



CHICHEN ITZA

IT IS WRITTEN

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

THE BLESSED HOPE

What the Bible teaches about the literal, visible, audible and glorious return of Jesus Christ.

“I Will Come Again”

The message of the second coming is not presented as doom and gloom. The presentation frames the return of Jesus as the blessed hope - the day when Christ returns, gathers His people, and brings an end to the pain and brokenness of this world.

This booklet preserves the original teaching, illustrations, Bible passages, speaker notes and images from the supplied PowerPoint, while presenting them as a continuous reading experience rather than a slide-by-slide printout.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

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Chichen Itza is an ancient Maya city in Yucatan State in Mexico. One thing that's interesting about Chichen Itza is the fact that, in the minds of many people, it shouldn't be there at all.

Some years ago, there were some who looked at an old Maya calendar and they said that if you interpret that calendar correctly, you come to the inescapable conclusion that the world was going to come to an end on December 21, 2012.

Well, in spite of what was claimed, Chichen Itza is still there today and the end of the world has not occurred. However, the end of the world is often discussed.

There's a group of thought leaders - scientists and Nobel Prize winners - who control what's known as the Doomsday Clock. The Doomsday Clock was created in 1947 and is a reflection of where these thought leaders believe we are in the flow of time in relation to a coming global catastrophe.

When it was created in 1947 at the start of the nuclear age it was sitting at 3 minutes to midnight (doomsday). In 1991 it was all the way back to 17 minutes to midnight. By 2022 it was at 100 seconds to midnight and right now it is just 86 seconds away! This is due to tensions with nuclear nations, climate change and uncertainties relating to AI.



A lot of people look towards the end of the world in a hopeless way. It's all doom and it's gloom, they think. However, when we open up the Bible, we see that rightly understood the end of the world is the greatest event in all of human history. Jesus spoke about it.

I WILL COME AGAIN

John 14:1 says, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

This subject is so profoundly important that the Word of God refers to it as the blessed hope.

Paul used those words writing to Titus in Titus 2:11, where he said: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

It's been estimated that the second coming of Jesus has been mentioned in the Bible 2,500 times, making it a very big deal. God wants us to focus on this, to really absorb the reality of the second coming of Jesus and take it to heart. Jesus, the Son of God, is coming back to this world, and that's for real.

If we were to read some of the prophecies in the books of Zechariah or Ezekiel we might say, "Wow, these things are hard and deep and complicated, and we're not sure what to make of them." That would be

okay. We would say, "Let's study some more. Let's agree that we need to pray more and dig further into the Bible."

But when it comes to something as important as the return of Jesus, there is nothing mysterious about what the Bible teaches. The Bible is plain and clear with regard to the second coming of Jesus Christ. It's a major theme in the Bible, and it's something that has thrilled the hearts of men and women since time began.

Adam and Eve looked for the coming of the Messiah. They were told Messiah would come, and when Eve gave birth, she said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." Some translations have got her saying, "I have gotten a man, the Lord." She hoped that perhaps she'd given birth to the coming Messiah.

Job was the first book of the Bible ever written, and in the book of Job, Job himself says, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God." In the first book of the Bible written, Job is looking forward to the return of Jesus.

A WORLD WITHOUT DEATH, PAIN, SORROW OR SEPARATION

WHEN ALL THINGS ARE MADE NEW



One day, Christ will come back. We will one day be living in a place where the streets are paved with gold, where we can eat from the tree of life. Frankly, I'm sure I'd be happy with gravel roads in heaven. Just as long as I can be there, I don't mind what the streets are made out of, but it's a blessing to know God has prepared something so wonderful.



It will be a beautiful place. One day, Christ will come back, and before He does, He will say, "It is done," and I am thankful that the heartbreak and sadness of this world will indeed be done.

When Jesus returns, the last Cyclone will have torn through Fiji. There will be no more terrible weather events. Jesus will come back and put an end to that kind of tragedy.

There will no longer be starving children, wondering as they go to bed at night where their next meal is coming from. No more children combing through trash heaps. Jesus will make all things new and it will be done.

There will no longer be stealing and drugs and violence or crime. No more tragedies. No more fighting, no more murder, no more blood in the streets.

There won't be any need for police or jails. No more families being torn apart and people's lives being ruined.

One day, it will be done. No more illness. No more disease. There'll be no cancer, no heart disease, no strokes, no diabetes. There'll be no more wheelchairs and crutches. There won't even be eyeglasses. One day Jesus is going to come back, and it will all be done. No more broken homes.



No more marriages falling apart. No more divorce. No more child abuse. No longer will children cower in the corner while mommy and daddy fight. No more. There won't be any more death. No more funerals. No

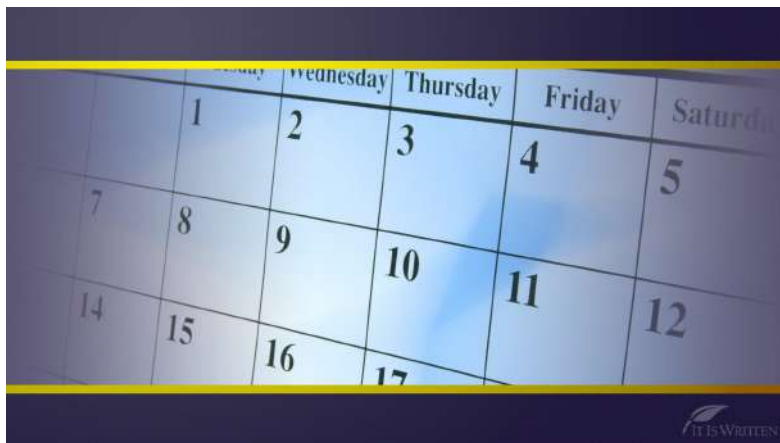
more sorrow. No more goodbyes. No more funeral homes. No more farewelling family and friends. No more. No more!

Jesus is coming back! Revelation 21:4 says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” When is He coming back? I'll tell you when. He's coming back soon. You want me to be more specific than that? I can be. He's coming back really soon. That's when Jesus is coming back.

Over the years, there have been people who have set dates for the return of Jesus. There was a book that came out some years back. “88 reasons why Jesus could come back in 1988,” or “Why the rapture could be in 1988.” 30 years ago. But it didn't happen.

Someone wrote a book provocatively titled “1994?” No, that didn't happen either. A few years ago, a media evangelist in California said that Jesus was coming back in 2011. No, we don't need to be in the business of setting dates. It does not dull our edge at all knowing that we don't know exactly when Jesus is going to return.

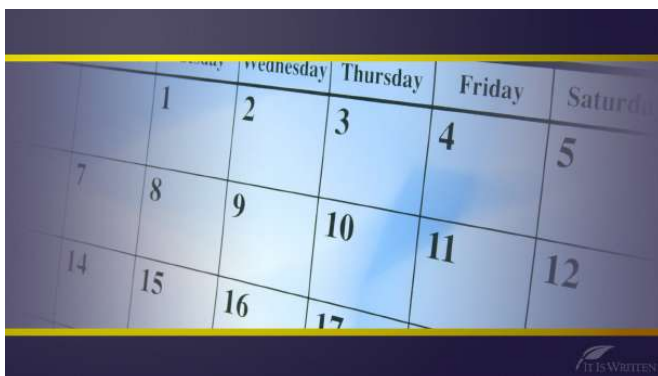
NO DATE SETTING



We know He's coming back soon. Christ Himself was clear that we cannot know exactly when Jesus is going to come back.

Some people call this event the rapture. If you look in your Bible, you won't find the word 'rapture' there, just like you won't find the word 'trinity' in the Bible, or 'millennium.' . You'll find the concepts there, however.

The word rapture means a snatching up or a catching away. Surely, when Jesus comes back, His people will be caught up and they'll be snatched away, and we're going to a better place, and I'm looking forward to it. Don't get me wrong, I like it here. But with all respect, I'd rather be there than here. We're looking forward to a wonderful place. Jesus is going to come back!



He came once before, as a baby in a manger. That first coming of Jesus was referenced in the Old Testament scriptures about 300 times. Yet, the great majority of people were not ready to meet Jesus when He came. Isaiah said that when the Messiah came, He would be despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. And that was Jesus' experience exactly.

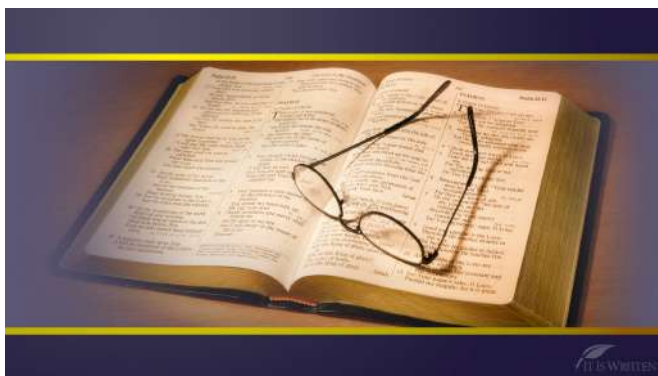
Why was He despised and rejected? How could it be that Christ's coming was missed the first time? Put simply, the people weren't reading the scriptures correctly. Even Jesus' closest associates had trouble understanding the plainest statements of of God. Jesus would say to them, "We're going to Jerusalem. They're going to beat me and kill me." And the disciples said, "What could he mean by that?"

It's hard to imagine, but their conception of the coming of the Messiah didn't allow for a suffering Messiah. The rulers there were looking for a Messiah who would come and expel the hated Romans and usher in an era of unprecedented wealth and prosperity.

They should not have been confused. The Bible said where Messiah would be born. Micah 5:2 says Bethlehem. Daniel 9 indicates when He would be born. The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would be born of a virgin.

They knew that Jesus was born under those circumstances, but they ridiculed Him for that. Not one person said, "Wait, didn't the prophet say?" Nobody said that. They wanted a Messiah, but they didn't want that kind of Messiah. They weren't reading the scriptures correctly.

2,500 times the Bible says "The second coming will happen." You know what the Bible also says? It says that most of us aren't going to be ready, just like in Noah's day.



Matthew 24:37 says, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

LEARNING FROM THE FIRST COMING AND THE DAYS OF NOAH

READY FOR HIS RETURN



With all those people on Earth, how many got on Noah's ark? Only eight. There was a mass of people on the planet, and a very few people were saved. Compared to the mass of humanity, pitifully few people are going to be ready to meet Jesus when he returns. It doesn't need to be like that. It's a serious warning to us, isn't it?

In Jesus' day, the privileged, the people with the spiritual knowledge, were basically shut out. Today, we are the people with the spiritual knowledge. Wherever you are in the grand scheme of Bible knowledge, even by listening to a presentation like this, it puts you in the privileged few who know the name of Jesus, have access to a Bible, understand something about the Word of God, and are exposed to subjects like the return of Jesus Christ.

We don't need to make the mistakes made 2,000 years ago.

The Bible takes us behind the scenes and gives us background information we need to be ready to meet Jesus when He returns. It tells us so much about this most anticipated event.

Acts 1:9 says, "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Keep those two words, cloud and sight, in mind.

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white clothing, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?"

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." That's clear.

And notice that the way Jesus went up is the way He's going to come back.

Imagine being at an airport, fare-welling your family member. He or she is leaving on a jet plane. You don't know when they'll be back again. And off they go, into the sky.

You watch that little speck disappear into the clouds. Gone. They're coming back one day. Perhaps you're at the airport again, and you see a plane coming in to land. The way they went up is the the way they come back. This is what the Bible plainly says about Jesus. Jesus will really come back. In the same way He went up.

The return of Jesus will be a literal event. It will really be Jesus. He will really come back. Just as He went, He will return the same way. It's literal. The cloud took Him up out of their sight.

Notice Revelation 1:7, which says, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him." Notice that. He's coming with clouds. He went up with clouds. He's coming back the same way he went. And it also says very clearly that every eye will see him.

A LITERAL AND VISIBLE RETURN

THIS SAME JESUS WILL RETURN



So here is our first great Bible fact. The return of Jesus is going to be a visible event.



Matthew 24:30 says, "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the

earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Notice: They see Him, and there are clouds. Sometimes, where there are clouds, there are other additional exciting atmospheric phenomena.

Matthew 24:27 says: "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Can you miss lightning? You'll even see it in the daytime. You can even see it with your eyes shut. Imagine a lightning bolt that stretches from horizon to horizon.

There's no way you're going to miss the return of Jesus. The return of Jesus is going to be literal and visible.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Back in John 14, Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. In My Father's house." Where is His Father's house? It's heaven. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself." Where did He say He was taking us to? To His Father's house. It's as plain as day.

Jesus comes back, He calls us up to Him where we meet Him in the clouds, and by the grace of God, we are out of here and we're off to spend time with Him in that wonderful place.

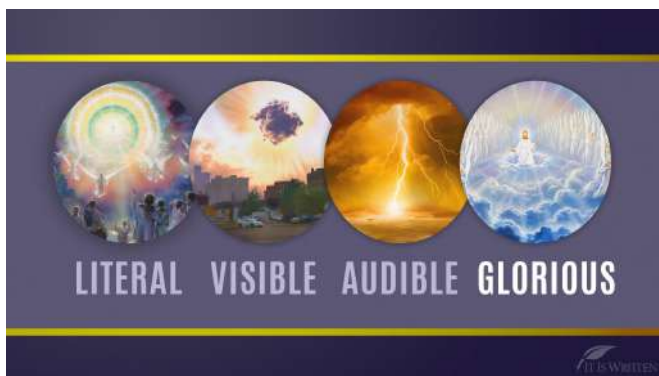
That passage we just read could be the noisiest passage of scripture in the entire Bible. The Lord comes back with a shout, not a whimper or a whisper. What instrument is He portrayed as playing?

The trumpet. Now that's a really loud instrument.

Jesus is not coming back with the sound of a harp or a flute. Meaning the return of Jesus will be literal, it will be visible, and it will also be audible. You will hear the return of Jesus.

But it gets better. The Bible says in Psalm 50:3, "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him."

When Jesus comes back, it will be literal, it will be visible, it will be audible, and it will be glorious. What an event this is going to be! The world will see Jesus come back! The cosmos will be shaken, and a people who have waited so long to see their Savior are going to see Him come back in power and in majesty. What a wonderful thing to look forward to!



VISIBLE, AUDIBLE AND GLORIOUS

EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM



We don't know exactly when He will return, but Jesus gave us signs and He said, "When you see these things, you can know that My return is near, even at the doors."

And He gave us some very serious encouragement. In Matthew 24:42 Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

If you know when the thief is coming, you watch, don't you? You watch and you guard and you make preparations and you are ready. Jesus said you want to be ready. This passage speaks to us about, not the timing of Jesus' coming, but it tells us to watch and be ready, whenever it is that Jesus returns.

Did you hear about that baggage handler who worked for an airline in the United States? Flight 488 was leaving Seattle and flying to Los Angeles. He was loading bags on a plane, and for whatever reason he stopped watching and started resting. He fell asleep in the belly of the plane. They shut the door and took off. That woke him up. He started to yell and to pound on the floor of the plane. The passengers were concerned.

They got word to the flight attendants and the flight attendants alerted the pilot, who turned the plane around and went back to Seattle and landed. That man just stopped watching, didn't he? He fell asleep. When he should have been alert and on guard, he was not. We don't want to make that mistake.

Jesus is coming back. We can't be lackadaisical about it. He's coming back. And whenever that is, we want to watch and be ready.

Now, what about this idea that Jesus is going to come back like a thief in the night? Well, the Bible doesn't quite say that.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 says, "For you yourselves know perfectly that the DAY of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." Can you imagine Jesus coming as a thief in the night? We know He comes back with a shout and He comes back with a trumpet blast. What kind of thief shows up at your house late at night and shouts and blows a trumpet! Can you imagine that? But that's not what happens at all.

It's not Jesus who comes back as a thief in the night. You're the worst thief in the world if you act like that. But it's the day of the Lord that comes as a thief, because for so many people, it will catch them by surprise. They're not ready. The question here is one of readiness, it's a question about the day of the Lord and when it comes.

The Bible describes that day in 2 Peter 3:10. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

We need to be on guard, not drifting off to sleep, but alert and awake and ready and watching and prepared to meet Jesus when He comes back.

The Bible is very clear that when Jesus comes back, some will be saved and some will be lost.

Verse 36 says: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

THE DAY WILL COME UNEXPECTEDLY

WATCH AND BE READY



In Noah's day, everybody was invited on the ark. A few got on, but most did not. Those on the ark were safe and saved. Those not on the ark were lost, tragically. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, that's how it's going to be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man." Two in the field. One taken, one left.

Two people with the same advantages, same situation, same privileges, same standing in life. One saved, one lost. Two women are working at the mill. Who were these women? The Bible doesn't identify them. Were they friends? Were they sisters? Colleagues? Here they are at the mill. Two women at the same place in life.

One is taken, one is left. Like Noah's day, that means one saved, one lost. One will be taken, one will be left. One will be saved, one will be lost. It speaks, really, to the sadness of being lost. We all have the same opportunity by and large. We live in close proximity to a Bible and the average home has many copies in it.

And yet you'll find one person took their opportunity and was saved, and the other did not take their opportunity and so therefore was lost. Jesus speaks to us and says, "There will be two groups when I come back."

Don't waste the opportunity. Don't be lost, but be saved. Don't waste the opportunity that He's giving to you.

What opportunity is that? To know Him.



To surrender your heart to Him. To live connected to Him. To enjoy the light of His presence on a moment by moment basis. That's what we can have. We don't have to look forward with woe and concern. We aren't Doomsday Clock watchers, expecting the world to end in catastrophe.

No, we look forward to the blessed hope. The Bible looks forward and says there is a time of trouble coming such as never was since there was a nation. That's true, but do we worry about that? Do we fear that? Of course we don't.

Here's something we need to know about God. By way of illustration, we'll talk about a historical event, something that took place in the book of Daniel. In the book of Daniel, you read stories and prophecies, and the stories virtually all have parallels that speak to us living in Earth's last days.

One of those stories concerns what happened to Daniel's friends, who lived in Babylon. They were named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. One day, the king decided that he would rebel against God. Nebuchadnezzar was told in Daniel chapter 2 that his kingdom was represented by the head of gold in the image, meaning that his kingdom would pass away and it would be replaced by another kingdom, and then another and then another and so on.

Nebuchadnezzar didn't like the sound of that so he made an entire 30m tall image out of solid gold. That was him shaking his little fist in God's face, saying, "Head of gold? No way. I want the whole image. We will never pass away." That's what he was saying.

To inaugurate the image, he called all the influential people in the kingdom together on the plain of Dura, in what is modern day Iraq. He told everybody that they would bow down and worship the image, or if they did not, they'd be cast into a burning fiery furnace. Now, in Iraq, there's no shortage of fuel to keep a furnace burning really hot.



It was a threat he was prepared to carry out. When the band started to play, everybody bowed down except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They did not. They stood up. The king was furious because somebody came running over to him and said, "King, those slaves over there, those foreigners, they have not bowed down."

The king said, "Listen, when you hear the music, you'll bow down or else." The three Hebrews answered by saying, "King, we are not careful to answer you in this matter." They weren't being smart alecks. They were saying, "Our mind is made up. Our God, if He wants to, can save us from that fiery furnace, but if He doesn't, we're still not going to bow down and worship that thing, so it's your call."

He made the call. "Heat it up seven times hotter than usual." He gave the command, and the three Hebrews were thrown into the fire. It was so hot that the strong men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego into the fire died from the heat. It was that hot.

TWO GROUPS



But when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego went into the fiery furnace, not even their hair was singed. The ropes that bound them were burned up. Only that which was Babylonian was burned up. This suggests God allows the heat to be turned up in our lives sometimes just to burn off what shouldn't be there.

The king said, "Wait, I thought we threw three men in there, but I see four. The fourth one is like a son of the gods." That fourth one was Jesus, the Son of God. He was in there with them. They made a stand for Jesus, and so Jesus stood beside them. This is a story indicating that God is able to sustain people down here in the end of time.

This doesn't mean Christians are looking for an easy out. The Bible says that all who live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution. But God makes clear here that He is able to and willing to protect and shield those who serve Him and love Him. He has done it before. He will do it again. You don't have to look forward to the end of time with doom and with gloom.



Daniel wasn't there for the dedication of the image in chapter 3, but he was present in chapter 6. In Daniel 6, he is now serving under a new king because the Persians have begun ruling in Babylon. Some jealous officials came to the king and said, "King, let's pass a law. Anyone who wants to worship, can only do so if they worship you. You're the only god who can be worshiped."

The king was egotistical enough to say, "Sounds good." They passed the law, and Daniel heard about it.

It says in Daniel chapter 6 that when he knew that the writing had been signed, he went home to his house and with the windows open, he faced towards Jerusalem and he prayed three times a day.

If he had only prayed once, the king might have said, "He forgot." If the windows were closed, they'd never know what he was doing there. If he had been facing Babylon, they would have thought, "Oh, he's praying to the great god down there in the Babylonian temple."

He was facing Jerusalem and he was praying out loud. They knew just what he was doing, and the king said, "Well, a law is a law." They seized Daniel and took him to the lions' den and threw him into a den filled with lions, who were ravenously hungry, but God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths. He protected His own, and Daniel was taken up ultimately out of the lions' den. No harm came to him. He did not perish. He did not suffer. God protected him.

Don't be a doom merchant, looking forward to the end, thinking that it's all suffering and all gloom. Christians have more to hope for than that.

We look forward with hope to Jesus coming back. We don't look forward knocking at the knees because of a coming crisis.



We are more concerned with the coming Christ. Jesus is coming back. It's the blessed hope, not the blessed hurt. Jesus is coming back. This is good news. The big question, though, is are we going to be ready when Jesus comes back? That's the big question.

If you catch a bus to get to work and you happen to miss the first one, it's usually that if you wait another one comes along. You just have to be patient and catch the next one.

Unfortunately, there are some people who feel that way about the second coming of Jesus. They've been told that if you're not ready when Jesus comes back, that's okay because there'll be another one that comes along soon. That is, Jesus will come back for certain saved saints.

Then some will be left here, and then Jesus will come back for some of them at a later time. Clearly, that's diametrically opposed to what Jesus said with his own lips. "As it was in the days of Noah." They got on that ark or they didn't. They were saved or they were lost. Two will be in the field. One will be taken, one will be left. Two at the mill, one taken, one left. The Bible is very plain.

GOD IS ABLE TO KEEP HIS PEOPLE



The only person who really wants you to believe that it's okay to not be ready when Jesus comes back is Satan. He's the one who says, "Be ye therefore ready or not ready, it hardly even matters." But Jesus said, "Watch, therefore." The Satan says, "Take your time. Kick back. Do your thing. Don't be so uptight. You've got a second chance." And to some extent, he's right. You do.

The second chance was when you woke up this morning. That was the second chance. If you woke up this morning and you were not a child of God, if you woke up this morning and you were not surrendered to Jesus, Jesus was saying, "Good news. I'm giving you another opportunity." To look into the sky and say, "God must have made that." To see a beautiful flower and say, "That is an expression of the creative goodness of God."



He's giving you another opportunity to know that there is a God of love, that your sins can be forgiven. Another opportunity to know that by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, you can have the gift of salvation.

I'm telling you, weak individual, you who says, "I could never be good enough for heaven," I'm telling you that's right. You couldn't. But it's okay if you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. What happens is He comes into your life and lives His life in you. What you cannot do but you know you should do, Jesus will do, as long as you just say, "Yes, Jesus, do it."

As long as when that impulse to sin comes, you cry out to God and you say, "Lord, take over right now, because I cannot win this fight." Remember, God himself told Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." If you can be weak, that's enough. Just let God take your weakness and connect it to His strength.

Now you say, "I am a child of God. I am looking forward to the return of Jesus. He's coming back. He's coming back for me and I will be ready, not because I'm good, but because He is good and He lives His life in me." When you claim Christ, you have hope. Paul called it the blessed hope. The Bible says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. That's you, me and everyone.

When Jesus comes back, there'll be two groups on Earth. One group has given their life to Christ. One hasn't. If you read in Revelation 6, one group of people calls out to the mountains and rocks, and they say, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from

the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Then there's another group. They have come to know Jesus personally. And you can be in that group! Rich or poor, black or white, intelligent or not, educated or uneducated. What makes the difference is whether or not you have faith in Jesus. This group of people has faith in Jesus, and when Jesus comes back, you know what they say?



It's recorded in Isaiah 25:9. When He comes back, they look towards the sky and say, "'Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'"

Jesus is coming back soon. He's not going to enter the cosmos silently. When the King of the Universe comes to town, the heavens will depart as a scroll. Jesus will come riding down the great corridors of space, making an entry into our atmosphere befitting one who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He's coming back. That isn't going to change.

The variable is you and me. Will we be ready for that time or not? Ready is the easiest thing you ever did. Ready is saying to Jesus, "Take my heart and make it Yours." You have to live in this world, so live with hope and meaning and purpose. Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me, I will not cast out." Just come to Jesus tonight. It's just that simple.

Let me tell you this story. It happened to a South African family recently. Seventeen years prior, a baby was stolen out of the arms of its sleeping

mother. Then, in the spring of 2015, their second daughter who was a in year nine had just started at a new school and all the students were saying, "You look just like one of the year 12 students!" She looked at that older girl and she said, "My goodness. I DO look like her!"

She told her parents, who arranged for the older girl to come to their home. It was their daughter, Zephany. Zephany, the girl that they had waited for for 17 years. They never gave up hope. They never stopped believing. Her room had been left all those years just as it was when she was taken. Now the family was put back together. It was a great outcome. They waited and they waited. They wondered if it would ever happen. It happened.

We wait and we wait. Will it ever happen? It will happen. Jesus is waiting. Will it happen? It will happen.

Will you be ready? Yes you will. By inviting Jesus into your heart, by asking Him to live His life in you. By surrendering to Him, you'll be ready to spend eternity with Jesus when He comes back to take you home.



Let's pray together. Our father in heaven, we know He's coming back soon. We look forward to the day. Keep us until then. We want to be Yours, now, then, and ever. Thank you for the privilege of knowing You and for the blessed hope of Jesus' return, we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE BLESSED HOPE

Behold, This Is Our God

The presentation ends with a personal invitation. The return of Jesus is certain; the question is whether we will be ready. Readiness is described not as earning heaven, but as surrendering to Christ, receiving His grace, and allowing Him to live His life in us.

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us... we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

Isaiah 25:9

Jesus is coming back.