

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary:
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead and buried:
He descended into hell:
The third day he rose again from the dead:
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:
I believe in the Holy Ghost:
The (universal) holy catholic church:
The communion of saints:
The forgiveness of sins:
The resurrection of the body:
And the life everlasting.
Amen

“From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead”

1. “From thence He shall come...”

-Jesus Christ, who is currently seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, will rise from that throne and come again to this earth. The work of Christ is not _____, and He will come again to complete the work that He has been given.

-The main focus of the Creed is on the person and work of the _____. His work in the past, His present activity, and His future work (10 of the 18 lines of the Creed focus on Christ). Packer writes, “The core of the Creed is its witness to the past, present, and future of Jesus Christ: His birth, death, rising, and ascension is the past; His reign now; and His coming at a future date to judge.” (105)

-The Creed does not attempt to suggest a date or give any information that might distract the saints from always being _____ for the coming of the Lord. We know that Christ is coming back and that in Scripture we are called to be ready. (Matthew 25:13)

-Jesus Christ is indeed coming again. While there have been and will continue to be scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4, Jude 18) the saints hold fast to the “_____”-the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

-Do we think of Christ’s second coming as our “blessed hope?” or are we too tied to this earth? Your love for Christ will be seen in your _____ for His coming. Are the words of the Bride your words “Make haste, my Beloved...” (Song of Songs 8:14)

“He who inhabits the praises of Israel, which rise, like the incense of spices, from His people's hearts, is invited by His bride to make haste, to come quickly, and be like a roe or young hart upon the mountains of spices. Very sweet is the presence of our LORD, as by His SPIRIT He dwells among His people, while they serve Him below; but here there are many thorns in every path which call for watchful care; and it is meet that now we should suffer with our LORD, in order that we may hereafter be glorified together. The day, however, is soon coming in which He will bring us up out of the earthly gardens and associations to the palace of the great KING. There His people "shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the LAMB, which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and GOD shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The SPIRIT and the bride say, Come! . . .

Surely I come quickly.

Amen; even so, come, LORD JESUS!”

-Hudson Taylor

2. “...to judge the quick (the living) and the dead...”

-Christ is indeed coming and He is coming specifically to _____ the living and the dead. All men will be judged by Christ. All who have ever died and all who happen to still be living at the time of the Lord's second coming will be judged. No one escapes the judgement of Christ. There is one great judgement that is to take place and this great general judgement takes place at the second coming of Christ.

-Now some may be thinking that this idea contradicts the idea of eagerly desiring His coming. Why would we want Him to come so bad if He is coming to Judge us? Wouldn't it be better if His judgment of us stayed delayed? In answer to these wrong thought-out questions would be that we need to consider who it is that is to be our Judge. Who sits on the throne of judgment? The One who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify us for His own possession (Titus 2:14). Our Judge is our Savior and He will not despise or treat with contempt those that are so precious and valuable to Him. Jesus is our High Priest who is even now praying for us. Jesus is called a friend that sticks closer than even our own brother. Jesus is our advocate, our gentle and kind Shepherd, and our Beloved. The Day of Judgement for the saint is not a day to be _____ but a day to _____ in, for on that day we will bodily be escorted by the heavenly hosts into the presence of God. On that Day the saints will be rewarded for those things they did for the Lord in this life. On that Day God will crown His own grace!

-Now for those that rejected Christ as Savior and Lord, that Day is the _____ to be feared. Oh, the terror of the divine judgement that waits for the wicked. The face that the wicked behold on that Day will be as fixed as steel. On that Day the wicked will be judged for all their ungodly deeds that they have committed in such an ungodly way and then will be cast into hell as punishment for their sin.

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

Revelation 22:12-13