

Christ in Prophecy
New Year 2: “Looking for Jesus”

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Opening

Dr. Reagan: New Years greetings to all of you. As we begin this New Year, let me ask you a question. Are you yearning for the return of Jesus? Are you hoping this will be the year when He will appear in the heavens? If not, why not? Stay tuned for four Bible prophecy experts who will give you six reasons why all Christians should be yearning for the soon return of Jesus.

Part 1

Dr. Reagan: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our blessed hope, I'm Dave Reagan, senior evangelist for Lamb and Lion Ministries. You know, folks, the writings of the early church fathers revealed that during the first three hundred years of the church, Christians often prayed “Maranatha!” That is an Aramaic expression that means “Oh Lord come.” The enthusiasm for the Lord's soon return seemed to die out around 400 A.D., and for most of Christendom, I'm sorry to say, that desire has never been rekindled. Most Christians today seem to be yawning, rather than yearning, for the Lord's soon return. Now in a moment, I'm going to lead a discussion with some Bible prophecy teachers about why all of you who profess to be Christians should earnestly desire that this year will prove to be the year when the Church will be raptured out of this world. But first, let me introduce you to our panel members. This is my associate Dennis Pollock, he serves as the co-host of this program. And joining Dennis and me this week are two very special guests. One is Don Perkins, Don is a native of Louisiana who now lives in the San Diego area. He's the founder and director of a ministry called According to Prophecy. We're glad to have you with us, Don.

Don Perkins: Glad to be here, Dave.

Dr. Reagan: Thanks for coming all the way from California.

Don Perkins: Glad to be here, glad to be here.

Dr. Reagan: Our other special guest is another native of Louisiana, he is Don McGee, founder and director of Crown and Sickle Ministries in Amite, Louisiana. Don, we're glad to have you with us.

Don McGee: It's sure good to be here.

Dr. Reagan: You know, it just occurred to me fellows that both of you are named Don, both of you originate in the state of Louisiana, both of you are Bible prophecy teachers, man alive, this is something else isn't it?

Don Perkins: I think it's in the water.

Dr. Reagan: It's in the water, ok! Folks, we believe that the return of Jesus is going to occur in two stages. The first, which could occur any moment is called the Rapture. It will take place when Jesus appears in the heavens to take His Church, both the living and the dead out of this world. The second stage will be the Second Coming, when Jesus returns to this earth with His Church, to reign for a thousand years. Now I believe that most Christians are apathetic about the return of Jesus because they are ignorant of what is going to happen when He comes back. I know that was my case for many years. Think of it this way, how can you get excited about an event that you know nothing about? For example, how could you get all pent up with excitement about a surprise birthday party? Well you can't, if it's truly a surprise. My personal apathy about the Lord's return rapidly dissipated when I discovered what is going to happen when Jesus returns to this earth. I want to share with you six reasons why I am yearning for the Lord's soon return. And the first is that I want to see Jesus, that's right, Jesus receive what has been promised and what He deserves, namely honor, glory and power. What about it fellas? Who wants to jump in first?

Don Perkins: I want to jump in first. I'm excited about that because I want to experience my Lord. I want to physically be able to touch my Lord I want to touch those nail-scarred hands. I want to hug him I want to show him that I appreciate what He did for me. You know, I want to see Him the way the disciples saw Him, after His resurrection. I can't wait I mean I want to literally see my Lord.

Dr. Reagan: I think you're in love with Jesus!

Don Perkins: I'm in love with Jesus. I'm in love with Jesus.

Dr. Reagan: What about it fellas, any others?

Dennis Pollock: Dave the last time the world saw Jesus, now His disciples saw Him after His resurrection, but the last time that the world saw Jesus, He didn't look very good. He was being mocked, ridiculed, crucified, He had been whipped. He had endured the rejection of basically the whole world that He ministered to. The next time the world sees Jesus, not the Church but the world, when He comes back. He's gonna come in glory, and He's gonna reign in glory. There's a scripture in Isaiah that says the moon will be disgraced and the sun will be ashamed, for the Lord of hosts, this is Jesus, is gonna reign on Mount Zion, gloriously! Well, I think it's saying that His glory is gonna be so awesome, as the king over the whole earth, you're gonna look at the sun and the moon and think, "You know, that's nothing." Because of the glory of the Lord, it's good, it's right that the world should see our Lord in a glorified form. And I'm convinced that God has intended, He has promised that in His Scriptures that His son will be glorified in history, in the world.

Dr. Reagan: Fellas, there is a second reason that I want to see the Lord return, and that is because I want to see Satan receive what he deserves, namely, total defeat, dishonor and humiliation. Well, what about it guys?

Don McGee: You know, if you look at this from the beginning, going back to Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, you see that the sin began in Heaven, sin did not begin in the Garden of Eden it was in heaven. And because of Satan's pride, he has caused us, the human race, to experience everything that we have experienced today in regard to war, and pain, and suffering and things of that nature. And as a man that just simply likes to see justice served as an eventual point in time, I want to see him get what he deserves. Amen.

Don Perkins: Amen.

Dr. Reagan: Amen. I don't know how you can put it any better than that.

Don Perkins: Amen.

Dennis Pollock: You know Dave, I'm a connoisseur of westerns, or used to be. And a good western is always built on the premise that you have some evil, horrible, really, really bad rotten guy come in and just bully people around, and then finally the good guy does away with him.

Don Perkins: Amen.

Dennis Pollock: The Calvary comes, or Clint Eastwood or who ever, Satan is the cosmic bully. He's been creating all these miseries and war and crime and birth defects and all the evil, the ugliness that's in the world, he is going to get what he deserves when our Lord comes back.

Dr. Reagan: And the book of Revelation makes that very clear fellas. It's so discouraging to me to see how many Christians have never even read the book of Revelation. It's like reading a great novel and never reading how it all ends.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: The book of Revelation says we win in the end.

Don Perkins: Yes. Amen.

Dr. Reagan: Satan is going to be destroyed.

Don Perkins: Amen.

Dr. Reagan: Well, there's a third reason that I'd like to see the Lord come back this year, and that is because I want to see creation receive what it has been promised. And that is regeneration, restoration, renewal, and refreshment. Now what does that all mean?

Don Perkins: Well, the Bible tells us, according to Peter, that we look for a new heaven and new earth where indwells righteousness. You know, this world that we live in today,

the very rosebush, the fact that we have thorns is part of the curse. You know, I'm looking for a new creation, where in the new world, I believe the rosebush will not have thorns because the curse will be done away with. I'm looking for a brand new world without death and sickness. We've been promised that. The Bible says the creation groans and travails, the creation is waiting for this change. And it will happen as a result of Jesus coming back.

Dr. Reagan: And that's all the result of a curse that God placed upon the earth in response to man's sin. The creation was originally perfect and then as a result of man's sin it was corrupted. And you know, when I was growing up, I was taught that when Jesus Christ came back the whole universe was just gonna cease to exist. There'd be a big bang, it'd all cease to exist and we'd go off and we live in this ethereal world where we become one with God. It was sort of an eastern religion concept, but our Bible, the creation is not going to cease to exist.

Don Perkins: No.

Don McGee: If it does Dave, then God failed. He actually failed. Because He did not create this world that we live in to cease to exist because of those reasons. I think of the farmers of our world, I think those people can appreciate this promise perhaps more than anyone else. And if anyone has ever had to eek out a living from the ground, then they can appreciate the curse that has been placed upon this earth. And what a glorious day it will be when the thorns and the thistles will no longer be there, and the mosquitoes won't bite! And being from south Louisiana, we can appreciate that!

Don Perkins: Yeah.

Dr. Reagan: I got up one time and I was preaching on this, "Boy I want the Lord to come back so that curse will be lifted, and the creation will be perfected." And my wife happened to be there, she doesn't get to travel with me much because she's a school teacher. But she was there and I got so carried away I said, "Folks, let me just put it this way, when the Lord comes back, the chiggers will be done away with!" I hate chiggers I hate them with a passion. Some of the folks watching this program up north may not know what a chigger is, but it is a little microscopic thing that crawls up your leg and bites you and makes you itch and hurt all over. Well, that night as we were driving home

my wife was very quiet. And I finally turned to her, I said, "Ann is there something wrong?" She said, "I cannot believe what you said about the chiggers." I said, "Well I did get a little carried away." She said, "No, that's not the point at all." She said, "Honey, the point is, that God is not going to do away with the chiggers when Jesus Christ returns, He's gonna make you lie down with the chiggers." And I said "well, I hope He de-fangs those little boogers first!"

Dennis Pollock: It may be your charge in eternity to rule over the chiggers, you never know.

Dr. Reagan: Let's hope not, let's hope not. Well, I tell you fellows, I look forward to a world in which man will no longer strive against nature.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: A world in which there's perfect peace in the animal kingdom. No carnivorous animals, no poisonous plants, and we can live in perfect peace.

Dennis Pollock: We've lived so long in this unnatural state, we've assumed that it is natural. That it's natural that there should be poison ivy and poison oak and chiggers and mosquitoes and the carnivorous animals and so forth. It's unnatural. All of this is unnatural, and one of these days when Christ returns He's gonna bring things back to the state that God originally intended. And we're gonna see just how unnatural a world we lived in.

Dr. Reagan: You know, this all relates back to something we're told about in the Old Testament that I don't think most Christians have noticed. And that is that once a year the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled that blood on the Mercy Seat. And it was a symbol that one day the Messiah would die and His blood would make it possible for the grace of God to cover the law of God which was inside that Ark of the Covenant. But what most people don't notice is it also says that he stepped back and sprinkled the blood on the ground.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: And that was to signify that the death of the Messiah was also to be for the redemption for all of God's creation.

Don McGee: I wish that were preached more, I wish I heard that more.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Don McGee: We seem to believe the earth and the world, the physical world, out of everything.

Dr. Reagan: It's that Greek mentality.

Don McGee: Yeah, I think you're right.

Dr. Reagan: You mentioned this before Don that the Greek mentality is anything material is evil. But the Bible teaches it was all created perfect, corrupted by the sin of man, and that God is determined that one of these days He will redeem it and set it back to its perfection. And I can hardly wait for that to happen.

Don Perkins: Dave, I want to add one thing. 1 Corinthians 15:19 says, "If we have hope in this life only we are men most miserable, even in Christ." The Scripture goes on, it let's us know that even in this present world this is not the end so all of our hopes should not be in this present world. We have a world that is to come, and that is a world, a new created world by Christ, which is this world, regenerated. Amen.

Dr. Reagan: Well before we consider three more reasons why every Christian should be yearning for the soon return of Jesus, let's pause for an announcement about a Bible prophecy study resource.

Part 2

Dr. Reagan: Ok, let's take a moment to review. We are discussing six reasons why all Christians should desire the soon return of Jesus. And thus far, we have mentioned three.

Don Perkins: And the first is that Jesus might receive what He had been promised. Namely, honor, glory and power over all the kingdoms of the earth.

Dennis Pollock: The second is that Satan might receive what he deserves. Namely, totally defeat, dishonor and humiliation.

Don McGee: And the third is that the creation might receive what it has been promised, namely, regeneration, restoration, and refreshment.

Dr. Reagan: A fourth reason I would like to see Jesus return is because I want to see the nations receive what they have been promised, namely, peace, righteousness, and justice. What about it fellas?

Dennis Pollock: Well, Dave, the Bible says that righteousness is gonna cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. It's an incredible promise. The Bible talks about nations beating their swords into plow shares, the idea of no more war. We can't comprehend that really, we've never had anything to identify with in those terms but that is what is going to happen when Jesus comes to rule. We're gonna have a world so incredibly at peace and think about it, how much you could put toward resources for people if we didn't have to develop armies and weapons. We could do so many things. We would be swimming in an ocean of abundance for the whole world if there was no such thing as war.

Dr. Reagan: And just all of the money going into armaments, being put into agricultural production.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: There will be no homeless people.

Don Perkins: No.

Dr. Reagan: There will be no hungry people. There will be no poor people during that reign of Jesus Christ. The earth is going to be flooded with prosperity, but also with

peace, righteousness and justice. Just think of that, we have a world in which none of those are characteristic.

Don McGee: This is going to be a vindication for every peace officer and every soldier that has ever served if you think about it very carefully.

Dr. Reagan: And you've been both, brother.

Don McGee: Been both of them, and you know, we can't bring this utopia. And no government and no army can bring this. And all we're doing is we're trying to hold back the tide, just a little bit, as much as we can. And it's actually a losing battle, until the day when Jesus taps us on the shoulder and He says, "Ok, guys, I've got it."

Dennis Pollock: Yeah, you know, one of the things that our parents used to remark. My parents have gone to be with the Lord, but they talked about a time when you didn't have to lock your doors at night. That time is gone. I mean, if you don't lock your doors at night you're just stupid. But that time's coming again! I don't think the people that manufacture locks are going to be in business anymore. There will be no locks needed because we will have righteousness flooding the earth.

Don Perkins: One other thing, it talks about justice. The world has never experienced true justice. Christ is gonna rule and reign and the Bible says we will reign with Him. You know, we have never experienced that. I mean, we have judges today that make rules and regulations that are totally contrary to God. I want to be part of a system where God is ruling.

Dr. Reagan: Amen brother. Well folks, there's a fifth reason that I want to see Jesus return. And that's because I want to see Israel receive what they have been promised. What about that? What are the promises?

Don McGee: You know what I want to see? I want to see Arafat and the rest of those guys bow before Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And secondly I want to see those same people admit that the Jews are the lawful recipients of the promises, the land promises that God made to Abraham through Jacob. I want to see that, I want to see the expression on that man's face when he has to say "yeah, I was wrong."

Dr. Reagan: I tell ya, he's getting into that Ragin' Cajun mood right now when he starts talking about Israel and the promises God's made to them. Fellas, have all the promises to Israel been fulfilled.

Dennis Pollock: There have been so many promises that have not been fulfilled. You know, God has a great big to-do list. I mean, there are a lot of things he has to do. If the world should end suddenly and we should be in that ethereal world that your church taught about and there was no millennium at all, then there would be a whole lot of things left unchecked on God's to-do list. And one of the big ones would be Israel. They have not come into that possession, they are not in that place of primacy. That has to happen before it's all wrapped up.

Don Perkins: I would say one other thing, Israel worshipping Jesus as the King. They will truly honor Him as King. He came in the first time riding a donkey, this time He's coming triumphant on a white horse, and Israel will worship Him as the true Messiah.

Dr. Reagan: You know, one of the promises, the statements about Israel in the millennium that I just love is found over in Zechariah, I think it's about chapter 9, where it says that the Jews will be so blessed by God during that time, that when a Jew walks by, ten gentiles will grab hold of him and say, "May we walk with you, because we know that God is with you?" The world is just gonna be turned upside down in terms of what it is today where the Jew is the bud of the jokes and persecution. The blessings of God will flow through Israel to all the world. Well, that brings us to a sixth reason that I would like to see Jesus return this year and that is because I want you and me, the church, to receive what we have been promised. What are some of those promises, fellas?

Dennis Pollock: Well, you know, there is a promise in the Old Testament, it says, blessed are the meek, rather, it says the meek will inherit the earth and delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Then Jesus basically rephrased it and said blessed are the meek, they'll inherit the earth. The meek will inherit the earth. Well, He was talking to those that would follow Him at that point, Jesus was. We're gonna inherit the earth, and Revelation talks about we're gonna reign over the nations. Again, if the world just blew up and there was no more world, those promises would go unfulfilled.

But they have to be fulfilled, so the time is coming when we, one of our promises is, we are gonna reign with Jesus. You over the chiggers, and the rest of us over other things.

Dr. Reagan: Well, what are some of the other promises to the church that we have to look forward to?

Don Perkins: Well, I really wanted to zero in a little bit more on the reigning aspect, because I'm looking forward to reigning with my Lord. I don't know what capacity I'm gonna be with Christ, I may be a mayor or a governor of a state, but I'm looking forward to reigning with Him. I want to be with my Christ, my Lord, to reign inside of His government. Amen.

Don McGee: And not only that, but I'm kind of a physical kind of guy, I like the earth business, all this other stuff, the spiritual stuff, that's good and that's important.

Dr. Reagan: You wouldn't be a good Hindu.

Don McGee: No I wouldn't make it in Hinduism at all. I'd rebel, they'd kill me quickly I'm sure. I want to see this earth redeemed. My background is fairly varied but I spent time as a farmer, I worked on a farm. I know what it is to hoe cotton and pick cotton and do that kind of thing. I want to be able to stand out there in a beautiful field and watch that thing grow and develop into the crop that God could make it into, without having to fight daily with the sweat of our brow trying to make it happen.

Dr. Reagan: Well, I'm surprised that none of you have mentioned one of the things that I'm looking forward to the most when Jesus Christ returns, a promise to the Church and that is, a new body, a glorified body. I am convinced Don that you and I are gonna have some hair in our glorified bodies. How about it?

Don McGee: I'm looking forward to it.

Dr. Reagan: But you know, really seriously, the Bible says the lame will walk, the blind will see, the deaf will hear. I have a grandson who is mentally impaired and I know that his mind will be set right and I'll be able to sit down and talk with him, which I can't do

today. Hey, that gets me excited about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those are promises He's made to his church!

Don McGee: And you know what Jesus did in His earthy ministry when He healed the sick and that kind of thing, was just a small part of what He's going to do during this time. And those people died later physically, that won't happen in the future.

Dennis Pollock: And you know, even greater than the new body will be the fact that in our new body the sin nature will not be there anymore. Amen. You know, we get born again, we love Jesus, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit, but still in the midst of your most spiritual times, some ugly thought pops out of nowhere, and you think, "Where did that come from?"

Dr. Reagan: Does that happen to you?

Dennis Pollock: Yeah, I hate to admit but yes! But to think to be able to live and worship God without that sin nature, without all those things inside of you that you know are wrong, even though you don't yield to them, you know, I don't like having it around. I'll be glad when it's gone.

Dr. Reagan: Oh, to have the mind of Christ and a body that's ruled by the Holy Spirit instead of the flesh. Amen. Are you ready for that brother?

Don Perkins: I'm ready. I'm ready. I'm ready.

Dr. Reagan: Any other promises to the church that you want to mention? Is that pretty well wrapped up?

Dennis Pollock: I think it's all summed up in the word reign. R-E-I-G-N. We are gonna reign with Christ. You know, people say, "What's heaven gonna be like?" or "What's the millennium gonna be like?" Well, we don't know all that's gonna be involved, but we know there will be government, there will be authority, and we will be a part of it. Jesus will be the head and we'll be under Him, working with Him and working for Him in His government.

Part 3

Dr. Reagan: Well gentlemen, we have exhausted our time for this program, but before we close out I'd just like to ask you if you have any personal reasons you'd like to share about why you would like to see the Lord return this year?

Don Perkins: Well first of all, I want to spend eternity with my Lord. I want to be reunited with my family. I have a grandfather who died years ago.

Dr. Reagan: Did you ever know him?

Don Perkins: I knew him well. And I loved him such much. He's born again and he died. And I cannot wait to be reunited with him. So I want Jesus to come back.

Dr. Reagan: Amen. What about you guys?

Dennis Pollock: Go ahead, Don.

Don McGee: Well, you know, I guess I'd have to split this up into two. There's the practical thing, the serious side, and then there's another side that appeals to the little boy that's still in me. First and foremost I want to see my Dad and my older brother, and others who have gone on before. That makes the return of the Lord so much more precious today that it was years ago. But secondly, I want to talk to Elijah, I want to talk to David. I want to pry all the answers out of those guys. There are some questions.

Dr. Reagan: Have you got a list of questions?

Don McGee: I tell you what, when the Rapture occurs I'm bringing my list. We'll be wafted up together. But those are two guys that I really would like to talk to. And I don't know how it's gonna work, I just believe that the Lord will allow this kind of situation to develop.

Dr. Reagan: I've got a lot of questions for Paul. You know, Peter even said that Paul wrote things that were difficult to understand. And I'd like to ask Paul a few questions about theology and some things that he wrote that are very difficult to understand. How about you Dennis?

Dennis Pollock: You know, Dave, as a preacher, you and I and all these guys do meetings, there's a lot of pressure involved with that. You go out and you want to do the best you can and there's various things that come up, and you do the best you can. But, my most favorite aspect of a meeting is when it's over. When God has done good work, and you're on the plane or driving the car home, and you just sense, you did pretty well, and it's over. And the pressure's off. And I think that when Christ comes back, those of us that have labored and serve in Christ and every Christian that would be is gonna have that [sighs] we made it.

Don Perkins: Sigh of relief.

Dennis Pollock: We're safe, it's over, pressure's off. We can enjoy an eternity with Him.

Dr. Reagan: When I think of the Lord returning I think of two scriptures, Romans 8:18 which says, "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is yet to be revealed to us." And there are people suffering mightily, suffering mightily from cancer and depression and it says whatever you are suffering it is nothing compared to the glory that is going to be revealed when Jesus returns. And the other one is over in 1 Corinthians 2:9 where Paul wrote, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of man even convinced what God has prepared for those who love him." But the next verse says those things have been revealed in God's Word through His Holy Spirit. Boy, I can hardly wait to see the Lord come back and be in His presence and see this earth redeemed and receive that glorified body. Amen? Amen. Amen.

Closing

Dr. Reagan: The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15, "Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting?" You know folks, only a Christian can look death in the face and sneer at it with such words, and that's because our Savior Jesus has conquered death. And He has promised that those who put their faith in Him will also overcome death. Here's how He put it in John 11:25, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me shall live, even if he dies." Dennis, tell our viewers how they can be assured of this promise of life everlasting.

Dennis Pollock: Certainly, Dave. Folks, all the religions of the world except Christianity teach that you must earn your salvation through good works. Only Christianity teaches that salvation through good works is impossible. Sinners cannot justify themselves to a perfect and holy God. But Jesus was sinless, He died in our place as an atonement for our sins, and all you have to do to receive that atonement is to place your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Don Perkins: And you can do that by praying a simple prayer confessing to God you are a sinner. That you are sorry for your sins and that you desire to receive Jesus as your savior. Salvation is a free gift of God through faith in Jesus. It's not something that you can earn.

Don McGee: And if you decide to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, let me urge you to seek a Bible-believing church where you can make a public confession of your faith in Jesus, submit yourself to water baptism and start growing in the faith.

Dr. Reagan: Well folks, that's it for this week. Again, I want to wish you a blessed New Year in the Lord Jesus Christ. Until next week, the Lord willing, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb and Lion Ministries, saying, "Look up! Be watchful! For our redemption is drawing near."

End of Program