**“NO LAST MINUTE THOUGHT”**

 **“NO ACCIDENT”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

 1) scripture – Hebrews 9:24-28

 -a. The religious world tells us that Christ’s coming, and his “dying” were

 never intended to come to pass.

 Modern day religion states;

 A) *“ They believe Jesus did not come to die, but only died and established the*

 *church because He failed to do what He originally came to do…”*

 *B)"Because the nation has rejected Him, the Lord ... (withdraws) the offer of the*

 *kingdom ..., and announces the inception of an entirely new, unheralded, and*

 *unexpected program -- the church"*

 *C) “Christ, presently serving us from heaven was never intended…”*

 -b. Christ, the “central theme” through the scriptures,

 from Genesis to Revelation

 -a-. O.T. says **“He is coming”**

 -b-. the Gospel accounts(Matt.-John) state that

 **“He came, and was here, for a purpose”**

 -c-.rest of the N.T. states that **“He is coming again”** – Acts 1:11

 -c. Therefore since the days of the book of Acts,

 we - are -as- all- others. ***“waiting for His return”*** – Phil 3:20

2) God’s “plan” unfolded over 1000’s of years to finally bring to pass a means of

 salvation for this world, that had sinned – Rom.3:23

3) John 17:4… everything “planned” to come to pass was accomplished

 *Christ’s coming, death, burial, and resurrection, and ascension* ***WAS THE PLAN***

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I) “CHRIST CAME FOR A PURPOSE”**

 1. Heb.9:26

 -a. “…he has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...”

 -b. He came forth for a purpose **to-put-away-sin**

 2. This was no accident, no late development in the plan of God, no last minute decision

 -a. “Premillennialism”, a teaching by many religions today sets forth that Christ

 came,

 surprisingly, unexpectedly was rejected by the Jews,

 crucified,

 so God *had to change His plans.*

 BUT…

 -b. Isaiah, 800 years earlier had wrote that:

 -1 surely our griefs he himself bore

 -2 he was pierced thru for our transgressions

 -3 he was oppressed and afflicted Isa. 53:3-12

 -4 My servant will justify the many

 -5 as he will bear their iniquities

 3. The scriptures TEACH Christ APPEARED

 -a. to put away sin

 -b. by His sacrifice

 -c. and that was God’s PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING –

 -1-. Acts 2:23

 -2-. Acts 3:18

 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****CHRIST’S DEATH WAS PLANNED BY GOD*** \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

 4. Christ CAME to take away sin, I John 3:5

 And sin is removed thru a sacrifice – Heb.9:22

 ***“without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins…”***

 5. He was the “lamb that came” – John 1:29

 and as a “lamb” was the reason that He came – John 12:27

 6. by His offering as a sacrifice, our forgiveness, purification from sins was made possible

 -a.Heb.1:3

 -b. Gal.1:4 … “who gave himself for our sins…”

 -c. I John 2:2 .. “the propitiation for our sins…”

 “propitiation” meaning the sacrifice that satisfied

 SONG…”TEN THOUSAND ANGELS”

 4th stanza… “and when he cried it’s finished, He gave himself to die

 salvations wondrous plan was done…”

 7. Upon the cross, Christ stated … **“It is finished”** – John 19:30

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**(II) “CHRIST PRESENTLY SERVES A PURPOSE”**

 1. Hebrews 9:24

 -a. as the sacrifice for man had been completed

 -b. Christ’s next “work” came forth.. His appearance into Heaven once again

 -c. after meeting with the apostles “one last time” – he ascended -Luke 24:50-51

 2. Acts1:11 – “this Jesus, who has been taken from you up into heaven..”

 -a. He ascended

 -b. Eph. 4:8… “…when he ascended on high…”

 Heb.4:14… “…who has passed thru the heavens…”

 Heb.6:20… concerning Heaven.. “Jesus has entered…”

 3. The one who “came from Heaven HAS **RE-ENTERED** – John 3:13

 -a. Christ came – John 1:14

 -b. did/completed the will of the Father – John 17:4-5

 -c. and now returned to the heavenly realm – Heb.9:24 “now into heaven itself”

 -d. Eph.1:20 – raised from the dead and seated in the heavens

 4. Into Heaven “FOR A PURPOSE”

 -a. as our high priest – representing man, us, before the Father

 -b. as our mediator(go-between) in struggles, trials we face in this life

 -c. Heb.7:25…

 for those seeking forgiveness, He petitions the Father and offers His blood

 -d. Heb.9:24 … “for us”

 Heb.3:18… “he is able to come to the aid…”

 5. I John 2:2.. if we sin, we have an “ADVOCATE” with the Father

 -a. one on our side

 -b. pleading our case

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**(III) “CHRIST SHALL COME AGAIN FOR A PURPOSE”**

 1. Hebrews 9:28…

 -a. Christ “appeared once” to provide a means of salvation

 -b. he is going to “appear a second time” for those who “took advantage”

 of what was offered…”the free gift of salvation”- Rom.6:23

 2. Although “many” have claimed to “know when” He is coming,

 we read from the scriptures that “NO ONE KNOWS” when the Father will send him

 -a. Matthew 24:36 – no one knows

 -b. I Pet.3:10 -- as a thief in the night

 -c. Matt.24:42-44—just have to always be ready

 3. Although even as Peter states, the “mockers” were saying

 “where is the promise of His coming?” –

 -a. II Pet.3:4

 -b. verse 9

 4. And the purpose of this coming – to sum up all that God has planned

 -a. to bring to an “end” salvation that came to this world

 -b. man has been given time, and one day God will close the “door”

 Matt.24:37-39

 -c. “judgment to this world”

 -1-. Blessings to those who “waited”…”looked”…”lived for Christ

 -2-. Condemnation for those who “rejected”…”set aside”... “ignored Christ”

5. A “vindication”(proving of truth) of the righteous over all those who had

 ridiculed, mocked, refused to acknowledge God in their lives

 -a. II Thess.1:8-9… for the unjust

 -b. then verse 10… for the saved

 Notice:

 **“for our testimony to you was believed”**

 -a. you believed the inspired word

 -b. you acted accordingly

 -c. you kept going forward for what was said to come forth

 -d. I Thess.2:13

 6. We MUST be assured that ONE DAY CHRIST IS COMING!

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) Concerning Christ’s appearance’s,

 He came according to the will of the Father,

 He is presently serving, fulfilling our needs before the Father

 He will come once more, that the “plan” might be completed

2) Let us accept the sacrifice that has been made –

 I Cor. 6:20..”for ye were bought with a price…”

3)Let us-------a. be thankful for His coming,

 b. take advantage of His presently serving

 c. and “look forward” **KNOWING** He shall appear once more

 Matthew 24:44