



Global College of Ministry

EXPLAIN

The Christian and Jesus' Return

The God of Action Says, "I Will..."

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh"
(Acts 2:17).

There is close to seven thousand promises in the Bible. As we read from Genesis (the beginning) to Revelation (the end) we see the story of a God who graciously showers gifts upon His people. This story comes to life when we say, "God, You said it! You moved upon men to write it! I believe it!"

When we say we believe, we mean "we have faith in; a mental persuasion of; and confidence in." We must learn to believe, claim, walk in, and stand upon the promises of God.

Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

When God says "I will," He is giving His guarantee. It is His pledge to act. The word "promise" appears fifty-two times in the New Testament. Never is it linked with negotiation on the part of man.

Promises are free and unmerited if we will do three things:

1. Comply with the conditions laid down.
2. Pray the promises into our lives.
3. By faith, claim the promises and believe them.

2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise." In Romans 4:21 we read, "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

The God of Action proclaims, "I will!"

Matthew 16:18

"Upon this rock, I will build my church!" As an after statement to Peter revealing who He was, Jesus announced His purpose of coming to earth. He came to build His church and He continues the work.

Matthew 16:19

"And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom."

Once He proclaimed His purpose and vision statement for His journey into the homes and hearts of fallen mankind, Christ tells Peter He has given him the Kingdom keys. He gave Peter the keys to the church He was about to build.

Acts 2:15-17

Standing in the midst of a bewildered crowd of Jews, Peter stood boldly to address them. Their question was "What meaneth this?" (Acts 2:12).

In response Peter assured them, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose... But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Joel had long before prophesied that there would be a great outpouring of the Spirit of God.

Here Peter used the keys to unlock the stony hearts of the Jews gathered on the Day of Pentecost and to open wide the door of salvation for them.

Acts 2:18

He again repeats, "...I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

Acts 2:19

"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath..."

Summary

- Jesus said, "I will" build my church!
- Jesus said, "I will" give you the keys to that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" pour out my Spirit in that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" show signs, wonders, and miracles in that church.
- Jesus said, "I will" come back for that church (John 14:3).
- Jesus said, "I will" give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Study Questions

1. How many promises are in the Word of God? _____

2. What does "believe" mean? _____

3. How many times does the word "promise" appear in the New Testament? _____

4. What three things must we do to receive the promises of God? _____

5. What was the purpose of Jesus coming to the earth? _____

6. What did Jesus give to Peter and when did he use them? _____

7. What was Peter's answer to the question, "What meaneth this?" _____

8. What had Joel prophesied? _____

9. Where is this prophecy located in the Old Testament? _____

10. What are the six times that Jesus said, "I Will" as recorded in this lesson?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

Jesus Is Coming Again

“In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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”

(John 14:2-3).

Introduction

A careful study of God’s Word reveals that apart from Jesus’ first appearing as a baby in a manger, there are four other times when He promised to come. Just to make these clear, let us study each one:

- 📖 In John 14:18, Jesus promised to come back to the disciples and give them comfort. This was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
- 📖 John 14:2-3 speaks of another “second” coming, when Jesus promised to take His disciples unto Himself in a beautiful home He has gone to prepare.
- 📖 In Revelation 19:11-19, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords comes with all the armies of heaven to smite the nations.
- 📖 In Revelation 20:11-15, God once again comes to judge everyone who has lived on earth.

This lesson is about the second time Jesus will come to earth in a bodily form (John 14:2-3).

Jesus Speaks of His Second Coming

Jesus first began to speak of this special time when His disciples were asking questions because they had understood that following Him had a price. Jesus promised them another comforter (John 15:26-27). Then they wanted to know about this coming again to take them home with Him. They even asked for signs to help them recognize that the end of their suffering was near. They went to Jesus in a private place, away from the crowds, and asked for more understanding. Matthew 24 speaks of things to look for as preludes to His Second Coming.

- 📖 **“Take heed that no man deceive you. . .”** Jesus promised that many false Christs would arise, claiming to be a Messiah of some sort. We must be careful to stay in God’s Word to know for sure we are following His truths (Matthew 24:4-5).
- 📖 **“. . . Wars and rumors of wars. . .”** You can hardly pick up a newspaper without seeing that another war has begun somewhere in the world. All around us men are fighting each other for land or some other material wealth. There is talk of “ethnic cleansing,” civil war, and many other terrible troubles among people of the world (Matthew 24:6-7).
- 📖 **“. . . And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. . .”** We are experiencing many different weather patterns in our world today. There is heat where it is normally cold, and cool weather where it is normally hot. Droughts, floods, and even serious earthquakes are occurring in many different locations around the world. *“All these are the beginning of sorrows”* (Matthew 24:7-8).

- 📖 ***“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many”*** (Matthew 24:11). There has never been a time in history when more people were being deceived and led astray from the one true God. Many are falling away because of iniquity, but that is not a reason to quit; it is a reason to hold on harder than ever before. Those who endure are the only ones who will make it (Matthew 24:13).
- 📖 ***“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”*** (Matthew 24:14). This is one of the only signs of the end time that has not been totally fulfilled. We are still working daily to share the gospel with *“whosoever will,”* and the task is great. But Jesus never asked us to do anything that was impossible – we just have to trust Him and keep on working.
- 📖 ***“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only”*** (Matthew 24:36). The purpose of our study is not to tell you when Jesus is coming again, but to make you aware of the signs He has given to let us know His coming is getting closer every day. We need to be looking up, for He could come at any time.
- 📖 **Compare the days of the end to the days of Noah** – What was going on while Noah and his sons were building the ark? (Matthew 24:37-39).
 - ***“Eating and drinking”*** – more restaurants, bars, and places to consume food than ever before in the history of the world.
 - ***“Marrying and giving in marriage”*** – more people getting married, divorcing, and then remarrying to their heart’s content.
 - ***“Knew not until the flood came and took them all away”*** – they did not listen to the preaching of Noah, nor realized what was taking place until it was too late to do anything about it.
- 📖 **How will it happen?** – Jesus said that it would take us by surprise. Two would be working together, and one would be taken while the other was left behind (Matthew 24:40-42). His main point was to let us know that His coming will be a surprise. We need to be ready at all times because we never know when He will appear (Matthew 24:44).

Others Speak of His Second Coming

Paul, in his epistles, spoke to different churches of this “Second Coming” of our Saviour.

To the Church at Thessalonica – because of intense persecution by some Jews who lived in Thessalonica, Paul was forced to leave this newly founded church before he had taught them as much as they needed. He wrote this letter to give them some encouraging words and more sound doctrine.

- 📖 1 Thessalonians 4 begins with instructions about how to please the Lord, but then Paul begins to explain to them about those who die before Jesus comes again. *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

- 📖 Then Paul begins to speak of certain things that would be happening when this “trump of God” sounds:
 - This day would come as a “thief in the night.” Paul agrees that no one knows when this event will take place.
 - People would be crying for “peace and safety.” The whole world is crying for peace, and there are more “peace talks” than ever before, while more war and destruction is taking place around the world.
- 📖 Paul’s final admonition is that the church “watch.” *“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:6).* Paul was telling his new converts to be spiritually prepared so they would escape God’s wrath. We must be spiritually awake, morally alert, and careful to stay in God’s Word.

To the Church at Corinth – Paul was teaching the Corinthian saints about the resurrection of Jesus and the hope this gives us as believers in Him. *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Corinthians 15:19).*

He went on to tell them exactly how they would receive a glorified body at the resurrection that would be a part of Christ’s second coming.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

Paul gave us several interesting clues in these passages:

- 📖 All believers will not be dead, but they will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51).
- 📖 It will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52).
- 📖 There will be a trumpet blast heralding the grand event (1 Corinthians 15:52).
- 📖 The corruptible (those whose bodies have decayed) will put on incorruption – they will have a new body (1 Corinthians 15:53).
- 📖 This mortal will take on immortality – those still alive will take on a new body that will never die (1 Corinthians 15:54).
- 📖 Death will no more be victorious over those who have received their victory through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:55).

The Purpose of His Second Coming

God has always had a plan for the saving of His people. In the Old Testament He made it clear that sin had separated Him from His creation, but He had a plan for redemption. Nevertheless, He must still punish those who refuse to accept that plan and follow in His "Path to Righteousness."

He spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament:

- 📖 Isaiah 13:9-11 – *"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereon out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in His going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity, and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."*
- 📖 Zephaniah 1:14-18 – *"The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy; for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."*

He spoke through New Testament writers:

- 📖 John the Revelator asked this question in Revelation 6:17: *"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*
- 📖 Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3: *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*
- 📖 Paul wrote again in that same chapter of 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 of our hope in Jesus: *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."*

When Is He Coming?

There are varied opinions as to whether Jesus will come the second time before, during, or after He allows His wrath to fall on the earth. However, we have already given enough Scriptures to support this understanding:

- 📖 "No man knows the day nor the hour" (Matthew 24:36).
- 📖 "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:44).
- 📖 ". . .like a thief in the night"(1 Thessalonians 5:2).

"The early believers were not looking for something to happen, they were looking for someone to come!
Looking for the train to arrive is one thing, but looking for someone we love to come on that train is another matter." – Vance Havner

Why do we need to know when? So we can play around until the hour has arrived? So that we can do as we please, and then when the time comes, be ready? No, we do not actually need to know the exact time. We need to live every minute of every day in the expectant hope that He is coming again. He is coming back to take us home with Him, and *"so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Jesus is coming SOON!

Study Questions

1. List (with Scripture reference) the four (4) times in the New Testament that Jesus promised to return.
 - 1) _____
 - _____
 - 2) _____
 - _____
 - 3) _____
 - _____
 - 4) _____
 - _____

2. Which of these promises involve His (Jesus') return in bodily form? _____

3. List the six (6) signs found in Matthew chapter 24 that Jesus told His followers to look for just before His second coming. Include the reference (verse) for each.
 - 1) _____
 - _____
 - 2) _____
 - _____
 - 3) _____
 - _____
 - 4) _____
 - _____

5) _____

6) _____

4. In Matthew chapter 24, what three (3) ways does Jesus compare the days of the end to the days of Noah? List and briefly explain.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

5. Give a brief explanation, with Scripture reference, of how Jesus said His second coming would happen. _____

6. What two different churches did Paul write to about this "second coming?" (Support your answer with Scripture.)

1) _____

2) _____

7. In Paul's writings to the church at Corinth, what six (6) clues did he give about the glorified body God's saints will receive at the resurrection of the last days? Give Scripture reference for each.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

8. What two (2) Old Testament writers did God speak through about His second coming?
Give Scripture reference to support.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

9. What two (2) New Testament writers did God speak through about His second coming?
Give Scripture reference to support.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

10. Write out three verses (with Scripture reference) that give understanding about when Jesus will come again.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

Additional Notes

He Is Coming Soon

“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”
(Acts 1:11).

There they stood, the followers of Jesus, staring into the sky. They deeply felt the loss of the one they dearly loved. Surely, their minds drifted back to the Master's last message before Calvary.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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” (John 14:1-3).

The heavenly messengers reminded them that this same Jesus would return in the same way. Their words serve as a constant reminder to us. He is coming soon!

The reason we believe in the return of Christ is because Jesus promised it, and He never lies. The Word of God records His promise(s) and is forever settled in heaven (Psalms 119:89).

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20, *NIV*).

There are nearly 300 references to Christ's return in the New Testament. No one knows for sure when He will come (although many have falsely predicted His return, only to be embarrassed).

Warren W. Wiersbe in *Be Dynamic* advised, “Regardless of what views different people may take of God's prophetic program, Christians agree that Jesus is coming again and that He can come at any time. This in itself is a great motivation for faithful Christian service (Luke 12:34-36).”

**“Occupy till I come”
(Luke 19:13).**

The early church stayed alert as they expected Christ's promised return. Christians continue to watch and wait for His return. It is easier to wait if we have something to do. Have you ever

waited to see the doctor? (Were you not thankful for the book you had to read?) What about waiting for the bus to arrive? (Wasn't it nice to have a friend to talk to during the long wait?)

There are four main things to do while waiting for the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- 📖 Watch (Matthew 24:42, 25:13; Mark 13:33; Luke 21:36).
- 📖 Be ready (Matthew 24:44).
- 📖 Serve (Matthew 25:31-46).
- 📖 Be faithful in church attendance and abiding in the Word. (Hebrews 10:25).

“And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28, *NIV*).

While waiting, we must continue to serve our Master in the unfinished task of world evangelism. We should also encourage one another toward perfection and faithfulness. Herein lies two major functions of the body of Christ: evangelism and encouragement.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

Preacher, Preach the Word!

“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; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:1-2).





“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:2-4).

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord . . . Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh” (James 5:7-8).

Hope Is Coming

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12-13).

Ralph Reynolds explained the Christians' hope.

-  Blessed hope (Titus 2:13).
-  Comforting hope (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
-  Lively hope (1 Peter 1:3).
-  Purifying hope (1 John 3:3).

Looking Forward

We look forward to the coming of the Lord, not death. He can come at any moment—in the twinkling of an eye. He will come back for those who are ready, not those who are getting ready. At that time, Jesus will receive His bride, the church.

“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” (Ephesians 5:27).

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4).

Caught Up with Jesus

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: 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” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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 . . . Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58).





These passages refer to the “catching away” of the church (“the called out ones”). It is frequently called the “Rapture” (although the word is not in the Bible). This term is taken from a Latin word meaning, “to transport from one place to another.” It is when Jesus will come in the air to catch away His prepared church. Imagine the reaction of a sin-sick world when millions of men, women, boys, and girls suddenly disappear. There are three views of when the snatching away will take place.

Pre-tribulation	Before tribulation.
Mid-tribulation	Middle of tribulation.
Post-tribulation	End of the tribulation.

Ron Rhodes in *The Complete Book of Bible Answers* stated, "The different views of the rapture may disagree over the timing of end-time events, but they all agree on the *big picture*: there will be a rapture and we will live forever with Jesus in heaven."

C. S. Lewis admonished us to live each day as though it were our last, but plan as though the world might last a hundred years.

The important thing is not when He is coming, but that we are ready when He comes. To be ready, we must be:

-  Baptized in Jesus' name (Acts 2:38).
-  Filled with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11, Colossians 1:27).
-  Holy (Hebrews 12:14).
-  Looking for His return (Hebrews 9:28).

The Promise Is Coming Again

The Old Testament prophets proclaimed, "The Promise is coming!" ("Jesus is coming.") The writers of the Gospels announced, "The Promise is here!" ("Jesus is here.") The writers of the remainder of the New Testament assure us, "The Promise is coming again." ("Jesus is coming again.")

Literal Return	Acts 1:11
Visible Return	Hebrews 9:28 Revelation 1:7
Forthcoming Return	Matthew 24:42
Personal Return	Acts 1:11
Glorious Return	Titus 2:13
Bodily Return	Matthew 24:29-30

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21).

"The period of restitution of all things" refers to the earthly reign of Jesus Christ. Following the great tribulation (Revelation 7:14, Matthew 24:21), the church will reign with Christ for one thousand years (Revelation 20:4). This period is called the "Millennium."

A family had lived for years farming on someone else's land and sharing the profits of the harvest. One day, the father announced, "I'm tired of working so hard and sharing the profits with the owner. We should start saving money to buy our own land."

The family saved money for years. One day the father announced, "We have enough money to buy our own land. Tomorrow morning I will travel to the big city and see the owner of a plot of land that is close to here."

His small son begged, "Daddy, I have never been to the big city before. Please let me go."

"No, Son. You will need to stay here with your mother. It is a long journey."

The child continued to beg until the father complied, "You can go on one condition. You must do everything I tell you."

The little boy quickly agreed. Father and son rose early the next morning and departed for the capital. They walked briskly down the muddy village road and joined a taxi. The traffic into the city was like nothing the boy had ever experienced. Finally, they reached their destination.

As they left the taxi, the father explained, "Son, I am going up into this tall building. I want you to stay right here until I return. Do you understand?"

The boy nodded, and the father disappeared into the building. The boy stood obediently waiting for his Daddy. After what seemed like eternity, the boy felt a raindrop on his forehead, then another, and then a steady stream of rain. Everyone, except the faithful little boy, scurried for cover. Someone passed by and ordered, "Boy, get out of the rain. You will catch a cold."

The boy stood there like an unbendable soldier. A lady stopped in her large car and spoke to him, "Son, you need to come in out of the rain."

The boy explained, "I can't. My father went up into that big building, and he told me to wait right here until he returns."

The lady pleaded, "Come in out of the rain. Your daddy did not know it was going to rain when he asked you to wait here."

The boy persisted, "Daddy did not say it would not rain. He only said that he would come again. I will remain here until he comes!"

Jesus has gone into heaven to prepare a place for us. He never promised it would not rain (or we would not have problems), but He did say, "I will come again!"

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The wait is not always easy and seems long, but we will stay right here and watch. When He comes, I will be ready. Will you?

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Study Questions

1. What promise did Jesus give His followers before going to Calvary? _____

2. Why do we believe in the return of Christ? _____

3. How many New Testament references speak concerning the return of Christ? _____

4. There are many views concerning the end time, but what do all Christians agree upon? _____

5. What are four main things we should do while waiting for the return of Christ? _____

6. Who is our blessed hope? _____

7. According to 1 John 3:3, what will every man who has this hope do? _____

8. What is meant by the "Rapture"? _____

9. What are the prerequisites for those who will be caught away? _____

10. What did the Old Testament prophets proclaim concerning the Promise? _____

11. What do the Epistles and Revelation tell us about the Promise? _____

Jesus Is Coming Soon

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night”
(1 Thessalonians 5:2).

One of the most significant truths in Bible prophecy is that Jesus is coming soon. It is only the subject of salvation that is mentioned on more occasions in the Word of God.

Jesus Christ has gone to heaven to prepare an eternal home for Christians. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 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” (John 14:2-3).

“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” (Acts 1:11).

Jesus will soon return and rapture His people. The term rapture means, “caught away” or “caught up.” It refers to the catching away of the church, from the earth, to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55).

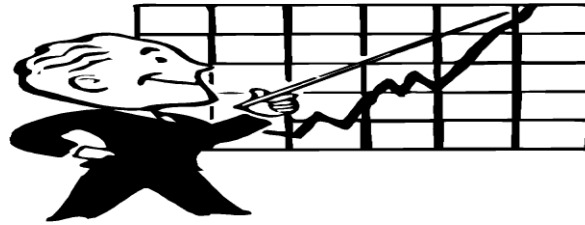


HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Jesus is coming again.

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Is this what the Bible teaches?			
Is this what you believe?			
Is this what your church teaches?			

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). This Scripture concludes that hell will be more populated than heaven. Today's decisions determine tomorrow's destiny.



HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?
Are you ready?

A few final questions:

1. Are you in a place spiritually where you have full assurance you have eternal life or is there something holding you down or keeping you back?
2. In the unlikely event you would die today and stand before God, and suppose He were to ask you, "Why should I permit you into heaven?" What would be your response?
3. If you died in your sleep tonight where would you wake up?

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

Study Questions

1. What subject is mentioned more in the Word of God than the prophecy that Jesus is coming soon? _____

2. Write out two (2) Scripture passages that support the statement, "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people."

1) _____

2) _____

3. Write a brief definition of the term "rapture" and explain to what it refers. Support your answer with Scripture. _____
