

Study Guide
Christmas 2.1
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When was the last time you were surprised?

One of the things we love most about Christmas is the element of surprise. We love a good surprise and especially being surprised with something good!

What was the last gift you received that surprised you?

Two thousand years ago a special baby was born and to most of humanity it was a complete surprise, but for others it was a long-awaited event. When Jesus came the first time, "Christmas 1.0", he let people know ahead of time.

Read John 15:15, John 16:13, and Isaiah 46:9-10.

What stands out to you in these verses?

God does not want His people to be caught unaware. When you have a close and intimate relationship with Him, He will reveal things to you.

Do you know God intimately and personally?

God revealed to His people long before it ever happened that Christmas 1.0 was coming. He revealed over 300 prophecies about Christmas 1.0. Some specific examples include:

- 1.) A Savior would come from the seed of a woman.
 - Read Genesis 3:15.
- 2.) A Savior would be supernaturally born of a virgin (700 years before Jesus was born).
 - Read Isaiah 7:14.
- 3.) The Savior would be born in Bethlehem (800 years before Christ was born).
 - Read Micah 5:2.
- 4.) A messenger would come and prepare the way for the Savior.
 - Read Malachi 3:1.
 - This prophesy was fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-3.
 - Read Matthew 3:1-3.
- 5.) A special star shall announce the Savior's coming.
 - Read Numbers 24:17.
 - This prophesy was fulfilled in Matthew 2:1-2.
 - Read Matthew 2:1-2.

Discuss why you think people were still surprised by Jesus' birth although there were over 300 prophecies about Christmas 1.0.

Although the birth of Christ was a surprise to some, it was not a surprise to all.

Read Luke 2:21-38.

What do you notice about the people who were not surprised about the coming of the Lord?

The Bible is a supernatural book. In this supernatural book, the one and only God reveals his purpose and plans for mankind. He doesn't want His plan kept secret; He doesn't want his people caught unaware. God wants mankind to know He loves us, and He wants to inform us of what is coming, so we can be prepared.

When did you last lean into the Bible to learn what God has planned for you?

There are 300 prophecies in the Bible about Christmas 1.0 (the first coming of Christ); yet there are 2,500 prophecies in the Bible about Christmas 2.0 (the second coming of Christ.) The Apostle Paul talked about baptism 12 times, but he talked about the second coming of the Christ 52 times (Christmas 2.0). Although there is so much information in the Bible about Christmas 2.0, most of us know little about Jesus coming back.

How much do you feel like you know about Christmas 2.0 (the second coming of Christ)?

When was the last time you asked someone if they were good with God and ready for His return?

Just as sure as Jesus came the first time, He is returning the second time, and we can be ready and not caught off guard. Truths we can glean from scripture about Christmas 2.0:

- 1.) The disciples of Jesus lived with the revelation that Jesus would come a second time.
 - Read Matthew 24:1-3.
- 2.) Angels proclaimed that Jesus would return.
 - Read Acts 1:4-11.
- 3.) The Apostle Paul declared that Jesus would come a second time.
 - Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 4.) The second coming of Jesus (Christmas 2.0) is proclaimed every time we partake of Holy Communion.
 - Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
- 5.) Jesus said He would return to get His children.
 - Read John 14:1-3.

Were any of these truths new to you? Discuss.

Jesus will return again, and if we are not prepared, it will certainly be a surprise to us.

If Jesus were to return today, would you be prepared for His return?

What are some ways you can get prepared and ready for Jesus' return?

1 John 3:2-3 (NLT) – ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

Are you looking for Jesus' return?

Are you excited and expectant for His return?

Who is one person who might not know Jesus that you could tell about Him this week in preparation for Christmas 2.0?