

He's Coming Back.



Excerpt from
The Story
by Perry Duggar



He's Coming Back

Jesus will return to the earth to defeat Satan, end evil, gather His followers and establish the kingdom of God.

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.”

— Matthew 25:31 (NLT)

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

— Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)

Biblical References

Matthew 24-25; Luke 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 12; 2 Peter 3.

Jesus' Return to Earth

One day Jesus will leave heaven and return to earth. We call this His Second Coming, since His birth was His first coming. His arrival will mark the end of the earth as we know it. He will gather His followers and judge those who rejected Him. The return of Jesus is reported by many different writers throughout the New Testament.



And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.

– 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NLT)

...Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see...

So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world... So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

– 1 Peter 1:3-5,7,13 (NLT)

See also Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; Romans 8:21;
1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 15:23; Philippians 1:6;
Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 3:13; 5:23;
2 Peter 1:16 and 1 John 2:28.



When Jesus returns, He will gather His followers and take them to the places in His Father's household that He has prepared for them.

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am... Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again...”

– John 14:1-3,28 (NLT)

See also 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10.

When will this Second Coming occur?

Jesus spoke of signs of His Second Coming when He spoke to His disciples on the Mount of Olives. Some of the indicators of His return found at Matthew chapter 24:3-51, are as follows:

- False Messiahs and prophets (verses 4-5,11,23-26)
- Wars and conflicts (verses 6-7)
- Natural disasters (verse 7)
- Persecution of Christians (verse 9)
- People turning away from faith and each other (verses 10 and 12)
- Increase in evil (verse 12)



- The Good News preached throughout the world (verse 14)
- The destruction of the Temple (verses 15-22)

Note: This passage refers to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the desecration of the temple by the Roman emperor Antiochus Epiphanes. This ruler invaded Jerusalem and put eighty thousand men, women, and children to death. He built an altar to Zeus over the altar of the burnt offering in the temple. He further defiled the temple by sacrificing a pig, an unclean animal under the Jewish law, on the altar. He also stole the golden vessels and other sacred objects from the temple. He also made the practice of the Jewish faith punishable by death. This event is “the abomination that causes desecration” referred to in Daniel 11:31. Jesus warned the inhabitants of Jerusalem to flee the city immediately when this invasion occurred. Scholars also think that this event forecasts the intense persecution that will occur in the tribulation prior to Jesus’ return.¹

- The sun and moon will be darkened and stars will fall from the sky and the heavens will be shaken (verse 29) It is debated whether this is a literal description of events or a metaphorical, figurative reference to emphasize the catastrophic nature of events prior to Jesus’ return.
- Indifference or unconcern about Christ’s return (verses 37-39)

See also Mark 13 and Luke 17:22-37.



Despite mentioning many signs, Jesus did not tell his disciples when He would return; in fact, He stated that He did not know. He did say that everyone would be aware of His arrival.

“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.”

– Mark 13:32 (NLT)

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

– Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)

See also Revelation 1:7.

Jesus said that He would return in a surprising, unexpected way, like a thief who comes at night to burglarize a house.

For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 (NLT)

See also Matthew 24:42-44; 2 Peter 3:10;

Revelation 3:3 and 16:15.



Jesus said that all of these events would take place while His listeners were still living. The apostles believed that He would return during their lifetimes. Jesus' statement meant that these terrible events would begin during their lifetime, not that He would return while His listeners were alive.

"In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place... However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

– Matthew 24:33-34,36 (NLT)

When Jesus returns, unbelievers will be judged and believers will be rewarded.

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

– Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT)

And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

– 2 Timothy 4:8 (NLT)

See also Luke 12:38; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Peter 5:4;
2 Peter 3:7; 1 John 4:17 and Jude 14-15.



After His arrival, Jesus will raise deceased Christians from the dead and give all believers special bodies like His that can live forever.

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

– Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT)

See also 1 John 3:2 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.

It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

– 1 Corinthians 15:52-53 (NLT)

Four Views of the End Times

There are four different views of how Jesus' Second Coming will occur. They are referred to as *historic premillennialism*, *amillennialism*, *dispensational premillennialism* and *postmillennialism*.

All of these positions are held by people who respect the authority and reliability of the Bible. The differences result



from the approach taken to interpreting Bible passages. The variations deal with the time and purpose of Christ's coming as well as the kind of kingdom He will establish. Although there are many distinctions between these positions, I will summarize only several of the major differences.

The primary points of divergence include the *millennium*, which refers to a thousand year reign of Jesus, and the relationship between the nation of Israel and the Christian church. Premillennialists (historical and dispensational) believe Christ will return and set up a kingdom on earth which will continue for one thousand years. Postmillennialists and amillennialists interpret the millennium as figurative, meaning an indefinite long period of time. Here is a brief summary for each view:

Historic Premillennialism

The millennium is a literal thousand years that will begin at a definite time in the future. The Second Coming will occur before the millennium begins. Prior to Jesus' return, the world will grow more and more evil. Christians, who make up the church, replace the nation of Israel as God's covenant people (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 6:16; James 1:1). Christians will remain on earth during a time of distress and suffering called the *great tribulation* (Revelation 13:7). During this tribulation period, people who are not truly believers will leave the church which will strengthen and purify it (Revelation 2:22-23).

Dispensational Premillennialism

The Second Coming occurs before the literal thousand year millennium begins at a definite time in the future. The world will increase in evil prior to Jesus' return. God will keep the covenant promises made to Israel (Genesis 15:7-21). Israel and the church remain separate and distinct. Most dispensational



premillennialists are pretribulationists who believe there will be a *rapture* (which means a removal) of all Christians by Jesus from the earth before the great tribulation begins (Matthew 24:39-41; Luke 17:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 4:1-2). Christians will escape the time of terrible suffering on earth (1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10). Some think the rapture will occur *during* the tribulation. They are referred to as mid-tribulationists.

Amillennialism

The millennium is a *symbolic period*, not a literal thousand years (2 Peter 3:8). The millennium represents the reign of Jesus Christ in the lives of Christians from the beginning of the church to the Second Coming. The great tribulation refers to troubles and persecutions throughout church history rather than to particular hardships at a specific time (Revelation 13:7). Jesus defeats Satan through His death and resurrection which limits Satan's power on earth (Revelation 20:1-3). Christians replace Israel as the people of God (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 6:16). References to "Israel" in Revelation apply to the Christian church. When Jesus returns, evil will be defeated and final judgment will occur (John 5:28-29).

Postmillennialism

The Second Coming of Christ will occur after the millennial reign of Christ. (Revelation 20:1-6) The millennium is a lengthy time period, not a literal thousand years, when most of the world will hear and believe the Good News of Jesus. (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10) Jesus will not be physically present on earth. He will rule through the Holy Spirit. Satan will lose his power and influence over the world. (Revelation 19:19-20:3) A period of great tribulation may precede the millennium. The Second



Coming, the resurrection of all people, and the final judgment will occur following the millennium. (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:7-15)²

Reasons for Jesus' Delay

Jesus' delay in returning allows more people to come to faith and receive salvation, so we must be patient.

Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?..."

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

– 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

– James 5:7-8 (NLT)



The Effect of Jesus' Return on our Lives

Jesus' Second Coming should encourage us toward faithful living.

And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

– 2 Peter 3:14 (NLT)

The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.

– 1 Peter 4:7 (NLT)

See also Philippians 4:5; 1 Timothy 6:14;

1 Thessalonians 5:10-11 and Titus 2:13.

Jesus expressed urgency about His followers being prepared and keeping watch for His return.

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming... You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

– Matthew 24:42,44 (NLT)

Each time we participate in the Lord's Supper we should remember the death of Jesus as we anticipate his return.

For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

– 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NLT)

He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

– Revelation 22:20 (NLT)

See also Luke 12:36-40; 21:36; Mark 13:35-37;

1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 4:7.



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1. Source: Barker, Kenneth L.; Kohlenberger, John R. III: *The Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary: Volumes 1 and 2: New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994
2. *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps and Time Lines*: Torrance, CA: Rose Publishing, Inc., 005



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