

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

Acts 1:11

February 17, 2008 Sunday p.m.

INTRODUCTION

A. Twas The Night Before Jesus Came

Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus returning just like He said
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in his hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as he searched for my name;
When he said, "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest of us were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was to late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the bible was true after all!

- B. Most Christians and churches believe in the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - 1. However, it is a neglected subject.
 - 2. Its also a controversial subject because there are so many ideas about when he is coming and how.
- C. The Apostle's Creed also weighs in on the subject of the Second Coming: "**and he will come again to judge the living and the dead**". Let's remind ourselves of a few facts about the Creed.
 - 1. It's the oldest Christian Creed (middle of the 2nd century).
 - 2. It was not written by the Apostles, but expresses their beliefs.
 - 3. "Creed" is Latin for "I believe".
 - 4. The Creed follows a Trinitarian outline.
 - 5. The Creed is intended as only a summary of beliefs.
 - 6. The Creed does not take the place of the Bible any more than our Sunday School material or "Baptist Faith and Message" could.
 - 7. Tonight let's consider the statement found in the Apostle's Creed concerning the Second Coming of Jesus.

I. FIRST, THERE IS THE REALITY OF HIS COMING. HOW DO WE KNOW JESUS IS COMING AGAIN?

- A. First, the Bible says he is coming again.
 - 1. 318 references to it in the N.T.
 - 2. That's one out of every 25 verses.
- B. Second, Jesus predicted it.

John 14:3³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
- C. Third, angels predicted it.

Acts 1:11¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."
- D. Fourth, the Lord's Supper says it.

I Cor. 11:26²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- E. Fifth, the Church believes it.
 - 1. The Apostle's Creed.
 - 2. Every Christian Creed—"Baptist Faith and Message".

II. SECOND, THERE IS THE REPORT OF HIS COMING. HOW WILL JESUS COME?

- A. First, he will come personally (he will not send someone in his place)—Acts 1:11.
- B. Second, he will come literally—won't be angel or ghost.
- C. Third, he will come visibly.

Rev. 1:7⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.
- D. Fourth, he will come gloriously.

Matthew 25:31³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

III. THIRD, THERE IS THE RESULT OF HIS COMING. WHAT WILL JESUS DO?

- A. The Creed says: "he will come again to judge the living and the dead".
- B. Paul also tells us about Jesus' judgment.
2 Corinthians 5:10¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- C. We will discuss this judgment in more detail next time.

CONCLUSION

- A. In a "Calvin" comic strip, Calvin's boss caught him sitting at his desk staring out the window. "why aren't you working Calvin?" Without much thought Calvin confessed to his boss, "Because I didn't see you coming."
- B. Calvin wasn't prepared for his boss' coming and he wasn't looking for him either.
- C. Are you prepared for Jesus' Second Coming (ACT gospel outline).