

Our blessed hope is the glorious appearing of Our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ. We are to live upright, holy and godly lives in this present age, as we eagerly and joyfully wait for His Awesome Return and the perfect utopian paradise!

## Scriptural References:

Isaiah 13:6-7  
Ezekiel 7:19  
Joel 2:1-14; 28-32  
Amos 3:6-7  
Amos 5:18-20  
Zephaniah 1:14-18  
Zephaniah 2:2-3  
Malachi 3  
Malachi 4  
Matthew 24  
Matthew 25:1-13  
Matthew 25:14-30  
Matthew 26:64  
Mark 13  
Mark 14:62  
Luke 12:35-48  
Luke 21  
John 17:15  
Acts 2:17-21  
1 Thessalonians 1:8-10  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24  
2 Thessalonians 1:8-10  
2 Timothy 1:9-10  
2 Timothy 4:1-2,8  
Titus 2:11-14  
Hebrews 10:37  
James 5:7-8  
2 Peter 3:10-14  
Revelation 1:5-8  
Revelation 3:10-13  
Revelation 5:10  
Revelation 8  
Revelation 9  
Revelation 11:1-19  
Revelation 15:1-8  
Revelation 16:1-21  
Revelation 22:7-21

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# Glorious And Imminent Return Of Jesus Christ!

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, glowing path of light that cuts through the sky from the bottom right towards the top right. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the water reflects the sun's glow. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted hills or mountains.

What is the awesome truth about the glorious and imminent return of Jesus Christ? Are you prepared and ready for His return? When, how and where will Christ return? Will we know the exact day or hour?

Firstly, Jesus promised that He will return. He said "I will come again ..." (*John 14:3*). In the Olivet Prophecy, shortly prior to Jesus' ascension from the Mount of Olives, He spoke to His disciples about the major signs to occur prior to His dramatic return. (*Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21*).

*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.

The first major sign that Jesus prophesied would take place prior to His return was religious deception. Jesus warned that there would be many deceivers falsely claiming He had already come before His appointed time, or saying that we need to be in a certain place, at a certain time for His return.

*Matthew 24:23-24* - At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.

*Matthew 24:26* - "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus revealed to John, the symbol of a rider on the white horse, which is the first seal and represents religious deception, including false ministers and prophets claiming to represent Christ or His Church. Note carefully that in *Revelation 6:1-2* the rider on the white horse wears only one crown and holds a bow. This rider is *not* Christ. *Revelation 19:11-21* and *Revelation 14:14* reveals the description of Jesus Christ who wears one great golden crown with many diadems and a sharp sword comes out of his mouth, with which to strike down the nations. The sword represents the Word of God (*Hebrews 4:12*), whereas *Revelation 6:2* pictures the devil's counterfeit (the false Christ) with a bow in his hand.

Christ mentioned that there will be great distress among the nations. They will be perplexed and in anguish, prior to His return. There will be wars, great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. In the last days, there will be perilous times that unless Christ intervenes, there would be total cosmocide! Christ promises to intervene for His elect (chosen ones) and shorten the days of the Great Tribulation. Christ will return *after*: 1) Great Tribulation 2) Heavenly Signs 3) Day of the Lord (*Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21*). The resurrected saints will reign with Christ for a thousand years.

Scripture also mentions that prior to Christ's Return it will be as in the days of Noah, where people were eating, drinking and marrying, until the flood came and swept them all away.

*Luke 17:26-27* - "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

Jesus said clearly that His Kingdom was not of this world. Therefore the churches of this world *could not* constitute God's Kingdom. He also said that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. We must be born again—changed to immortal spirit beings. Therefore, Jesus Kingdom is not yet established here on this earth. It will be established at the end of this present age of human misrule. (*John 3:1-8; 18:36; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54*). God will restore law and order after He abolishes man's misrule.

Christ's gospel of the Kingdom of God being proclaimed throughout the world as a witness to all nations is the sign that signaled the end of an era in God's true Church. *Matthew 24:14*. The heart and core of the gospel Jesus preached is the message about Christ's return to establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. The true Church of God is commanded to fulfill the Great Commission commandment before Christ's return and His millennial rule. *Matthew 28:18-20*. True Christians (servants) must fulfill their responsibility to proclaim Christ's gospel to the world. *Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 10:11*.

After Christ's ascension to heaven from the Mount of Olives, two divine messengers spoke to the apostles and said that Christ will return in the same way as He left. *Acts 1:10-11*. Therefore, He will again be visible in the clouds. *Matthew 24:30*.

The Greek word '*parousia*' is translated "coming" in many scriptures, and refers to Christ's return which will be visible and powerful, in "brightness," "with all his saints" and "as the lightning." *1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Matthew 24:27*. Christ's presence is described as the sun shining in its full strength *Revelation 1:16*.

The visibility of the return of Christ is described as a flash of lightning that lights up one end of the heavens to the other. This spectacular event will be visible to everyone.

*Matthew 24:27* - For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

No one knows the exact day or hour of Christ's Return (therefore, those who make predictions are called false prophets, because only God the Father knows) *Matthew 24:36*. We will know when His return is very near by following the signs of the end of the age Jesus spoke about in *Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21*. We are the very last generation that will witness all these signs being fulfilled.

Christ's second coming is described as being imminent and like a thief in the night. In other words, it will happen unexpectedly. Therefore, God's true Church (the bride of Christ) must study the Word of God to be fully equipped with the knowledge of God's will and be prepared, alert, sober, vigilant, watchful and ready for the return of Christ (the bridegroom) as illustrated by the 'Parable of the ten young bridesmaids' in *Matthew 25:1-13*. Jesus Christ will marry His true Church who will assist Him in ruling over the nations at His return. True Christians are at training and preparation stage now.

The Day of the LORD (In prophecy, a day is often used to indicate a year - *Isaiah 34:8*) is the year preceding Christ's return (and continues throughout the millennium after Jesus returns and on throughout eternity) and period of God's direct intervention in world affairs to punish sinning mankind. It is described as burning like a furnace where nothing will be left of every evildoer. The righteous will trample down the wicked (the evildoers) who will be like ashes under the soles of their feet. For the righteous who revere God's Name, it will be the most blessed and glorious day, where the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and they will leap out as calves led out of a stall *Malachi 4:1-3*. The mighty wrath of God, displayed in the "day of the Lord" is marked by seven "trumpet" plagues which are unleashed successively (one after the other), over a period of months, concluding with the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the administering of the seven last plagues. God will punish the world with the powers of nature; with various supernatural plagues; and in true love and concern for disobedient mankind *Revelation 8, 9, 11:15-19; 15:1; 16:1-21*.

In the *Revelation chapter 12*, a "woman" is a symbol for a church. God will supernaturally protect and provide a place of safety (special place) prepared by Him here on this earth (not up in heaven) for His true Church "saints" who will be protected from the devil (dragon) during the Great Tribulation *Revelation 12:9; Revelation 12:13-16*. He will keep them from the hour of trial that is coming to test all who live on the earth *Revelation 3:10*. Christ prayed to the Father that He would not take His disciples out of the world, but keep them safe from the evil one. *John 17:15*. Nowhere in the Bible does the word 'rapture' occur. There will only be one second coming and no preliminary secret "rapture" of Christians to heaven.

Christ's return, the establishment of God's Kingdom and the resurrection of the dead in Christ will occur at the seventh or last trumpet. *1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18* and *Revelation 11:15-19*. This mighty trumpet blast will be heard by everyone on the earth! Christ's return will be loud, visible and unexpected - with the great noise of a trumpet and the loud voice of an archangel. His feet will again stand on the Mount of Olives. *Zechariah 14:4-5*. At that time, there will be a resurrection of the dead. The dead in Christ, and the living saints who are alive at that time, will be made immortal, and gathered in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (who will be with armies of angels), and then come down immediately to the earth. We will be assisting Christ in ruling over the nations here on this earth, in the Kingdom of God. *Revelation 5:10; Revelation 20:6*. We will be with the Lord forever. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58*.

Christ will return with great and mighty wrath to punish the world for the evil which has caused great misery, pain and suffering on the earth. At this present time, God's primary work is to warn the nations through His prophets, just before we see the downfall of the modern-day nations of Israel (primarily U.S. and Britain), who will be trampled on by the Gentiles. God always sends a prophet to warn nations before He punishes them. Those who turn to God wholeheartedly and repent will be spared punishment.

We are living in perilous (dangerous) times, and God commands us to watch and pray always, so that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

The glorified and resurrected Christ is returning with great power and glory to stop increasing wars, nuclear mass destruction, crime, violence, famine, disease and all other evils that are happening in the world today!

God's soon coming Kingdom and supreme world government will bring everlasting peace, happiness, joy and prosperity for all mankind!