the owner of this castle had not been on the property in twelve years. He seemed confused by the man's compulsion for perfection when the owner had not appeared in over a decade. So he said, "You keep this garden in such fine condition, just as though you expected your master to come tomorrow." The gardener promptly replied, "Today, sir, today!" That groundskeeper had the expectancy that every believer should possess. Are you looking for his return tomorrow, or today?