

Jesus is Coming Back!

Looking Forward to the End

Jesus will come back to earth again! Although no-one knows exactly when He will return, we should live our lives always prepared for His coming. We can do this by living righteous lives and by helping others to know Jesus.

Jesus' Return

Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

- (9) After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
- (10) They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.
- (11) "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."

What happened after Jesus left earth?

Jesus said that before He comes, many will claim to be Him, and that it will be a time of many wars and natural disasters, and a time when there will be a lot of sin in the world (Matthew 24)

Matthew 24 (NIV)

- (1) Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.
- (2) "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
- (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 what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"
- (4) Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.
- (5) For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.
- (6) You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.
- (7) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
- (8) All these are the beginning of birth pains.
- (9) "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.
- (10) At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,
- (11) and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
- (12) Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
- (13) but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
- (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.
- (15) "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—
- (16) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- (17) Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.
- (18) Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.
- (19) How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!
- (20) Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.
- (21) For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.
- (22) "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.
- (23) At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.
- (24) For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
- (25) See, I have told you ahead of time.
- (26) "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.
- (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.
- (28) Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.
- (29) "Immediately after the distress of those days " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'
- (30) "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.
- (31) And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
- (32) "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.
- (33) Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.
- (34) Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.
- (35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- (36) "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- (37) As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
- (38) For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;
- (39) and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

- (40) Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.
- (41) Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.
- (42) “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
- (43) But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.
- (44) So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
- (45) “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?
- (46) It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.
- (47) Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
- (48) But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’
- (49) and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.
- (50) The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.
- (51) He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We know that Jesus will come back in the same way in which He left (Acts 1:11) , and that He will come in glory (Matthew 25:31).

Acts 1:11 (NIV)

(11) “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.”

Matthew 25:31 (NIV)

(31) “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

When Jesus comes back, He will gather all the living Christians together (Matthew 24:31), resurrect those that have died (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and destroy death (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).

Matthew 24:31 (NIV)

(31) And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

- (13) Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
- (14) For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
- (15) According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- (16) 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.
- (17) 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.
- (18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (NIV)

- (25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
- (26) The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NIV)

- (6) God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you
- (7) and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.
- (8) He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- (9) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might
- (10) on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

What else will Jesus do when He comes back?

Looking Forward

Titus 2:11-13, Ephesians 5:15-16

Titus 2:11-13 (NIV)

- (11) For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.
- (12) It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,
- (13) while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)

- (15) Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,
- (16) making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

How should we live while we wait for Jesus' return?
Why can we look forward to Jesus' return?

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

- (2) My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?
- (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (NIV)

- (51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
- (52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- (53) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.
- (54) When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."
- (55) "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
- (56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- (57) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:4 (NIV)

- (4) When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV)

- (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (10) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.
- (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2 Peter 3:13 (NIV)

- (13) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Looking Out for Others

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

- (18) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- (19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What should we be doing for others while we wait for Jesus to come back?

Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)

- (9) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,
- (10) so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
- (11) filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

How should we encourage other people to live their lives?

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

- (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.

What must happen before Jesus comes back?

Therefore, what can we do to make that time come sooner? (2 Peter 3:12)

2 Peter 3:12 (NIV)

- (12) as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Ask a Friend

In what ways are you encouraged about Jesus coming back?
Do you have any other questions about Jesus' return?

Application

Based on this truth, what should we do?
What attitude should we have while we are living in this world?

Prayer Model

Lord Jesus, I am looking forward to Your return! I want to please you with the way I live. Please help me to tell many people about You.

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 15:52 (NIV)

“in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”