

# THREE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST

## INTRODUCTION

- I. A physician was once asked to tell of his greatest discovery replied with this statement, "The discovery that I have a Savior."
  - A. Christ is INDEED the Savior of the world.
    1. He is the *willing and potential* Savior of ALL men. 2Pet.3:9
    2. He is the *actual* Savior of TRUE BELIEVERS. 1 Tim. 4:10
  - B. The pre-eminence of Christ is demonstrated in the **three appearances of Christ** in behalf of man, relating to the **PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE**. Cf Heb. 9;24-28
- II. Now, let's consider these 3 appearances that Paul mentions, in the order of their occurrence.

## I. 1<sup>st</sup>, Christ appeared IN THE PAST—on the earth.

- A. This refers to His ONLY appearance as the Son of God and the Son of man, when He came to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin. Heb. 9:25-26
  - 1, Man hasn't **always** needed a Savior.
    - a. Adam and Eve were created sinless, and lived awhile in a sinless environment.
    - b. But, Satan appeared in the form of a serpent, and tempted Eve, which caused her and Adam to sin, causing them to open the door of sin for all mankind.
      - 1) We know it was EVE who was deceived, and she gave to her husband with her.
      - 2) This is not to say SHE deceived Adam, who appears to have just been persuaded in some way BY Eve, who had allowed Satan to make his inroad to humanity by his deceiving her.
  2. WHY did Jesus not come to man when he FIRST sinned??
    - a. The world had to be educated and be ready for the offer of salvation when God's plan unfolded.
    - b. The **promise** of salvation, and the **law** of Moses were essential PARTS of God's plan of redemption for ALL the world. Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; Gen. 3:16,19; 4:4-5 (Explain fully)
- B. Jesus appeared to "sacrifice of himself", THAT sins could be "put away". Heb. 9:26
  1. After thousands of lambs had been offered in TYPE, the perfect Lamb was THEN offered. Heb.10:1, 11-14; John 1:29
  2. By the perfect sacrifice, Jesus became our perfect Savior.
    - a. Jesus was **never** "imperfect" so as to improve to the point of perfection.
    - b. But, as God's plan developed, He, at the point of having offered Himself on the cross, and appearing back in heaven, He was to become THE "perfect sacrifice" for mankind, just as it was said that He "became" the author of eternal salvation. Heb. 5:9

## II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Christ is appearing PRESENTLY—in heaven.

- A. There are several reasons why Christ is making this heavenly appearance, which actually is a FOLLOW-UP of His one earthly appearance.
  1. Christ is appearing in heaven **now** offering His sacrifice before the Father. Heb. 9:24-25
  2. Christ is appearing in heaven **now** reigning as King of His kingdom. Dan.7:13-14; Acts 2:33-36
  3. Christ is appearing in heaven **now** functioning as mediator for God's children. 1Tim. 2:5; Eph. 2:14-18
  4. Christ is appearing in heaven **now** preparing a place for the righteous. John 14:1-2
  5. Christ is appearing in heaven **now** pleading the petitions of the righteous before God. Rom. 8:34

6. Finally, Christ is appearing in heaven **now** to keep on cleansing the righteous who walk in the light.  
1 John 1:7

B. Though Christ MADE His appearance in heaven **when** “He ascended on high,” His appearance there is continuing, as we have just noted.

### **III. 3<sup>Rd</sup>, Christ will appear in the FUTURE—in the air.**

A. At present, our salvation is **partial** in the redemption of the **SOUL**. 1 Pet. 1:4, 9

B. When Jesus comes again, in the **future**, our redemption will be COMPLETE, in the redemption of the **soul and body**.

1. This redemption will be for those that “look” for Him in obedient preparation. Heb. 9:28; Tit. 2:14

2. This will **NOT** be an “earthly” redemption, but we shall meet the Lord **“in the air”** to enter into glory with Him. 1 Thess. 4:16-17

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. Since Christ is pre-eminent in His THREE APPEARANCES, He should be pre-eminent in our lives as well.

II. We make Him pre-eminent by obeying His word in confessing faith, repenting of sins and being buried with Him in baptism, and living for Him faithfully the rest of our lives.

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