

_____, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

Many today scoff at the thought of Jesus coming. They reason that because it has been spoken of so long, and has not happened, then it will never occur. They conclude that the world will continue on as always, without change. This is what the people before the flood thought, but they were wrong.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

We can see from the words of Jesus and other Bible writers that we are indeed living in a time when we can expect Jesus to come. The signs are clear, the end is near, but we have no need to fear. It simply means that the Christian will soon be gathered with all the saved to receive the reward of everlasting life.



There is no doubt that Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready? Have you made the necessary preparation? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to be Ruler of your life? Jesus' words of admonition after speaking on this subject were:

Matthew 24:44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Is it your desire to prepare for the coming of Jesus? _____

Life's VITAL ANSWERS

Future Galactic Phenomenon



From the time Christ ascended to heaven after His crucifixion and resurrection His followers have anxiously looked forward to His promised Second Coming. The Second Coming of Christ is mentioned more than 300 times in the New Testament. This indicates the deep desire for the glorious event to take place. As this subject is contemplated, it can be seen that it is indeed the blessed hope of the Christian, for it marks the beginning of a new way of life. It means the end of this world, and the beginning of a life that will never end.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and **he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

Here is the promise of His Second Coming, the end of sin's power and the long looked for day of salvation.

John 14:1-3 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, _____ and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Christ said, “I will come again”. People often make a promise with every intention of keeping it, but sometimes circumstances do not permit them to fulfil their promise. But Jesus Christ's promises are sure – they *will* come to pass, and if there is one thing absolutely certain, it is the fact that Christ will one day return to this earth.

Luke 24:39 “Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; **a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**”

Here Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, not in spirit form, but as flesh and bone – the same Jesus. Will Jesus return in spirit, or will He be the same Jesus?

Acts 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”



This is the record of the ascension. The disciples saw Him ascend, and the two men in white (probably angels) said “this same Jesus”

kind is seen in the world today, and is becoming more widespread. Purity in life is becoming a rare commodity, and is ridiculed by those controlled by their lusts. As we see iniquity abound, it is a sure sign that Jesus is coming soon.

Luke 21:11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

At one time earthquake centres were pinpointed, now they occur anywhere at any time. Destructive earthquakes are multiplying year by year, suggesting that our world is stumbling towards its fall like a drunken man.



Matthew 24:6,7 _____

_____, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Our generation is the only one that has seen world wars. Wars are being fought somewhere on the earth all the time. There have always been wars, but not of the magnitude seen in our age.

James 5:3,4,8 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. _____, because the Lord's coming is near.

The hoarding of great riches, strife between employers and employees are signs that Jesus is coming. We have never seen such big business; we have never seen so many strikes and industrial unrest. The coming of the Lord draws near.

2 Peter 3:3,4 First of all, you must understand that _____

Matthew 24:36 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Many in the past have made the mistake of setting a date for Christ’s return. Jesus was definite; nobody knows the exact time when He will come.

Matthew 24:32,33 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. **Even so, when you see all these things, you _____, right at the door.**

Even though the exact time is unknown. Christ made it clear that His followers would be able to tell the nearness of His coming. When the Bible signs come to pass, it is the signal to the Christian to look up because redemption draws near. Just as the new shoots on the trees show that springtime is here and summer is near so the signs tell us that Christ’s coming is at the doors.

Luke 21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

What are the signs we are to look for? How can we know whether we are living in the time when we can expect Christ to come?

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The commission given to the Christian church was to take the message of Christ to the whole world. Most of the world has been reached in some way or another: Bibles, preaching, literature, radio, and T.V. etc. When this is accomplished, Christ will come.

Matthew 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.

Our world is in a state of moral collapse. The crime rate grows at more than ten times the population growth. Immorality of the worst

would return the same way. His ascension was visible; His return will not be secret, but visible.

Matthew 24:30 At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. **They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.**



Jesus Himself said His return would be visible, not only to the righteous, but also to the wicked.

The wicked will see Jesus come as well as the righteous

Revelation 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and _____ even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

None will be exempt from witnessing this glorious event.

Matthew 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and **all the angels with him**, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

It will certainly be a most glorious sight – Jesus in all His glory, surrounded by all the holy angels. He comes as a rightful king to sit on His throne.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Here is the reward of the faithful – eternal life – forever with the Lord. Notice the event is accompanied by much noise: a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God. There is nothing secret about the Second Coming. Not only will every eye see Him, but every ear will hear as well.

A miraculous event takes place when Jesus returns. The resurrection of the dead in Christ occurs. Many have been in their graves for hundreds of years, but now the faithful are raised to eternal life. Some living at the time of Christ's return, and who have of course never experienced death, are caught up in the air with the Lord. These now have eternal life, and will never taste death. Interestingly, at Christ's return He does not touch the earth. Notice in this text how the resurrected and the living righteous meet Him "in the air".



1 Corinthians 15:51-54 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed—in a flash**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, _____, and we will be changed.... then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

The righteous bodies are not composed of the same flesh they possessed when they first went to their graves. Instead, they are changed in an instant. They are imperishable. God bestows on them the gift of immortality, Death is then forever banished.

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and _____ and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Those who are not prepared for this climactic event are fearful. They find no joy in the presence of the Lord. They seek destruction in order to be hidden from Him.

Titus 2:13 ...while we wait for the blessed hope— the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Without the Second Coming there would be no hope, for this event is

the climax of the ages. It is the turning point. It marks the end of death and the problems of this life. It marks a new beginning. It is the realization of our hopes and prayers. It is the beginning of all we have been striving for. No wonder John the Revelator said:

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

There are only two groups on that great day – the righteous and the wicked – the saved and the unsaved. Which group will you be in? Choose Jesus as your Saviour and your Guide today, and you will be ready for Jesus to come.

Signs of Christ's Coming

We have looked at the manner in which Jesus will return. We now need to address the question of when He will return and how we can know it is near.

Jesus aroused the disciples' curiosity when He spoke of future events. The temple had taken over forty years to build, yet Jesus predicted, "Not one stone shall be left upon another". When they came to the Mount of Olives to rest, the disciples saw the opportunity to ask Jesus when this event would take place. But they looked even further into the future when they asked about the end of the world and the signs of Christ's Second Coming.

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and _____ and of the end of the age?"



Jesus and the Disciples on the Mount of Olives

Jesus proceeded to tell them of deceptions that would take place, and also not one sign, but many signs that would indicate the nearness of Christ's coming. Some of His predictions had their fulfilment primarily in Jerusalem itself, but served as minor fulfilments to illustrate the ultimate events, showing that Christ would soon appear.