

# THE RETURN

## THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST



Matthew 25: 31

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THE RETURN

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

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# THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



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## PART 2 - THE NEW TESTAMENT

### THE RETURN

#### THE GOSPELS

*Behold, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, asking -  
Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews?*

Matthew 2: 1 - 2



*The Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David. He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) throughout the ages and of His reign there will be no end.* Luke 1: 32 - 33

When the Lord Jesus Christ, at the age of thirty years, began His ministry proclaiming the Kingdom of God, as in the Sermon on the Mount, He spent much time teaching His Disciples. Jesus often spoke prophetically, preparing them for the manner of His death and His coming glory on the Day of Judgement. The Lord Jesus foretold He would die by crucifixion and rise again on the third day. After going away from them, He promised His return and the gift of eternal life to everyone who believed.

*I will raise him up (from the dead) on the last day.*

John 6: 40, 54

In His Father's house there were many mansions (homes - dwelling places) prepared for them.

*In My Father's house there are many dwelling places.*

*When I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.*

John 14: 2 - 3

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come back to you.*

John 14: 18

*You heard Me tell you, I am going away and I am coming back to you.*

John 14: 28

*The Son of Man is going to come in the glory (majesty) of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward every man in accordance with what he has done.*

Matthew 16: 27

Jesus in addressing His followers stressed that there was no profit in gaining the whole world and so forfeiting the blessing of eternal life in the kingdom of God.

*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*

Mark 8: 38

Matthew 17: 1 - 9

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James and his brother John beheld Jesus' glory, when He was transfigured in radiant light on the top of that high mountain (probably Mount Hermon). Throughout His teaching and healing ministry, Jesus continued to speak prophetically about His Return and the future rewards to be given to His disciples and faithful servants.

Matthew 19: 27 - 30 Mark 10: 28 - 31 Luke 18: 28 - 30

*In the new age (the Messianic rebirth of the world), when the Son of Man shall sit down on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel.*  
Matthew 19: 28



JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)

Matthew 21: 1 - 11

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah King would come to the Daughters of Zion humbly riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey. On Christ's entry into the city, the crowds acclaimed Him crying out the same words, as foretold.

(Mark 11: 1 - 10 Luke 19: 29 - 38 John 12: 12 - 19 Psalm 118: 26)

*Hosanna! (Save now!) Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!*

Matthew 21: 9

JESUS' END TIMES PROPHECIES AND PARABLES

PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

Matthew 21: 33 - 41



Jesus spoke prophetically in His parables. During Passover week, Jesus told the Parable of the Vineyard. This parable is prophetic about the Lord's Return and highly significant because Israel is the *Vineyard of the Lord*. In the Parable, the owner of the vineyard rented it out to wicked tenants, who killed his servants sent to receive the fruits of the harvest; even killing the owner's son and heir.

(Mark 12: 1 - 9 Luke 20: 9 - 16)

Jesus ended the Parable asking the following question -

*Now when the owner of the vineyard comes back, what will he do to those tenants?*

Matthew 21: 40 (Luke 20: 15)

The chief priests, Pharisees, scribes and elders of the people knew that the parable was directed against them. Jesus in condemning them quoted again words from Psalm 118.

*The very Stone which the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone.*

Matthew 21: 42 (Mark 12: 10 Luke 20: 17 Psalm 118: 22)

The words *tested Stone*, like the *righteous Branch* and the *precious Cornerstone*, are Messianic titles used several times in the Old Testament.

Matthew 24: 1 - 44

Matthew Chapter 24 contains the most detailed prophecies describing the signs of the end of the age prior to Christ's Return; Jesus telling His disciples everything beforehand to answer their questions -  
(Mark 13: 1 - 37 Luke 21: 5 - 36)

*Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?*

Matthew 24: 3

In His long Olivet discourse, Jesus foretells the signs of the End of the Age and of His coming again. He prophesied the 7 year long period of severe affliction called the Great Tribulation. Many false prophets would deceive the people. Jesus warned that there would be wars, famines and earthquakes. Many of these signs and natural disasters have occurred in modern times. Jesus likened these signs to birth pains - pains of increasing severity and occurrence. Preceding His Return, Jesus foretold there would be a time of shaking and sifting, of conflict with great persecution and hatred. This severe hardship would be especially directed against true believers and the Jews; including in Jerusalem the *abomination of desolation* prophesied in the Book of Daniel.  
(Daniel 11: 31)

There would be an increase in knowledge and also lawlessness with accompanying apostasy and decrease in faith - as illustrated in the Parable of the Unjust Judge. (Luke 18: 1 - 8)

*When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*

Luke 18: 8

Most significantly, Jesus prophesied that the end would not come until the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is preached throughout the whole world.

*This good news of the kingdom (the Gospel) will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then will come the end.*

Matthew 24: 14



*Just as the lightning flashes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Matthew 24: 27 (Luke 17: 24)

*The sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn and lament in anguish, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Matthew 24: 30

(Mark 13: 26 Luke 21: 27 Daniel 7: 13 - 14 Revelation 1: 7)



Luke 21: 29 - 31

THE LESSON OF THE FIG TREE

Jesus taught the disciples that the Lord's coming is very near when the signs of the End of the Age come to pass, just as the Fig tree in new leaf is a sign that summer is near.

*You may know of a surety that He is near, at the very doors.*

Matthew 24: 33 (Mark 13: 29)

*Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

Matthew 24: 36 (Mark 13: 32)

Matthew 23: 1 – 38

Jesus addressed the Woes to Come to the Pharisees, the scribes and hypocrites ending with these words again from Psalm 118.

*You will not see Me again until you say,  
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Matthew 23: 39 (Luke 13: 35 John 12: 13 Psalm 118: 26)

Jesus' detailed account of the woes describes the sinful days in which Noah's family lived.

*God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Genesis 6: 5

*As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.* Matthew 24: 37

PARABLES OF THE HOUSEHOLDER AND THE WISE AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Matthew 24: 42 – 51

*Watch therefore, for you do not know in what kind of a day your Lord is coming.*

Matthew 24: 42

In the first of these two short parables, Jesus warned His disciples that if the householder had known when the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

*You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.*

Matthew 24: 44 (Luke 12: 40)

In the second parable, Jesus commends and rewards the wise and faithful servant in charge of his master's household.

*It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.*

Matthew 24: 46

*Blessed is that servant whom, when his master comes, he will find so doing.* Luke 12: 37

PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

Matthew 25: 1 – 13

God's servants are to be watchful and always on the alert like the five wise virgins.

The five foolish virgins were unready and unprepared for the return of the Bridegroom and consequently were shut out from the Marriage of the Lamb.

*Watch therefore,  
for you know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man will come.* Matthew 25: 13

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Matthew 25: 14 – 30 (Luke 19: 12 – 27)

Jesus told this prophetic parable, as He neared Jerusalem, because the people believed the coming of the Kingdom of God was imminent. The parable was about a man who gave a sum of talents for trading to his servants before going far away to obtain a kingdom. On returning, having received the kingdom, he commended the faithful servant who had made five more talents; likewise the one who had made two more. But the wicked servant was condemned for he had done nothing with his talent; and so it was given to the trustworthy servant who had made five more.

Christ's Second coming is certain but the timing is known only to God, the Father.

His servants, as in these Parables, are to be watchful and working, loyal and always on the alert.

*Blessed are those servants whom the master finds watching when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will gird himself and have them recline at table and will come and serve them!*

Luke 12: 37

PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

Matthew 25: 31 – 46



The Son of Man, seated in His glory with all the nations before Him, will separate the people as a shepherd does his sheep and goats.

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in power, majesty and glory, all the holy angels with Him. Jesus will return as King of kings and Lord of lords.

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

Matthew 25: 31 (Mark 8: 38 Luke 9: 26)

To His sheep on the right, the King of glory, gave judgement with these words –

*Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* Matthew 25: 34

To the goats on His left, the King gave the judgement of eternal punishment, for they had neglected and maltreated His brethren (the Jews) and so had not ministered to Jesus.

Matthew 26:17 - 30



At the Passover Meal, when Jesus instituted the memorial Communion service of the Last Supper or the celebration of the Eucharist, He spoke these words to His Disciples -

*I say to you, I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it with you new in My Father's kingdom.* Matthew 26: 29 (Mark 14: 25 Luke 22: 18)

JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN AND CAIAPHAS

The High Priest's question -

*Are You the Christ, (the Messiah, the Anointed One) the Son of the blessed?*

Jesus' answer -

*I AM; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power (the Almighty) and coming on the clouds of heaven.* Mark 14: 62 (Matthew 26: 64 Luke 22: 69)

To Caiaphas, this was blasphemy and resulted in the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

At Christ's promised Second Coming, the humiliation of the crucifixion will be reversed for Jesus will return in great glory and power; and as Judge.

THE RESURRECTION

Luke 24: 13 - 48



On the first day of Christ's resurrection, Jesus began to interpret the Scriptures to the disciples both on the way to Emmaus and afterwards back in Jerusalem . He explained that everything written about Him would be fulfilled.

*This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything which is written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*

Luke 24: 1-48

John 21: 15 - 25

After Christ's Resurrection, Jesus mentioned His Second Coming when Peter asked about the beloved disciple, John.



*If I want him to live till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!*

John 21: 22, 23

### THE ASCENSION

Forty days after the Resurrection, Christ's Ascension took place at Bethany on the Mount of Olives to the east of Jerusalem. Two Angels foretold Christ's Return to the disciples as Jesus ascended into heaven from Olivet.

*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven?*

*This same Jesus Who was lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.*

Acts 1: 11 (Luke 24: 50 - 51 1 Peter 3: 22)

### THE COMING OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2: 1 - 4

On the Day of the Feast of Pentecost (the Birthday of the CHURCH) the gift of the Holy Spirit came.

Peter in his sermon to the crowds in Jerusalem spoke about the signs that would come to pass in the Last Days -

*The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the obvious day the Lord comes - that great and notable day.*

Acts 2: 20



### THE LAST DAYS

Christians in the first century after the Ascension of Christ were living in the Last Days and expected Jesus to return in majesty even in their time. This period of the LAST DAYS has lasted 2000 years - much longer than ever these first Christians believed. Today, Christians of the 21st century are still living in the last Days. As Christ's servants, we must continue to be faithful and remain alert and watchful for Christ's coming - for the Bridegroom's Return.

Meanwhile the Christ is being retained in heaven until the time for His promised restoration comes - a time only known to God, the Father. (Acts 1: 7)

Paul, In his epistles or letters, wrote about the Body of Christ - the Church.

In detail, Paul explained that the sinless Christ is the Head of the Church.

This is (not a building) an assembly of believers planned in God's mercy and saved by His Son's blood shed on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins. Ephesians 3: 1 - 11

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus fulfilled God's plan of salvation, the redemption of His redeemed people, Jews and Gentiles, in the unity of the CHURCH.

(Romans 16: 25 Colossians 1: 26)

The CHURCH is God's long-kept mystery made known to Paul; a secret withheld from the prophets and never mentioned or even whispered in the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Covenant.

At the end of time, the Lord Almighty according to this mystery of His purpose and plan will unite all things in heaven and earth in Christ Jesus - to the praise of God's glory.

Ephesians 1: 19 - 23

God manifested His great power by the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ Jesus to the right hand of the Almighty in the heavenly realm.

*He (God) has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church, which is His Body.* Ephesians 1: 22 - 23

Consequently, Christians (Jew and Gentile) being born again should live prayerful and holy lives in eager, joyful anticipation of His coming again; being witnesses to unbelievers of the love of God.

WORDS OF THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE RETURN OF CHRIST

JAMES, the apostle and brother of the Lord, spoke to the brethren assembled in Jerusalem words already foretold long before by the prophet Amos.

*I will come back and will rebuild the house of David, which has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins and I will set it up again.* Acts 15: 16 (Amos 9: 11)

The APOSTLE PAUL, in his address to the men of Athens, spoke of a day to come when God would judge the world.

*He (God) has fixed a day when He will judge the world righteously by a Man whom He has destined and appointed for that task, and He has made this credible to everyone by raising Him from the dead.* Acts 17: 31

*There shall come out of Zion the deliverer.*

Romans 11: 26

*Wait and watch living in hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and being made visible to us all.*

1 Corinthians 1: 7 (8)

*Do not make any premature judgements before the time when the Lord comes again, for He will both bring to light the secret things that are in darkness and disclose the secret aims of hearts.*

1 Corinthians 4: 5

1 Corinthians 11: 20 – 34

Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians disciplined the Church in their celebration of the Lord's Supper until Christ's Return. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes (again).

1 Corinthians 11: 26

When the Lord returns He will gather the redeemed and raise the righteous dead.

*Christ, the Messiah, is the first fruits, then those who are Christ's own will be resurrected at His coming.*

1 Corinthians 15: 23

*After that comes the end, when He delivers over the kingdom to God the Father after abolishing every other rule and every authority and power. For Christ must be King and reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.*

1 Corinthians 15: 24 – 25

*Our Lord will come! Maranatha!*

1 Corinthians 16: 22

MARANATHA is a Syriac and Aramaic word meaning the Lord comes.

It was an important word of greeting and farewell in the early Church, being a reminder that the Lord is coming soon.

The word *Maranatha* was also a declaration of Faith and Hope in Christ's Return and an expression of Love and Joy.



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*I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ right up to the time of His return, perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.*

Philippians 1: 6

In the Philippian letter, Paul wrote about the great humility of Jesus and God's consequent exaltation of His beloved Son.

(Philippians 2: 5 - 11)

*We are citizens of the state which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) as Saviour.*

Philippians 3: 20

Christians in N.T. times, their names written in the Book of Life, expected the Second Coming of the Lord to be imminent.

(Philippians 4: 3)

*The Lord is near (He is coming soon).*

Philippians 4: 5

*When Christ, Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in His glory.*

Colossians 3: 4

### PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH

In his first letter to the Thessalonian Church experiencing persecution and suffering, Paul exhorted the believers to await in the sure hope of the Return of Jesus.

*Look forward to and await the coming of His Son from heaven.*

1 Thessalonians 1: 10

*To live lives worthy of God, Who calls you into His own kingdom and the glorious blessedness (into which true believers will enter after Christ's return).*

1 Thessalonians 2: 12

The Thessalonian believers were Paul's joy in the Lord's presence at His coming.

(1 Thessalonians 2: 19)

Paul longed to see the believers; praying they would be strengthened to live holy lives -

*In the sight of our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*

1 Thessalonians 3: 13

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18

In these verses, Paul spoke wonderful words about how the Lord Christ will return. Paul also gave comfort to the Church concerning their brethren already fallen asleep in death explaining that they would rise first.

*The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.*

1 Thessalonians 4: 16

(1 Corinthians 15: 51 - 55)



## THE RAPTURE (caught up or snatched away)

P11

Paul assured the believers, alive at Christ's Return, that they would rise suddenly and simultaneously in Resurrection Life without the transition through death. They would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him for ever.

*Then we, the living ones who remain (on the earth), shall be caught up along with the resurrected dead in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always we shall be with the Lord!*

1 Thessalonians 4: 17

Paul in the last part of his first letter continued to inform and encourage the believers.

*For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the (return of the) Lord will come (as unexpectedly) as a thief in the night.*

*When people are saying, All is well and secure, and, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction will come upon them as suddenly as labour pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape.*

*But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to overtake you by surprise like a thief.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 2 - 4

*May the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 23

## PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH

Again, Paul wrote words of comfort to the suffering Thessalonian Church.

*To recompense you, who are afflicted by granting you relief and rest along with us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire.*

2 Thessalonians 1: 7

Paul included words about the Return of Jesus when He would be admired in the reflected glory of His saints. Paul warned the Church not to be deceived and led astray by any letter or words saying Christ had already come, for some were now living as if Christ's Coming was imminent. The apostle also warned the Church about the coming of Satan's evil Antichrist; exalting himself against God, as foretold by the prophet Daniel.

(Daniel 7: 25 8: 25 11: 36 - 37)

*Let no one deceive you, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, who is the son of doom (the antichrist).*

2 Thessalonians 2: 3

*The Lord Jesus will slay him (the antichrist) with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming.*

2 Thessalonians 2: 8

Paul, having instructed the Thessalonians about the End Times, charged the believers to await the Lord's return with patience and steadfastness.

*May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ and in waiting for His return.*

2 Thessalonians 3: 5

Paul in his two letters to Timothy wrote as a loving father to his son in the Lord. In these letters, Paul gave the much younger man encouragement with detailed instructions to carry out his duties in the ministry. The first letter includes words about the Return of Christ to reign as Lord of lords and King of kings.

*Keep all His precepts, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Timothy 6: 14

In his second letter to Timothy written from prison, Paul described the conditions which will come upon the earth and its people in the *Last Days*. These will be times of distress for mankind, people being selfish and ungodly. Some will give up their faith and turn to myths and demons. What a letter of unselfish courage to Timothy from a man in prison and in chains whose execution was imminent! (2 Timothy 2: 9, 10)

*Understand this, in the last days will come perilous times of great stress and trouble.*

2 Timothy 3: 1

*Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead by His coming and His kingdom.*

2 Timothy 4: 1

LETTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT continued

Titus 2: 11 - 14

In Paul's letter to Titus, Christians looking forward with sure hope to the Return of Jesus to reign as King, were to lead, by the grace of God, disciplined and holy lives.

*Looking for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus.*

Titus 2: 13

N.B. This verse reveals that Christ is God, the Second Person of the Trinity.

*Christ having been offered to bear the sins of many once for all, will appear a second time to bring to full salvation those who are eagerly and patiently waiting for and expecting Him.*

Hebrews 9: 28

*For still a little while, and the Coming One will come and He will not delay.* Hebrews 10: 37

James 5: 1 - 9

The letter of James, the brother of our Lord and the leader of the Jerusalem Church, was written to the scattered Jewish brethren. James warned them not to store up treasure and not to complain and hypocritically judge others. He gave instructions to be patient until the coming of the *last days* just as the farmer waits in expectancy for the fruits of the harvest field.

*Be patient, brethren, (as you wait) till the coming of the Lord. So you also must be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is very near.*

*Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you may not be judged.*

*Look! The Judge is (already) standing at the very door.*

James 5: 7 - 9



The first letter of the apostle Peter to the Christians in northern Asia Minor was written probably in Rome about 63 A. D. not long before his death by crucifixion. Christians at that time were suffering persecution in a pagan environment under the rule of Nero. There are many references in the first letter to suffering (mentioned 16 times). Peter's letter encouraged and strengthened the believers by Christ's example in His sufferings, with words of the certain hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection from the dead.

*Set your hope on the grace that is coming to you when Jesus Christ (the Messiah ) is revealed.*

1 Peter 1: 13 (7)

*As you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory is revealed, you also may rejoice.*

1 Peter 4: 13



Blessed will be all those who have stood firm in the faith with patient endurance, for they will receive the (victor's) *Crown of Glory* as recorded in the next section on CROWNS.

(1 Peter 5: 4)

Peter, in his second letter, reminded the Christians to be sure in their knowledge of the promise of life everlasting when Christ returns; and to be on their guard against false teachers introducing error and evil ways. Peter made it clear that he beheld the glory of Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration.

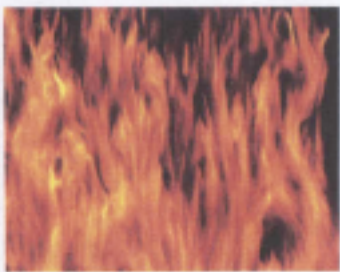
*We were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of His majesty.*

2 Peter 1: 16 (17, 18)

The Apostle warned the Believers that scoffers in the Last Days would mock -

*And say, Where is the promise of His coming?*

2 Peter 3: 4 (Jude 1: 18)



Peter continued to foretell the judgement of the ungodly by fire and coming as suddenly as the Flood in the days of Noah.

The Lord would not be slack in His promises.

*The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish with a thunderous crash, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works upon it will be burned up.*

2 Peter 3: 11-14

*What kind of person ought you to be -*

*While you wait and earnestly long for the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise; in which righteousness is to abide.*

2 Peter 3: 11, 12

*So, beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him (at His coming) without spot or blemish and at peace.*

2 Peter 3: 14

*We know that when He comes, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is.*

1 John 3: 2

The glorious Crowning Day will come on the Lord's return. The redeemed will be rewarded for their work in His harvest field – a judgement of believers' works and not their already forgiven sins. On Coronation Day, crowns for different kinds of service will be given. These diadems are permanent unlike the Olympic crown, a laurel wreath of leaves that fades away – a corruptible crown. Five crowns are listed in the Epistles.

*We must all appear and be revealed as we are before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

2 Corinthians 5: 10



### INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN

*Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown but we an incorruptible.*

1 Corinthians 9: 25 A.V.

### CROWN OF REJOICING



*What is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy.*

1 Thessalonians 2: 19 – 20 A.V.

### CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Crown of Righteousness will be given to all those living in right relationship with God and awaiting eagerly His Return.



*Henceforth there is laid up for me (Paul) the (victor's) crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that great day – and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and welcomed His appearing (His Return).*

2 Timothy 4: 8



### CROWN OF LIFE

Count it all joy and blessed are all those who have stood firm in the faith with patient endurance, for they will receive the (victor's) Crown of Life.

*Blessed is the man who is patient under trial and temptation, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him.* James 1: 12

*Fear nothing you are about to suffer – – Be loyal and faithful unto death (even if you must die for it), and I will give you the crown of life.*

Revelation 2: 10

*I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown (of life).*

Revelation 3: 11

### CROWN OF GLORY



In Peter's first letter counselling the elders of the Church to care for their flock, he ended with these words of promise –

*Then when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will win the conqueror's crown of glory.*

1 Peter 5: 4

The unveiling of the divine mystery by Christ's Angel messenger to seven of the Churches in Asia Minor was given to John - the apostle and bond servant of the Lord Jesus Christ -

*Who is and Who was and Who is to come.*

*The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.*

Revelation 1: 4, 8

*Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall gaze upon Him and mourn and lament over Him.*

Revelation 1: 7

Revelation 1: 12 - 20

*Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last,*

*And the Ever-Living One, I died, but see, I am alive forevermore.*

Revelation 1: 17, 18



The wonderful vision of the Lord Christ in all His majesty and glory was given to the beloved disciple John, on the Isle of Patmos; a prisoner there for his faith in Jesus.

The seven angel (stars) messages to the seven churches (lamp stands) are of both commendation and rebuke. The messages were sent as letters and give the most wonderful and joyous hope for believers saved by Jesus' death on the Cross -

From the penalty of sin (death).

From the power of sin in their lives.

From the presence of sin on His Return -.

By contrast, the messages convey severe warnings and a convicting challenge to unbelievers - unready for the Lord's Return. The Church at Ephesus is the only one of the seven churches named - a Pauline Epistle, and now warned in John's vision to return to its first love or else -

*I will visit you and remove your lamp stand (the church) from its place, unless you change and repent*

Revelation 2: 5

It should be noted that Ephesus with its first century Church and its large Roman stadium are today just ruins. The Apostle John probably had made his home in ancient Ephesus. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, probably lived in Ephesus with John, for she had been given into his care by Jesus by His words from the Cross.

(John 19: 26, 27)

To the Churches at Thyatira, and Philadelphia came the message -

*Hold fast to what you have until I come.*

Revelation 2: 25 (3: 11)

Apart from the few believers, the Church in Sardis was dead and given this warning -

*I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come.*

Revelation 3: 3

The Revelation given to John also included a graphic description of the war in the *heavenlies*. In this fierce battle between good and evil, darkness and light came the casting down of Satan. God's plan of mankind's redemption and Satan's destruction will take place in Israel. In the Last Days, the time of *Jacob's trouble* (the Tribulation) would precede the victory of the Lord God Almighty and the Return of Christ to reign for ever.

On that victorious day of heaven's eternal glory, the great crowd of the redeemed will shout for joy crying –

*To Him Who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb be ascribed blessing and honour, majesty, glory, power and dominion forever and ever.* Revelation 5: 13

*The dominion of the world has now come into the possession of and become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ (the Messiah), and He shall reign forever and ever.* Revelation 11: 15 (Daniel 7: 13, 14, 27)

*Hallelujah! For now the Lord our God the Omnipotent reigns!*

Revelation 19: 6

*Let us rejoice and shout for joy!*

*Let us celebrate and ascribe to Him glory and honour for the marriage of the Lamb at last has come and His bride (God's people) has prepared herself.* Revelation 19: 7 (9)

Revelation 19: 11 - 16

On the head that once wore the cruel crown of thorns there now were set on Jesus' head – *many kingly crowns*.

*His eyes (blaze) like a flame of fire, and on His head many kingly crowns. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name (title) inscribed –*  
***KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

Revelation 19: 12, 16 (17: 14)



On that great Day of His Return, God's beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, will have the pre-eminence in His rule as King of kings and Lord of lords in the Millennium period, the Great White Throne Judgement and on into Eternity.

*Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.*

Revelation 22: 12

### A PRAYER

*Almighty God, Your redeemed people, the CHURCH of Jews and Gentiles, are eagerly waiting for Your beloved Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to return. We believe Your precious Word and promises of Christ's coming again. Lord Jesus, help us by the Holy Spirit, to be ready for Your Return to Earth.*

*In times of blessing or of testing and persecution, keep us always in close fellowship and prayer, Lord, with You and other members of Your Body. Incline the hearts of Your loyal and watchful servants to obey Your commands until You come in awesome majesty and glory. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Jesus encouraged His followers, called Christians first at Antioch, with this promise -

*Yes, I am coming quickly. Amen.*

Revelation 22: 20

To these words of the Lord Jesus, John, the beloved disciple, answered -

*Yes, come, Lord Jesus!*

Revelation 22: 20



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