

# JESUS IS COMING



We believe in the personal and imminent Second Coming of Christ.

Over 300 times, the New Testament mentions the Second Coming of Christ. The Second Coming is the hope and motivation of the Church, and we are to comfort one another with this promise.

***1 Thessalonians 4:18: Wherefore comfort one another with these words.***

There will be definite signs preceding the Second Coming of Christ, and we are living in the generation that is seeing these prophecies fulfilled. The Coming of Christ, we deeply believe, is at hand, and this thought should motivate believers to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Jesus is Coming back for a glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle, not a defeated and downtrodden Church.

***Ephesians 5:27: That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***

Early believers greeted each other with the word “Maranatha” which means “Behold the Lord Cometh”. That word should be the center of our vocabulary, because we have seen the signs preceding His Second Coming fulfilled in our lifetime. “Maranatha” — Christ may come today.

## I. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

***John 14:3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***

In the divine plan of God, Jesus had to ascend into Heaven, and then is to return to earth again to fulfill prophecy. The study of the last times, or “eschatology”, shows His final Coming and the triumph of His Kingdom. We know He is returning again because:

### A. Angels proclaimed His Second Coming, just as they had announced His First Coming.

***Acts 1:11: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.***

***Luke 2:8-15:***

***<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,***

**keeping watch over their flock by night.**

**<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the Glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.**

**<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

**<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

**<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.**

**<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,**

**<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.**

The disciples response to the angels' announcement of Christ's Coming was of great joy.

**Luke 24:52: And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:**

- B. Jesus said that He would return.** He even gave a glimpse of how He would return in great splendor and glory.

**Matthew 26:64: Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven.**

Jesus said He would come quickly and that we should be ready.

**Matthew 24:44: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

- C. He is Coming for those who look for His Appearing.**

**Hebrews 9:28: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

- D. We are to long for and love His Appearing.**

**2 Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me**

**at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.**

**E. Christ's Return is called "The Blessed Hope".**

***Titus 2:13: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

**F. We are to wait patiently for His Return because the glories of that time will be well worth our waiting.**

***James 5:7-8:***

***<sup>7</sup> Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the Coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.***

***<sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the Coming of the Lord draweth nigh.***

**II. SIGNS OF HIS COMING.**

***Matthew 24:3-4:***

***<sup>3</sup> And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy Coming, and of the end of the world?***

***<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.***

**A. Signs in Matthew 24:**

1. Many False Christs or Saviours would arise leading many astray.

***<sup>5</sup> For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.***

2. Wars and rumors of wars constantly.

***<sup>6</sup> And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.***

3. Natural Disasters increasing.

***<sup>7</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.***

4. Believers to be persecuted and martyred.

***<sup>9</sup> Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and***

***ye shall be hated of all nations for My Name's sake.***

5. Betrayed by friends, and hatred of one another will be the order of the day.

***<sup>10</sup>And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.***

6. False prophets and preachers will multiply and deceive many people.

***<sup>11</sup>And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.***

7. Because of the great evil of the world, many will lose their intense love for God.

***<sup>12</sup>And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.***

8. The Gospel shall be preached to all the world.

***<sup>14</sup>And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***

9. Sacred things will be desecrated.

***<sup>15</sup>When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, stand in the Holy Place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)***

10. Society will be locked in great evil, only concerned about material things such as eating, drinking, and being merry. They will not be concerned in the least about spiritual matters.

***<sup>37</sup>But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the Coming of the Son of man be.***

***<sup>38</sup>For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the Ark,***

***<sup>39</sup>And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

## **B. Signs in [Luke 21:11-28](#):**

Luke records many of the same signs Jesus gave us in Matthew 24. However, this account also adds additional information. These additional signs are:

1. Fearful sights and great signs in the Heavens.

***<sup>11</sup>And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from***

## **Heaven.**

2. Believers to be brought before kings and rulers to defend their faith, and it shall turn to you for a testimony.

***12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My Name's sake.***

***13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.***

3. Believers will be betrayed by relatives.

***16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.***

4. Believers will be hated of all men for Christ's sake.

***17 And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake.***

5. Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies.

***20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.***

6. Leaders of nations will be unsure of their leadership and unable to solve the world's problems.

***25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;***

7. Men's hearts will fail them for fear when they see the terrible things that will happen to the earth.

***26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.***

## **C. Signs in [Mark 13](#):**

Mark records the same signs as Matthew and Luke. However, there are a few clarifications.

1. Persecution will come from the religious community.

***9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought***

***before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them.***

2. God shortens the days of trouble for the believers' sakes.

***<sup>20</sup> And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom He hath chosen, He hath shortened the days.***

3. The generation that sees the fulfillment of these signs will not pass away before Jesus returns.

***<sup>30</sup> Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.***

### **III. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING**

How Jesus will come again has been the subject of much theological debate. However, the Scriptures are very plain about the manner of His Coming the next time.

***1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:***

***<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

***<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

#### **A. It is personal.**

Note the above verse of Scripture, "***For the Lord Himself***". Also, the angels said He would return in like manner as they saw Him go.

***Acts 1:11: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.***

#### **B. It is physical.**

The Second Coming is not when Christ comes for saints at death. Jesus taught it was an actual physical Coming that would have shocking impact on the world.

***Matthew 24:40-41:***

***<sup>40</sup> Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

**41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

The dead in Christ will rise first, and then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together.

### **C. It is unsuspected.**

We do not know when Jesus will return. Not even the angels of Jesus Himself know.

**Matthew 24:36: But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but My Father only.**

His Coming is like “a thief in the night”, totally unexpected.

**1 Thessalonians 5:2: For yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

**1 Peter 3:10: But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

In the hour we least expect Him, He will come.

**Matthew 24:44: Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

### **D. It is sudden.**

His Coming will be like the lightning.

**Matthew 24:27: For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the Coming of the Son of man be.**

We will be changed in that sudden moment of Christ’s return in the twinkling of an eye.

**1 Corinthians 15:52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

## **IV. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING**

**2 Timothy 4:1: I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom;**

Perhaps no other doctrine has divided evangelicals as that of eschatology (the study of the End Times). There are those who insist on their own private interpretation of the events and at just what point Jesus will return, until they focus all their attention on the details of the events rather than on the grandeur and purpose of His Coming. They are much like the pussycat in the fairy tale who went to see the queen, and all she saw was the mouse underneath the chair. She missed the grandeur of the palace because her attention was focused on the mouse.

Often we miss the grandeur of the Return of Jesus because we insist on a particular order of events. The simple and glorious fact is Jesus is Coming and we are to be ready. With this in mind, we can proceed to explore His Coming.

#### **A. Events of His Coming in time sequence**

1. Rapture of the Church - Although never called "Rapture" in the Bible, this event is when Jesus returns for His Own to take them with Him "in the air" (see above portions of Scripture).

***1 Corinthians 15:52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***

2. Tribulation of seven years on the earth for those who are left after the Rapture

***Luke 17:34-36:***

***<sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left***

***<sup>35</sup> Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

***<sup>36</sup> Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

Events during this period of time are described by John in the Book of Revelation.

***Revelation 6:13: And the stars of Heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.***

John speaks of some saved during this time.

***Revelation 7:14: And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.***

3. Second Coming of Christ with His saints



***Jude 1:14: And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints,***

***Revelation 1:7: Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.***

***1 Thessalonians 3:13: To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.***

#### 4. The Millennium

This Latin word means a period of one thousand years, and this figure is mentioned six times. It is when satan is bound, and the saints who have returned with Jesus in the air reign with Him.

***Revelation 20:2: And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan, and bound him a thousand years,***

***Revelation 20:6: Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.***

#### 5. Final Judgment.

Satan will be loosed a little while at the end of the millennium.

***Revelation 20:7: And when the thousand years are expired, satan shall be loosed out of his prison,***

Then will come the Great White Throne Judgment of God.

***Revelation 20:11: And I saw a Great White Throne, and Him Who sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.***

The final punishment for the wicked

***Revelation 20:15: And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.***

And the eternal home of the believers

***Revelation 22:14: Blessed are they that do His Commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.***

### B. Three judgments to come

1. Judgment of believers' works. This will take place following the "Rapture" and is known as the "Judgment Seat of Christ".

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15:**

***12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;***

***13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.***

***14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.***

***15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.***

Paul says all believers will stand before Christ, and our works will be tried.

**Romans 14:10-12:**

***10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.***

***11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.***

***12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.***

2. Judgment of the nations. Here God calls all the living nations before Him for judgment. This occurs at the Second Coming, following the Tribulation period and Christ returning with His saints.

**Matthew 25:31-32:**

***31 When the Son of man shall come in His Glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the Throne of His Glory:***

***32 And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:***

3. The Great White Throne Judgment - Here all the dead are resurrected to judgment before God and given their eternal punishment.

**Revelation 20:11-15:**

***11 And I saw a Great White Throne, and Him Who sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.***

***12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were***

*written in the books, according to their works.*

***13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were Judged every man according to their works.***

***14 And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.***

***15 And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.***

They will be assigned different degrees of punishment for their evils.

***Luke 12:42: And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?***

There is no higher court to which those doomed souls can appeal. Those who stand before the Great White Throne Judgment bar are forever lost.

## **V. LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF HIS COMING**

Knowing Jesus is soon to return, the Bible says we are to live accordingly. We must be ready for His Appearing.

***Romans 13:12-14:***

***12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.***

***13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.***

***14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.***

### **A. We are to live patiently and to establish our hearts in Christ.**

***James 5:8: Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the Coming of the Lord draweth nigh.***

### **B. We are to live moderately and let men see our godly lives.**

***Philippians 4:5: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.***

### **C. We are to live soberly, taking our responsibilities seriously and praying much.**

**1 Peter 4:7: But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

#### **D. We are to always be ready for His Coming.**

**Matthew 25:1-13:**

**<sup>1</sup> Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.**

**<sup>2</sup> And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.**

**<sup>3</sup> They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:**

**<sup>4</sup> But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**

**<sup>5</sup> While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.**

**<sup>6</sup> And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.**

**<sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.**

**<sup>8</sup> And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.**

**<sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.**

**<sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.**

**<sup>11</sup> Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.**

**<sup>12</sup> But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

Jesus is Coming soon. We see the signs being fulfilled and we lift up our eyes, for our redemption draweth nigh.

**Luke 21:28: And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**

We know when He comes, we shall be like Him.

**1 John 3:2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.**

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Humbard, Ron Hembree, John T. Hendricks (all three men are in Heaven)**

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