

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S RETURN

1 What promise has Jesus made concerning His return?

JOHN 14:1-3 "Let not your _____ be _____; you believe in God, believe _____ in _____. (2) In My Father's _____ are many _____; if it were not so, I would have _____ you. I go to _____ a place for _____. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____ and _____ you to Myself; that _____ I am, _____ you may be _____."

Jesus' return will fulfill Christians' greatest anticipation. Belief in God alone is not enough; belief in Jesus brings the promise to fulfillment. Historical evidence proves that Jesus walked the earth. After His resurrection He ascended to heaven promising to return. Because it's impossible for us to go to heaven on our own power, Jesus promises to use His power and take us home to be where He presently is.

2 What great event will accompany the return of Jesus?

REVELATION 22:12 "And behold, I am coming _____, and My _____ is with Me, to give to _____ one according to his _____."

When Jesus returns everyone will either receive the reward of eternal life or eternal death as determined by the results of the judgment.

3 In what descriptive language is the return of Jesus pictured?

TITUS 2:13 "Looking for the _____ and _____ of our great _____ and _____ Jesus Christ."

Without the coming of our Savior, life would be a meaningless round of experiences that leave us hopeless. The appearing of Christ will be the most glorious event ever seen. It will usher in the hope we are "looking for."

4 What else has Jesus promised to do at His return?

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1 "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our _____ together _____ Him..."

At the coming of the Lord we will be gathered "together" to Him. Some incorrectly believe that we are gathered to the Lord at death. Under that interpretation we would be gathered at separate times, not together, at the same time.

5 How do we know that the righteous living and the dead go to heaven at the same time?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 "Then we who are _____ and _____ shall be _____ up _____ with them in the clouds to _____ the Lord in the _____. And thus we shall _____ be with the Lord."

When the dead in Christ are resurrected, they are "caught up together" with Christians that will be alive at the return of Jesus. We meet Him together.

6 From where will Jesus gather His saints?

MARK 13:26-27 "Then they will _____ the Son of Man _____ in the _____ with great _____ and _____. (27) And then He will _____ His _____, and _____ His elect from the _____ winds, from the _____ part of _____ to the farthest part of _____."

The people of God will be gathered from the four corners of the earth. Whether they live in the east, west, north, or south, the angels of God will gather His elect to ascend to heaven.

THE MANNER OF CHRIST'S RETURN

7 How do we know that the return of Jesus will not be secret?

ACTS 1:11 "...Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing _____ into _____? This same Jesus, who was taken _____ from you into _____, will so come in like _____ as you _____ Him _____ into heaven."

The angels told the apostles the return of Jesus will be as visible as His departure. Jesus "ascended" visibly and He will "descend" visibly.

8 Will every person see Jesus' return?

REVELATION 1:7 "Behold, He is coming with _____, and every _____ will _____ Him, even they who _____ Him. And all the _____ of the earth will _____ because of Him. Even so, Amen."

Everyone on earth will visibly witness the return of Jesus. Even those that crucified Jesus will be resurrected to witness this event. When the accusers of Jesus interrogated Him about the validity of His divinity, His response was, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64. (NKJV). The tribes of the earth that "mourn" because of His return are those that reject His mercy and His saving appeal.

9 How will the unsaved respond to Christ's return?

REVELATION 6:15-17 "And the _____ of the earth, the _____ men, the _____ men, the _____, the _____ men, every _____ and every _____ man, _____ themselves in the _____ and in the _____ of the _____, (16) and said to the mountains and rocks, '_____ on us and _____ us from the _____ of Him who _____ on the _____ and from the _____ of the Lamb! (17) For the great _____ of His wrath has _____, and who is able to _____?"

Ample provision has been made for everyone's salvation. Many minimize the importance of being ready for Jesus' return. However, when He returns, they will realize the tragedy of rejecting His calls for salvation. The described reaction of the lost proves that the return of Jesus will be visible.

10 How do we know the return of Jesus will not be silent?

PSALM 50:3-4 "Our God shall come, and shall not keep _____; a _____ shall _____ before Him, and it shall be very _____ all _____ Him. (4) He shall _____ to the _____ from above, and to the earth, that He may _____ His people:"

Not only will the return of Jesus be visible, it will also be audible. A fiery stream will accompany the audible return of Jesus. These audible and visible elements prove that the return of Jesus will not be secret or silent.

11 What does the apostle Peter reveal about the fire that will accompany Jesus' return?

2 PETER 3:10-12 "But the day of the Lord will come as a _____ in the _____, in which the heavens will pass away with a great _____, and the elements will _____ with fervent _____; both the earth and the works that are in it will be _____ up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be _____, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the _____ will be _____, being on _____, and the elements will _____ with fervent _____?"

The return of Jesus will be visible, audible, and earth changing. The sinful practices of earth will be consumed by fire and the elements of the planet dissolved. The return of Jesus will affect the heavens and the earth.

12 How does the book of Revelation describe the spectacular impact of Jesus' return?

REVELATION 6:14 "Then the sky _____ as a _____ when it is _____ up, and every _____ and _____ was _____ out of its _____."

The Bible describes spectacular displays taking place in the heavens and on the earth. The skies will split to prepare the way for earth's inhabitants to see the return of Jesus. Cataclysmic events will grip the planet and shake the mountains and islands. Revelation 16:18 describes the return of Jesus, "And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth." The return of Jesus will be both glorious and fearful. That is why it is imperative that you decide now to meet Jesus, in peace.

13 What about the Bible verses that makes it appear as though the return of Jesus will be a secret?

LUKE 17:35-36 "Two _____ will be grinding together: the one will be _____ and the other _____. (36) Two _____ will be in the field: the one will be _____ and the other _____."

Those that teach that the return of Jesus will be a “secret rapture” use these passages. Many teach that those who are not taken will be “left behind” and given a second chance. The Bible only uses the words “taken” and “left.” If we allow the Bible to explain itself, the truth about the return of Jesus will be clear.

14 Does the Bible teach that there will be a second chance for those that are not ready when Jesus returns?

MATTHEW 24:44 “Therefore you also be _____, for the Son of Man is _____ at an _____ you do not _____.”

MATTHEW 24:50-51 “The master of that servant will come on a _____ when he is not _____ for him and at an _____ that he is not _____ of, (51) and will _____ him in _____ and appoint him his portion with the _____. There shall be _____ and _____ of teeth.”

The Bible teaches that the day and hour of Jesus’ return is not revealed to us, therefore we must be ready. The Bible also teaches that if we are not ready there is no second chance. The lost will receive punishment paramount to the hypocrite. The Bible does not support a second chance.

15 Since there will be no second chance for the lost, what does the Bible teach by “taken” and “left”?

MATTHEW 24:38-39 “For as in the days before the flood, they were _____ and _____, _____ and giving in marriage, until the _____ that _____ entered the ark, (39) and did not _____ until the _____ came and _____ them all _____, so _____ will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

LUKE 17:27 “They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the _____, and the _____ came and _____ them all.”

Matthew and Luke agree that those who were lost were “taken” by a flood and destroyed. They were not “taken” and stored away in safety. The lost were “taken” by the flood and drowned. The “left” alive were in the ark; the “left” alive at His coming will be gathered to Christ.

16 According to Dr. Luke where will the lost be taken?

LUKE 17:37 “And they answered and said to Him, ‘_____, Lord?’ So He said to them, ‘Wherever the _____ is, there the _____ will be _____ together.’”

The Bible agrees that the fate of the wicked will be complete destruction, not a second chance. Eagles will gather together to consume the carcasses of the lost. Such was probably the case in Noah’s day. Second chance theology leads people to ignore Christ’s appeal for salvation. They believe that preparation for His return is not important.

17 How does Revelation describe the fate of the wicked?

REVELATION 19:17-18 “Then I saw an _____ standing in the sun; and he cried with a _____ voice, saying to all the _____ that _____ in the midst of _____, ‘Come and gather _____ for the _____ of the _____ God, (18) that you may _____ the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’”

The lost were not given a second chance in the flood of Noah’s day. When Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed there was no second chance after the fire consumed the inhabitants of those wicked cities. That is why the Bible does not support delaying your preparation for Jesus’ return.

PREPARATION FOR CHRIST’S RETURN

18 What critical view does the Bible give concerning salvation?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 “For He says: ‘In an _____ time I have _____ you, and in the day of _____ I have _____ you.’ Behold, _____ is the accepted _____; behold, _____ is the _____ of _____.”

ISAIAH 55:6-7 “_____ the LORD while He may be _____, _____ upon Him while He is _____. (7) Let the wicked _____ his _____, and the unrighteous man his _____; let him _____ to the LORD, and He will have _____ on him; and to our _____, for He will abundantly _____.”

The mercy of God will not always be available. The day is fast approaching when the invitation to be saved will cease. The book of Revelation paints this day, “The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.” Revelation 18:23 (NKJV).

19 How does the prophet Jeremiah describe the fate of the lost?

JEREMIAH 8:20 “The _____ is _____, the _____ is _____, and _____ are not _____!”

The prophet Jeremiah records the saddest words to be spoken. Like the inhabitants of Noah’s day, the doors of mercy will be forever closed. The appeal for salvation will cease. Hebrews 4:7 warns, “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” The reason is clear, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (NKJV). Make today the day you surrender your life. Use this moment to decide to get ready for “The Glorious Return.”



No other event in human history measures up to the importance of Jesus’ return. Since sin entered, suffering men and women have desperately looked for hope. Loneliness and disease abounds. For thousands of years sin and death have held the earth captive. The wealthy and the poor share the same fate—the grave. However, it has never been the plan of God for humanity to endure the endless sting of death, the painful experience of loss, and the overwhelming impact of disease. Apart from the hope of Jesus’ return, there is no other light shining in this dark world.

False teachers and false prophets have misrepresented the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus. Millions believe in a secret rapture while the Bible teaches a physical, literal, visible, and audible return of Jesus. Before Jesus returned to heaven He told His disciples He would come again to rescue them, take them to His home, and prepare a dwelling place for them.

Jesus also recorded the signs that would precede the second coming. As you study this outline you will discover that the Bible is a reliable guide. Your heart will thrill to see the signs of Jesus’ soon return fulfill before your eyes. The words of Jesus and the prophets all forecast Jesus’ soon return to take us to our eternal home. God will bless you as you prepare for His Glorious Return.