BIBLE TOPICS · NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus Returning

That Blessed Hope · Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

The Rapture
Caught up to meet Him

Seven Years
The tribulation

His Appearing
With His saints

1,000 Years
Christ reigns on earth

FROM PROMISE TO FULFILLMENT

Jesus' Return in Nine Scenes

The Bible's teaching about the second coming moves in nine scenes, in the order they will happen.

1

"This Same Jesus"

At the ascension, two men in white promise He will come back.

ACTS 1:9–11

2

Foretold by the Prophets

Daniel sees the Son of man coming with the clouds of heaven.

DANIEL 7:13–14

3

Caught Up

The dead in Christ rise and living believers are caught up to meet the Lord.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18

4

Before the Judgment Seat

Believers are rewarded, and the marriage of the Lamb is celebrated.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

5

The Great Tribulation

Seven years of trouble on earth; the man of sin is revealed.

MATTHEW 24:15–28

6

Every Eye Shall See Him

The King of kings returns in glory with His saints.

REVELATION 19:11–16

7

A Thousand Years

Satan is bound and Christ reigns on the earth.

REVELATION 20:1–6

8

The Great White Throne

The final judgment of the dead.

REVELATION 20:11–15

9

All Things New

A new heaven and a new earth, where God dwells with His people.

REVELATION 21–22

KEY VERSE

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (KJV)

The Order of End-Time Events

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The Order of End-Time Events

When Jesus comes again

The rapture · The tribulation · His glorious appearing · The thousand years · Eternity

He Comes for His Church

1 The Rapture
The dead in Christ rise; the living are caught up
1 THESSALONIANS 4:16–17

2 Changed in a Moment
In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump
1 CORINTHIANS 15:51–52

3 The Judgment Seat of Christ
Believers rewarded for their service
2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

4 The Marriage of the Lamb
His wife hath made herself ready
REVELATION 19:7–9

Seven Years of Tribulation on Earth

5 Daniel's Seventieth Week
A covenant confirmed for one week
DANIEL 9:27

6 The Man of Sin Revealed
The son of perdition exalts himself
2 THESSALONIANS 2:3–4

7 Great Tribulation
Such as was not since the beginning
MATTHEW 24:21

8 God's Judgments
Seals, trumpets and vials of wrath
REVELATION 6–16

He Comes with His Church

9 The Glorious Appearing
KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS
REVELATION 19:11–16

10 With His Saints
Ten thousands of His saints
JUDE 1:14

11 Armageddon
The beast and his armies defeated
REVELATION 16:16; 19:19–21

12 On the Mount of Olives
His feet shall stand in that day
ZECHARIAH 14:4

The Thousand Years and Eternity

13 Satan Bound
Cast into the bottomless pit
REVELATION 20:1–3

14 Christ Reigns on Earth
They reigned with Christ a thousand years
REVELATION 20:4–6

15 The Final Rebellion
Satan loosed, then cast into the lake of fire
REVELATION 20:7–10

16 The Great White Throne
The dead judged; the book of life opened
REVELATION 20:11–15

17 A New Heaven and Earth
Behold, I make all things new
REVELATION 21:1–5

18 They Shall See His Face
No more curse; God with His people
REVELATION 22:3–5

KEY VERSE

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16 (KJV)

BibleStudyForAll.com · Scripture quotations from the King James Version

JESUS RETURNING AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 6

The Rapture and the Tribulation

1 THESSALONIANS 4 · 1 CORINTHIANS 15

The Rapture of the Church

Before the tribulation begins, Jesus will come in the air for His church. It can happen at any moment.

1

The Lord Descends

Jesus Himself comes, with a shout and the trump of God.

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16

2

The Dead in Christ Rise

Believers who have died rise first.

“and the dead in Christ shall rise first”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16

3

We Are Caught Up

Living believers meet the Lord in the air.

“caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:17

4

Changed in a Moment

Our bodies are made new, like His.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:52

5

Kept from Wrath

God has not appointed His people to the coming wrath.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9

6

Ever with the Lord

From that moment we are never apart from Him.

“and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:17

> *“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*
>
> 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (KJV)

MATTHEW 24 · 2 THESSALONIANS 2

The Tribulation and the Signs Jesus Named

After the church is caught up, seven years of tribulation come on the earth. Jesus described what the world will be like; many of these things already mark our age as “the beginning of sorrows.”

DECEIVERS

False Christs

“Take heed that no man deceive you.”

MATTHEW 24:4

WARS

Wars and Rumours of Wars

“but the end is not yet.”

MATTHEW 24:6

SORROWS

Famines and Earthquakes

“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

MATTHEW 24:8

LOVE GROWN COLD

Iniquity Abounds

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

MATTHEW 24:12

THE GOSPEL

Preached to All Nations

“and then shall the end come.”

MATTHEW 24:14

GREAT TRIBULATION

Like None Before

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time”

MATTHEW 24:21

The Man of Sin

The Antichrist will exalt himself as God before Christ’s glorious appearing.

“and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition”

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3

Look Up

Signs are given to steady God’s people, not to frighten them.

“then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

LUKE 21:28

His Appearing, Judgment and All Things New

REVELATION 19–20

The Glorious Appearing and the Thousand Years

At the end of the tribulation Jesus returns to the earth with His saints, and reigns as King for a thousand years.

Every Eye Shall See Him

"Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him"

REVELATION 1:7

With His Saints

"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints"

JUDE 1:14

King of Kings

"And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

REVELATION 19:16

Satan Bound

"and bound him a thousand years"

REVELATION 20:2

The Saints Reign

"and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

REVELATION 20:4

Peace on Earth

"for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

ISAIAH 11:9

At His first coming Jesus rode into Jerusalem "meek, and sitting upon an ass" (Matthew 21:5). At His second coming He rides a white horse as conqueror. Both comings are the same Jesus.

JUDGMENT AND ETERNITY

Judgment and All Things New

Every person will stand before Christ. Believers are judged for reward; those who rejected Him are judged at the great white throne. Then God makes all things new.

BELIEVERS	UNBELIEVERS
Before the judgment seat of Christ, for reward	**Before the great white throne, after the thousand years**
2 CORINTHIANS 5:10	REVELATION 20:11–12
Their names are written in the book of life	**Not found written in the book of life**
REVELATION 21:27	REVELATION 20:15
No condemnation in Christ Jesus	**Everlasting punishment**
ROMANS 8:1	MATTHEW 25:46

A NEW CREATION

A New Heaven and Earth

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth"

REVELATION 21:1

NO MORE TEARS

No More Death

"and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying"

REVELATION 21:4

FACE TO FACE

They Shall See His Face

"And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads."

REVELATION 22:4

Promises and Living for His Return

PROMISES TO HOLD

"I Will Come Again"

Jesus and His apostles returned to this promise again and again. Here are six of the clearest.

Our Citizenship

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ"

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

The Second Time

"and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

HEBREWS 9:28

Be Patient

"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

JAMES 5:8

We Shall Be Like Him

"when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

1 JOHN 3:2

Why the Wait?

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise"

2 PETER 3:9

Surely I Come Quickly

"Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

REVELATION 22:20

UNTIL HE COMES

Living in the Light of His Return

Almost every passage about Jesus' return ends with a call to live differently now.

1

Watch

Stay spiritually awake, ready at any hour.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

MATTHEW 24:44

2

Work

Use what the Master has entrusted to you, like the faithful servants in the parable of the talents.

MATTHEW 25:14–30

3

Be Holy

Hope in His coming makes us pure.

"And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

1 JOHN 3:3

4

Comfort One Another

Grieve with hope for believers who have died.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–18

5

Tell Others

God is patient, giving time to repent.

"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 PETER 3:9

6

Remember at the Table

Every Lord's Supper looks ahead to His coming.

"ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

THINK ABOUT IT

Questions for Reflection

Why did the angels tell the disciples to stop "gazing up into heaven" (Acts 1:11)? In the parable of the ten virgins, how do you keep your lamp burning (Matthew 25:1–13)? Paul wrote about the rapture to comfort grieving people: who do you know who needs that hope? If Jesus came back today, would He find you doing what He has given you to do?

Six Themes of Jesus' Return

KEY THEMES

Six Themes of Jesus' Return

These six truths run through everything the Bible says about the second coming.

1

Jesus Keeps His Word

He said He would come again, and He will.

"I will come again, and receive you unto Myself"

JOHN 14:3

2

Hope, Not Fear

Believers look for Him with joy.

"Looking for that blessed hope"

TITUS 2:13

3

Watchfulness

No one knows the hour, so be ready always.

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

MATTHEW 24:42

4

Justice at Last

He will judge the world in righteousness.

"He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained"

ACTS 17:31

5

Death Defeated

The dead in Christ will rise.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

1 CORINTHIANS 15:55

6

God with Us Forever

God will dwell with His people.

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them"

REVELATION 21:3