

# The Return Of Jesus

*“He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon!’ — Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”* {Rev 22:20} {NLT}

[After speaking to the disciples about their mission] *“Jesus was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!’”* {Acts 1:6-11} {NLT}

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## What Does the New Testament Say about the Return of the Lord?

### [1] **Where** is Jesus Now? {“taken from you into **HEAVEN**”}

\*\*\* Jesus is in HEAVEN reigning over his kingdom (spiritual kingdom on earth)—This is the symbolic “1,000 year reign” of Revelation 20

[A reign of undetermined duration]

*“Jesus has gone into **heaven** and is **at God’s right hand**..... with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”* (I Pet 3:22)

*“After Jesus had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the majesty **in heaven**.”* (Hebrews 1:1-5)  
(See also Revelation 5:6 // Mark 16:19 // Ephesians 1:20-22)

### [2] **When** Will Jesus Return? (No one knows the day or the hour)

[Jesus said to his disciples] *“**The Father alone** has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.”*  
{Acts 1:7}

[Jesus said to His disciples] *“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 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; 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.**" {Matthew 24:37ff}

[Paul to the believers at Thessalonica] "Now, brothers, **about times and dates** we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, 'peace and safety,' destruction will come on them." (I Thess 5:1-3)

### [3] Is the Return of Christ **Certain**? {Can we be sure He will Return?}

It is as Certain as the reliability of God's Promise!

It is as Certain as God's Word is True!

It is as Certain as our own measure of FAITH & TRUST!

*"FAITH is BEING SURE of what we hope for and  
CERTAIN of what we do not see."* {Hebrews 11:1}

\*\*\* There are at least FOUR Certainties Tied to this Question:

1. The Present World is going to come to an end
2. Jesus will Return — as God Promised
3. His Return is closer than its ever been
4. The Day of Judgment will be executed {Heb 9:27}

\*\*\* Some References & Promises from God's Word:

[I Corinth 4:5]	<i>"wait till the Lord comes"</i>
[Acts 1:8]	<i>"Jesus.....will come back...."</i>
[Titus 2:3]	<i>"the glorious appearing of our Savior"</i>
[Matt 24:44]	<i>"The Son of Man will come...."</i>
[I Jn 2:28]	<i>"When He appears...."</i>
[Col 3:4]	<i>"When Christ appears...."</i>
[I Pet 5:4]	<i>"When the Chief Shepherd appears...."</i>
[I Thess 5:23]	<i>"The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"</i>
[John 14:3]	<i>"I will come back" (Jesus Promised)</i>

### [4] What will be the **Manner** of His Coming?

It will be a cataclysmic event of POWER & GLORY!

\*\*\* It will be a gripping, penetrating event — impacting every person whether dead or alive. Cosmic in it's proportions and universal in its scope! No one will ignore its reality or the truth of its message!

*“Every Knee Will Bow”* {Phil 2}

*“He will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels — 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”* (I Thess 4:16 & I Corinth 15:52)

\*\*\* In this picture there will be no doubt about the Deity of Jesus — no doubt about His Holiness, His Power, His Authority. All of the critics, skeptics and unbelievers will be silenced against the display of power and unbelief will be exposed against the purity of the light.

## [5] **What will Happen When the Lord Returns?**

\*\*\* Three concerns emerge regarding this question:

1. What will take place in regard to the **dead** believer?
2. What will take place in regard to the **living** believer?
3. What will take place in regard to the **unbelieving** (Living / Dead)?

### **The Living and Dead Believer**

*“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep in the Lord.....We believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.....We who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.....The dead in Christ will rise first. 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. As so we will be with the Lord forever.”*  
(I Thess 4:13-18)

### **The Unbelieving (Living or Dead)**

\*\*\* Jesus prophesies of a general resurrection:

*“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.” {John 5:28-29}*

\*\*\* Paul reveals the unbelievers destiny:

*“When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels.....He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.” {II Thessalonians 1:5-10}*

### **Probable Sequence of Events for Believers**

+++ At DEATH — *“the spirit returns to God who gave it”* and the body goes to the grave / dust — it returns to the earth from which it came.

When the Lord returns He will bring with Him the spirits of those who have *“fallen asleep in Christ”* to be united with their resurrected and changed body — *“it is raised a spiritual body”*

{I Corinthians 15:44}

+++ Those who are ALIVE at His return will be changed.....*“in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye....we will be changed”* {I Corinthians 15:52}

*“He will transform our lowly bodies”* {Phil 3:21}

+++ Thus — the returning glorified Christ.....*“will be marveled at among all those who have believed”* {II Thessalonians 1:10}

+++ All the resurrected & living believers who have been transformed and are in possession of a new spiritual body.....*"Will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"* {I Thessalonians 4:17}

+++ *"Then the end will come, when He hands over the Kingdom to God"* {I Corinthians 15:24}

[6] What will be the **Results**?

+++ **For the Faithful?**

\*\*\* *"we shall bear the likeness of the man from heaven"*  
{I Corinthians 15:19}

\*\*\* *"we shall be like him"* {I John 3:2}

\*\*\* *"our bodies will be like His glorious body"* {Phil 3:21}

+++ **For the Unbelieving?**

\*\*\* According to Jesus the unbelieving will be raised in the general resurrection (John 5:28-29) — Apparently they will not experience a transformation — only their fate is revealed.

+++ **For the Earth?**

\*\*\* The earth (as we know it) will be destroyed — burned up — and we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth!

*"The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare {FT: 'burned up'}..... But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward **to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.**"* {II Peter 3}

[7] What **Attitude** is Expected of the Believer? (in light of the Lord's Return)

\*\*\* *"**looking forward** to the day of God and speed its coming"*  
{II Peter 3:10-14 — Peter}

\*\*\* *“we **eagerly await** a Savior from heaven.....”* {Phil 3:21 — Paul}

\*\*\* *“we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord”* {II Corinthians 5:7 — Paul}

\*\*\* *“For me to live is Christ and **to die is gain**”* {Phil 1:21 — Paul}

\*\*\* *“**we wait** for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”* {Titus 2:13 — Paul}

\*\*\* *“He is bringing salvation to **those who are waiting** for him”*  
{Hebrews 9:28}

\*\*\* *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to **all who have longed** for His appearing.”* {II Timothy 4:7-8 — Paul}

[8] How does the Lord’s Return Impact our **Current Life**?

+++ Inspires godly living — We should live as if we truly believe that that Jesus is going to come again:

*“Since everything will be destroyed.....**what kind of people ought you to be?** You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”* {II Peter 3:10-14}