



The Return of Jesus Christ

When Will He Return?

**What's Stopping Him From
Returning?**

Why IS He Coming Back?

Why Did He Go Away?

**What Signs Will I Need To
Look For?**

What About The "Rapture"

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Preface

Here is another eBook on Christian Doctrine. It represents my views and feelings concerning the return of Jesus Christ. I do not pretend to know everything. Nor do I present myself as a Theologian. I do, however, offer a Biblical teaching on the subject. It is my hope that readers will come to see that the return of Jesus is eminent and very well could be within our lifetime.

We will look at some signs that Jesus said to look for. We will search the scriptures for documentation of thought and evidence. We will discuss the WHEN?, WHY?, WHERE?, and HOW to gain a full perspective.

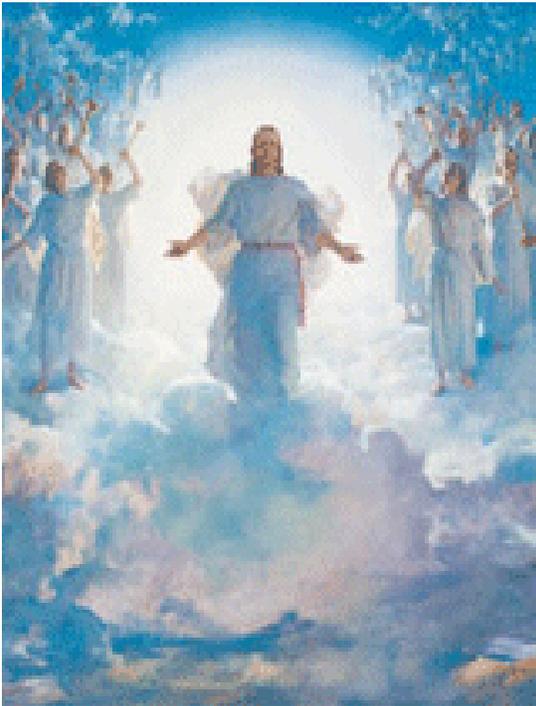
I will be using the KJV of the bible as my primary resource for scripture references. I will also be looking for other references from noted individuals to document everything I say.

Introduction

There are a lot of different beliefs concerning the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. Some say He never came the 1st time. Some say there is no next time. Yet others divide His coming into Pre, Mid, and Post Tribulation events.

I will attempt to prove, with biblical support, that Jesus indeed is coming back. I will discuss when, where, why and how. We will investigate the concept of a “Rapture” of the Church and delve into prophetic interpretations.

By the time you are finished reading, I feel sure that you will be, as I am, looking for Jesus, to come again.



Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?

this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:11

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:42

Some Opinions As To Jesus' Return

Folks have predicted the exact day when Jesus will return but over the years those exact days came and went and He did not show up. I guess He didn't get the memo. We are still waiting and some folks are saying lots of different things. Here are some that I have heard:



1. He is supposed to come for a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle and the church has not evolved to that point yet.
2. All the signs are not as yet revealed so He is waiting for those final signs.
3. Jesus' return has already happened and we missed it because it happened before we were born.
4. Jesus' return happened on the day of Pentecost and the church is supposed to now take charge and rule the world.
5. His return was never meant to be a single event but an on-going event from heart to heart of those that repent and become, "Born Again"

I am sure you have heard several that I did not list. The fact is, we are still waiting. That reminds me of a parable that Jesus taught to His disciples. It's found in **Matthew 25:1-13**.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise, for when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'" Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Here's what James Montgomery Boice wrote about this parable. He is a contributor for Logos Bible Software.... *As we take a good look at the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), we must acknowledge up front that there has been much debate as to the meaning of these words of our Savior.*

At least one aspect of this parable can be known with absolute certainty. The bridegroom is Jesus Christ, and this parable describes His return. Both the Old Testament (Isaiah 54:4-6; 62:4-5; Hosea 2:19) and the New Testament (John 3:27-30; Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:19-20) represent the Messiah as a bridegroom. Both God's people Israel and the Church are described in Scripture as the bride (Ephesians 5:25-32) for the Messiah.

The overall and easily seen thrust of the parable is that Christ will return at an unknown hour and that His people must be ready.



Being ready means preparing for whatever contingency arises in our lives and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus at all times while we eagerly await His coming.”

B. L. Cocherell and Charles E. Barrett of Biblesearch.org offers this interpretation:

“It is very clear that the ten virgins represent a significant part of the entire body of elect. Because of the warning messages in Revelation 2 and 3 to the seven churches of God which will exist just before Christ's return, it appears likely that the ten virgins represent all the elect that exist during the end of the age, except for those of the Philadelphia church.

Perhaps the reason that there are ten virgins divided into two groups is the numerical meaning of the numbers 10 and 5 as they apply to biblical symbolism. The number 10 is symbolic of the law of God and the number 5 is symbolic of God's grace.

This parable indicates that all of these people knew that the banquet would occur very soon and they were looking forward to the arrival of the bridegroom and participating in the celebration after his arrival.”

The Wise And The Foolish



“Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps“ (Matthew 25:2-4).

Notice that Jesus separates the 10-vergins into two groups, the wise and the foolish. Both are waiting for His return. All of the virgins began with full lamps. It is obvious that all of the virgins were anticipating a period of waiting but none of them know just how long. All of them also identified themselves as the bride. They knew that there was a wedding banquet in their future. The wise anticipated that they might have to wait longer than expected so they brought extra oil in order to keep their lights burning as long as necessary.

The burning lamp is a picture of the Word of God. **Psalm 119:105** verifies this, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” It is important to understand the symbolism of the lamps.

The lamp represents the principles upon which one’s life is established. It is the Will of God given to man to guide him in the way of righteous and away from the snares of the devil. The Word of God symbolized by a lighted Lamp is the key to understanding this parable.

The emphasis seems to be on the importance of keeping one’s lamp lit. *That is to say*, being so full of God’s word that you shine like a beacon atop a hill overlooking the city. Didn’t Jesus say, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16**

What happens when your light goes out? You guessed it; you fall into darkness where confusion, depression, sorrows and death dwell. The lamp that lit the way is out. The path is lost and you wander in the wilderness like the children of Israel on old. This is a picture of the 5-foolish virgins and their ultimate destiny.

10 Virgins Equals Six Churches

I believe that the 10 virgins represent the six churches in Revelation that Jesus rebuked, it is also important to see that they all fell asleep. Only the 7th church, Philadelphia, stayed awake.

Here is the account in **Revelation 17:7-9**. It is a picture of the wife of the Lamb, which before being the wife was, as the parable teaches, 10 virgins waiting for the Bridegroom to come.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they, which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God.”

Who was called to the marriage supper of the Lamb? The 10 virgins and the church of Philadelphia are they that were called. They represent the Bride who became the wife.

To fall asleep, in my opinion, and others I read after, is to fall away from the truth. It's like forgetting that Jesus is really coming back and falling back into life as usual, like the world system of things. The zeal and dedication fades away and is eventually replaced with religion, rules, dogma and political correctness, the result of which is liberalism.



“Nowhere in the message to the elect of Philadelphia do we find them pictured as being asleep. On the contrary, they are shown as being the zealous elect who are commended for faithfully keeping the truth of God and upholding the name of Jesus.

Thus, it is clear that the parable of the 10 virgins is talking about the rest of the elect who are all spiritually asleep just before Christ's return. History shows us that because of spiritual lethargy the early church disappeared as a united, powerful entity. However, throughout the centuries, there have

been a few among the elect of God who have kept awake while the great majority has gone to sleep.” G. L. Cocherell and Charles E. Barrett

Today’s Christian Community

If we are really in the last days before the return of Christ, which I believe we are, this parable is a clear picture of our Christian community. Do you know how many denominations there are in our modern world? According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, there were an estimated 34,000 denominations in 2000, rising to an estimated 43,000 in 2012. These numbers have exploded from 1,600 in the year 1900. Do you suppose that this is a picture of division, confusion and apathy? I do not see unity and brotherhood. I see 10 virgins asleep (preoccupied with the cares of this world) I also see churches that have embraced immorality.

I was curious to see if I could find denominations that have affirmed the LBTG lifestyle. LBTG refers to Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Gay. Here’s what I found in a Google search. These denominations affirm the LBTG lifestyle:

Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, Brethren Mennonite, Presbyterian, Evangelical Anglican, Disciples of Christ, Independent Orthodox Greek, Lutheran, and Charismatic.

I realize that most of these denominations have many different offshoots and the above list does not necessarily portray full acceptance by the entire denomination mentioned. It does however; illustrate a trend towards immorality and worldly political correctness. It also shows a church that was once vibrant and on fire for God as falling asleep.



The majority of today’s church felt that Christ's return was very near and would happen before the end of the century. Many people thought that He would return before 1975. We know that it didn’t happen. The Philadelphia church went on in faith and stayed awake but the rest conveniently went to sleep. In other words, they believed that “The Lord delayed his coming“ **(Luke.12:45)**.

It should be noted that the Philadelphia church is scattered among every denomination. They are the believers that walk by faith and trust in the Lord. They are those that look for His coming and seek to live within the known will of God. They are those that hide His word in their hearts and fill themselves with His Spirit daily. They hear His voice and come to His calling. The return of Christ will be no surprise to them. They will be ready.

The Midnight Cry



“At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him'” **Matthew 25:6.**

I believe that the cry at midnight comes from the church that did not fall asleep...the spiritual church that flows through most every denomination. They are watching and praying for His return and will, through the Spirit, sense His coming ahead of time.

“This cry of warning follows the pattern of all the warnings given by prophets to God's people throughout history. God never lets his people go into severe trials without a resounding warning and an opportunity to repent. The issue here is a very serious one. It is an issue of salvation or the Lake of Fire. This is not a minor reprimand or chastisement.

This is an issue of whether one will respond to the warning, repent, and return to the faith once delivered and return to God the Father and Jesus Christ in a proper attitude. The window of opportunity for true repentance seems very short. It appears likely that there will be little time to get one's spiritual house in order before the door to salvation is shut forever.” G. L. Cocherell and Charles E. Barrett

This brings up a question about the salvation of those that ran out of oil (the Word of God) All of the Virgins Hear the Cry. They all woke up. They all realized the seriousness of the cry. Everyone gets a wake up call but half didn't have any oil, word of God. They are left behind. The Bridegroom comes and receives the wise virgins and shuts the door. The foolish virgins are denied access and hear the Lord say to them as they try to gain access, *“I don't know you.”*

These foolish virgins did not take the Word, oil with them. They allowed the Word of God to slip away. They did not keep the truth of God alive in their hearts. They stopped walking by faith. In fact, they cut off the very source by which they could receive faith, the Scriptures.

Is this a loss of one salvation? I think not. Hear what the scripture says.

1. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. **I John 2:19**

2. “ A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!” **(Matthew 13:3-9).**



3. “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” **Matthew 13:24-30**

Here's what these three scriptures tell me: 1.) Some of our group is not really what they claim to be. 2.) Some of the folks that received the Word that was sown in their hearts by the sewer did not take it seriously and it did not take root. 3.) Some of the harvest is not really wheat at all but tares fighting for the same ground.

The five foolish virgins, in my opinion, are really tares that sought to dominate the Wheat. They used the oil or Word of God as a cover to hide their true identity but failed in the end to actually apply the scripture. They appeared to be with us but really were not. They could not make the transition from unrighteousness to righteousness. They ignored God's truth and ran out of oil, that is to say, the Word had no affect on them because it was not mixed with faith. In doing so, they have, in fact, sentenced themselves to the Lake of Fire.

Too Late Is Too Late



“And the door was shut. Later the others also came. Sir! Sir! they said, open the door for us! But he replied, I tell you the truth, I don't know you. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour wherein the Son of man comes“ (**Matthew 25:10-13**).

The parable teaches that once the door is closed, it's just too late. The foolish virgins are excluded from the Marriage Supper of The Lamb because they were not really qualified or “Born Again”.

Once the church is gathered from the earth, there will no longer be a person alive on earth that has the Spirit of God within them. This is documented in **II Thessalonians 2:7**, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.”

He that letteth, (or restrains), is the Holy Spirit. When He is taken out of the way, He has to take us with Him because Jesus said, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever” **John 14:16** This is why Jesus says to the foolish virgins, “I don't know you.” They no longer have the Spirit of God available to them and they have lost their opportunity for salvation, which means that their fate is the Lake of Fire, because they were called of God but they did not repent and become, “Born Again”. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,

as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” **II Peter 3:9**

Knowing How To Wait



As we Christians wait for our Lord’s return, what should we be doing? This seems to be the best kept secret ever. The devil just does not want us to know how to wait. He wants us to fall asleep which means to drift off center and leave our faith on the table. He wants us to follow our fleshly appetites and become one with the world system.

If we do this, we will show God and those around us that we were never really a Christian. We will show them that we are playing church and using what little scripture we know as a cloak to hide our inward unsaved condition. Eventually we will find one of the six churches that have fallen asleep and sleep there until the midnight call. That will be a day of reckoning. On the other hand, if we stay awake we will be joining the Philadelphia church that walks by faith, prays for revelation and eagerly looks for His return.

There is a theological assumption in all of this. It is called, “*The Perseverance of The Saints*”. The premise is that true saints will not give up. They will instead persevere to the very end. If any give up, it is because he or she is not really a saint. This is not to say that saints do not stumble and fall. It is to say that when they do, they get back up and go on with their relationship with God.

Those that don’t get up but give up and return to the world system. They are those that have no oil. They claim to be a saint but never had the, “Born Again” experience. I can see them now in the sleeping churches. They lack spiritual knowledge, know nothing of spiritual warfare, walk in the flesh instead of the Spirit and believe they can get to heaven through good works.



Regarding earthquakes, scientific data does show that we have been seeing a large increase in seismic activity. According to a number of scientists, another star or large planet is affecting the sun's magnetic field, which is also affecting the earth's magnetic field - both the core and the ionosphere. The north pole is shifting at an accelerated pace, and the earth seems to be expanding. Thus, we should see a continual increase in earthquakes and volcanic activity in coming years.

Deceivers Who Claim To Be Christian

And Jesus answered and said to them: *"Take heed that no one deceives you for many will come in My name saying that I am the Christ and will deceive many."* **Mt. 24:4,5**

Although the Bible teaches that Jesus is the promised Jewish Messiah and is "the only begotten Son of God" (**John 3:18**), who created the world and everything in it (**Col. 1:16**), at the end of the Church Age many people will be teaching these truths, yet they will have other teachings that that are not consistent with the Bible and will deceive many. Perhaps the majority of professing Christian teachers in the world today fall into this camp, as most have fallen away from sound Biblical teachings and instead place traditions of men and/or the goal of increasing church attendance above the authority of the Bible. Some are subtle, and some are blatant. Sincere followers of Jesus should come out of these wayward institutional churches and seek to fellowship with people who follow and teach what Jesus and His apostles did.



People of Israel Return To Their Land



"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that ... I will bring again captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God." (**Amos 9:13-15**)

"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.'" (Ezekiel 37:21,22)

During the last 130 years, Jews from 108 nations have migrated to the land of Israel.

In 1882 the first wave of modern immigration to Israel started as Jews fled persecution, or followed the Socialist Zionist ideas of Moses Hess. From 1882 to 1919 around 75,000 Jews immigrated to Palestine, mostly from Russia. They bought land from the Ottoman Empire and individual Arab landholders and established agricultural settlements. During this period the Hebrews language was revived, newspapers and literature were published in Hebrew and political parties and workers organizations were established.

In 1917 during World War I, the British government in its Balfour Declaration supported plans for a national home for the Jews in their promised land. Later, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) lost control of the Middle East. This made it possible for hundreds of thousands more immigrants to arrive from Europe. Anti-Semitism drove most there. Many more would have come had it not been for Arab protest and resulting British restrictions on immigration.

During World War II, the Nazis killed around 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, so it became clear to the Jews that they needed a homeland. Many Holocaust survivors immigrated illegally to Palestine. When the British pulled out of Palestine in May 1948, the state of Israel formally declared its independence. It was immediately recognized by the USA, followed by Guatemala, Nicaragua and Uruguay. A few days later, the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and South Africa did the same. No Arab states have ever recognized Israel, but several have attacked them. However, Israel has successfully defended itself against numerous Arab attacks. As a result, Jews throughout the Middle East have also been forced to immigrate to Israel, and the nation has grown strong. It has turned a desert into an agricultural success, and its technology as seen in industry exports are cutting edge innovations.

Today, Israel's population is over 7 million. In 2018, Israel will celebrate it's 70th anniversary, but some of its neighbors hate it and want to "wipe it off

the map". It is still mostly a secular state, but it has a growing percentage of Orthodox Jews and Christians. Today, the Aliyah immigration movement continues to embrace Jewish newcomers, to help them become a part of communities and help them learn Hebrew.

Increased Wickedness & Loss of Love

"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."
(Matthew 24:12)

Today, more and more people are living primarily for themselves and their own happiness. The idea of denying themselves, taking up their crosses daily and following Jesus (**Luke 9:23**) is a foreign concept. What TV and movies show as "normal" has affected the values of those who indulge in them. At the same time, couples are divorcing, and children are growing up with deep unmet needs as a result. Many couples are not even marrying but living together in fornication (any form of sex not sanctioned by God). The result has been the blood sacrifice (murder) of hundreds of millions of innocent, helpless children through abortion, over 50 million in the United States alone and the birthing of even more children who lack a healthy home where they can receive love and training from their own father and mother.



Life & Business As Usual



Jesus said, *"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.* For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man " (**Matthew 24:37-39**). Note that the flood was unexpected. They were all unaware of its coming and its affect on them until it was too late. Noah was a preacher of righteousness who warned the people around him but no one listened.

Today, we have radio, T.V. and other media and we use it to tell folks that Jesus is coming soon but no one is really listening. The world is carrying on with business as usual and will until it is just too late.

Strong Delusion



And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. (2 Th. 2:11 NKJV)

The primary focus of the deception is the use of the controlled corporate media by the Prince of the Power of the Air. TV, radio, Internet, cell phones, etc. keep people completely preoccupied and oblivious to the fate that awaits unbelievers. The goal is also to prevent people from hearing the Gospel of Jesus, and if they do hear it to forget about it and be entertained constantly. Most people in developed countries are now in a fog due to the impact of these media that lull them into a false sense of security and into a false sense of right and wrong. This delusion can be seen in three areas:

Spirituality... the Emerging Church has become so pervasive that most churches in developed countries will tolerate abortion (murder), fornication (premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality) and almost any other violation of God's law. Just think: how many churches will excommunicate a person for involvement in these sins?

Finance... many people are unaware that an international government / banking cartel partnership is stealing their wealth and using the funds to control the world. (See *How Some Rich Bankers Tricked the American People and Gained Control of the World's Economic, Political, Legal and Educational Systems and 19 Reasons Why The Federal Reserve Is At the Heart of Our Economic Problems, 20 Questions To Ask Anyone Foolish Enough To Believe The Economic Crisis Is Over.*)

The stealing is done through the printing of fiat money (money not based on gold or silver but on debt), through interest on money that does not exist (due to fractional reserve banking laws) and through the saw tooth effect of markets that draws people into bad investments over a long period of time and then makes them lose large portions of their life savings when markets drop. (See *200 Year Dow/Gold Ratio*, and note how it became much more dramatic after the creation of the Federal Reserve System in 1913.

Politics... most people are also unaware of the liberal media and left-wing parties that push their socialistic views and seek to change the very foundation by which our country was established. This political premise has called evil good and nakde laws that protect imoral behavoir and the killing

of unborn babies. They, the people, think it's ok. Their spiritual darkness is now called light that will guide our country into the future.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4,9-12)



When Will Jesus Return?



Would you believe me if I told you that Jesus will return on the 3rd Friday of next month? Some have actually tried to predict the actual day of His return. I guess they never read the scripture that says, “But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” **Matthew 24:36**

Knowing the actual day or hour is impossible to know. Only God, the Father knows. However, we do know that it will be an unexpected event in the eyes of the world. “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night”. **I Thessalonians 5:2**

Why Is He Coming Back?

Jesus is coming back because He said he would. He is coming for us, the “Born Again” saints. “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” **Ephesians 5:27**

Why Did He Go Away?

“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. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” **John 14:2-3**

Jesus is preparing a place for us that we can dwell with Him for all of eternity. How great is that? This going away and coming back to receive His bride is pictured in the parable of the 10 virgins. The bridegroom goes away to prepare a place while the bride waits. Jewish culture and customs portray the greatest event of all times, Jesus' return.

The Rapture of The Church Is At Hand



It's been said that Jesus will come for His church and rapture it out of this world into His presence. It is a catching away of all Christians, real ones, not religious, fake or even churchgoers that play church for other selfish reasons.

The word *rapture* (in Greek *harpazo*, in Latin *rapere*) means to be caught up or taken away suddenly. The rapture refers to the sudden removal of all of God's people on the earth. In the twinkling of an eye, “Born Again” Christians will suddenly be transformed out of their human bodies and will rise up into the air to join Jesus Christ.

Christ warned His followers 13 times in the New Testament to not be deceived, and to watch and be ready. He wanted us to be excited about His glorious appearing. His 2nd coming is in anticipation of the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Satan, on the other hand, does not want us to be excited. He is the master deceiver; the father of lies and wants us to believe his deception rather than the signs of the times pointing to Christ's return. He will send many lies to

deceive us and to rob us of the joy of living every day in anticipation of Christ's return.

Living In Anticipation

For those who believe that the Bible is the truth and is the very Word of God, it's easy to believe in and rejoice in the prophecies that tell of the rapture of God's church. The Bible tells us of others who have been taken up into heaven in very much the same way that we will be at the time of the rapture. Elijah was taken up into heaven like a whirlwind. **I Kings 2:11-12** "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel! And Elisha saw him no more."

Enoch was also taken from this life so that he would not experience death. **Hebrews 11:5** "By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. for before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." **Hebrews 11:6**



So, when will the church be raptured? We know there is more evidence today that He is coming for His church sooner, than at any other time in history. As these signs intensify, all of us who know Christ as our savior will be looking toward heaven and awaiting, with great anticipation, the coming of our Lord.

The Pre-Trib Theory

Many biblical scholars feel that the rapture will occur prior to the "Tribulation Period" spoken of in Revelation. This is called a pre-tribulation rapture. Thus God will spare His church from the persecutions of the Antichrist and the wrath of God that will fall upon the inhabitants of the earth during the end times. Those who come to Christ following the rapture will live through the persecution of Christians by the Antichrist. Some will

face martyrdom for their faith. There are several other views of the timing for the rapture of the church; in particular, Mid-Trib, Post-Trib and No-Trib or no rapture at all, however, here we will examine the pre-tribulation view and the biblical support for it.

Revelation 3:10 is one of the best supporting verses from the Bible for the rapture of the church. "Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth."



I would assume that God would not bring the same type of judgment to His children, as He will on the wicked. This scripture seems to support my premise. The assumption is that believers will be taken out of harms way. Listen to what Paul tells the Thessalonians in his second letter, chapter two verses 2-15.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

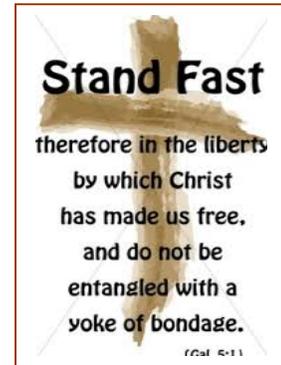


⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
¹⁴ Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions, which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.



I wanted to show the context so there is no misunderstanding. Note verse seven...he that letteth is God's Holy Spirit. He is a restraining force in the world, holding evil back from its ultimate expression. When the Spirit is taken out of the way, guess what? the Spirit is in us and Jesus said He would never leave us comfortless but will be with us until the end of the age. (**John 14:18**)

The moment has come. It is the end of the age and we will go with the Spirit to meet Jesus in the air as Paul says in **1 Thessalonians 4:17**.

There you have it. The rapture or sudden removal of God's children is at hand. The big question now is will you be left behind? Non-believers will be left to face the great tribulation where God pours out His wrath upon the wicked. You don't want to be in that group of folks. Get your heart right with God, make Jesus your Lord and Savior, and start looking and being ready for His return.



In the twinkle of an eye,
The Lord will come for me.
Before you can even blink,
I'll be with Jesus in eternity.

In the twinkle of an eye,
The trump of God will sound,
And all who love the Lord
Will be homeward bound.

In the twinkle of an eye,
The World will fall into despair.
When God's wrath is poured out,
Upon all who do not care.

In the twinkle of an eye,
We shall shout the victory.
Spared from His judgment,
To complete our divine destiny.

Conclusion

The Bridegroom is coming. The Philadelphia church has issued its midnight cry. The foolish virgins are off looking for oil. The door of salvation is about to be closed. Today is the day of salvation but tomorrow will just be too late.



If you are one of the 10 virgins that fell asleep and now are awake, don't be foolish. Repent and be Born Again. Fill yourself with God's Spirit and His Word and be ready, ever watching and praying for the Bridegroom to appear.

I believe it will occur in my lifetime. But, even if it doesn't, I will keep alert with my ear attuned to His voice and my heart filled with His Spirit to walk with Him by faith every day. I will occupy until I see Him face to face.

What will you do?



*Watch therefore: for ye know not
what hour your Lord doth come.
Matthew 24:42*