

The Lamb Returning as a Lion

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We don't know exactly when Jesus was born, and we don't know when He will return, but we do know that when He comes this time, He's not coming as a baby. He first came as the little Lamb of God, but He will return as the LION of Judah, in fiery judgment (Gen. 49:9-10; Jn. 5:22-29; Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 5:5). He first came to be our Savior (Luke 19:10); He's coming the second time to be our Judge.

What if He's coming back today? Have you obeyed the Gospel? *"...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (2 Thess. 1:7-9; cf. Rom. 10:16; 1 Pet. 4:17).

Both Peter and Paul said the Gospel must be obeyed--not simply believed. The most fundamental facts of the Gospel are the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). We obey that Gospel when we die to sin, are buried in water baptism, and are raised to new life (Romans 6:3-5). Paul said after we obey that form of doctrine, we are free from sin (Romans 6:16-18). After baptism, we must not continue in sin, but rather remain dead to sin to be alive to God (Romans 6:2,11; cf. 6:1-22).

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