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*looking for that blessed hope*

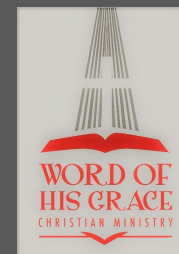
Word of His Grace  
Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

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The Second Coming of Jesus is referred to as the blessed hope of the Church! Christians throughout history have patiently waited for the return of Christ and His everlasting kingdom. What will Jesus' return be like? Do we have any indication when it may be? What is the purpose of His return? In this lesson we will consider what the Word of God has to say about the nature of and return of our LORD Jesus Christ. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will surely be the most joyous and amazing event in all of history.

### Did Jesus personally mention his Second Coming?

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

“And Jesus said, *I am*: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and *coming in the clouds of heaven*” (Mark 14:62).

### How will Jesus return at his Second Coming?

“And when he had spoken these things, while they

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beheld, he was taken up; and a *cloud received him* out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went *up*, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, 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 1:9-11*).

### Will Jesus at his return be alone?

“For the *Son of man* shall come in the glory of his Father with his *angels*; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (*Matthew 16:27*).

### Is the Second Coming of Christ a secret or will everyone know?

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and *every eye* shall *see him*, and they also which pierced him: and *all kindreds* of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (*Revelation 1:7*).

### Where will Jesus meet his faithful followers?

“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: Then *we which are alive* and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord *in the air*: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these

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words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

## Will everyone be saved at Christ at his Second Coming?

“And before him shall be gathered *all nations*: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set *the sheep* on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom *prepared for you* from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:32-34).

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, *Depart from me*, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, *prepared for the devil* and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). See also (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

## What are some of the signs of the nearness of Jesus’ return?

1. APOSTASY & RULE OF ANTICHRIST - “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; 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” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

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**NOTE:** The Man of Sin or Antichrist arises from *within the Church* and leads in establishing a global religious-political system that *usurps the position and authority of the LORD Jesus Christ*. The “*temple of God*” refers to the *church* – (See 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16). Scripture says nothing of a third rebuilt Jewish temple. Also, if a third Jewish temple were ever built, the resuming of animal sacrifices would mean nothing, since the true *Lamb of God* has already been slain for our sins.

2. MORAL DECLINE - “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their *own selves*, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without *natural affection*, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures *more than lovers of God*” (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

3. SEVERITY OF NATURAL DISASTERS - “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth *distress of nations*, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are *coming on the earth*: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26).

4. WARS, FAMINES, PESTILENCES – “For nation

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PRAY AND DO  
NOT LOSE HEART.  
LUKE 18:1

shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and *there shall be* famines, and *pestilences*, and earthquakes, in *divers places*” (Matthew 24:7).

5. FALSE WORSHIP - “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times *some shall depart from the faith*, giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having *their conscience seared* with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

6. THE LOVE OF MANY WAXING COLD - “And because iniquity shall abound, the *love of many* shall wax *cold*” (Matthew 24:12).

7. WORLDWIDE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS - “And it was given unto him to *make war* with the *saints*, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Revelation 13:7). See verses 1-10 (for *antichrist*).

8. A NEW WORLD OVER— “And *he exerciseth all the power* of the *first beast* before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein *to worship the first beast*, whose deadly wound was healed” (Revelation 13:12). See verses 11-18 (for *the second beast*).

Will Christians go through tribulation alone?

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Why the Church  
Will Go Through  
the Tribulation

“...for he said, I will *never leave* thee, nor *forsake* thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

“...and, lo, *I am with you always*, even unto the *end of the world*. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

### Will Christians go through the great tribulation?

“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*” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

“...These are they which came out of *great tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the *blood of the Lamb*” (Revelation 7:14).

**NOTE:** Yes. Paul makes it clear; the man of sin or antichrist will rise first, before the second coming of Jesus. Chronologically, this is opposite of what many are teaching today; things like the secret rapture taking place before the rise of antichrist. Sadly, many have also bought into new ideas such a seven-year tribulation period, a rebuilt third Jewish temple, etc. This stems from taking the last prophetic week of the 70th week of **Daniel 9:27**, tossing it into the future and then calling it the seven-year tribulation. There is simply no biblical basis for doing this.

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**And many false prophets  
shall rise, and shall  
deceive many.**

**—Matthew 24:11**

What warning did Jesus give concerning the last days?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; *believe it not*. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall *deceive the very elect*” (Matthew 24:23-24).

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and *cares of this life*, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a *snare shall it come* on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth” (Luke 21:34-35), See also (Luke 21:36).

After meeting Jesus in the air what will the redeemed do?

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given *unto them*: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which *had not worshipped the beast*, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ *a thousand years*” (Revelation 20:4).

“Do ye not know that the *saints* shall judge *the world*? and if the world shall be judged *by you*, are

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But the saints of the most High shall take  
the kingdom, and possess the kingdom  
for ever, even for ever and ever.

- Daniel 7:18 (KJV) -



ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Corinthians 6:2).

What should the redeemed expect shortly thereafter?

“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the *reward of the inheritance*: for ye serve *the Lord Christ*” (Colossians 3:24).

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the *Son of man* came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, *should serve him*: his dominion is an *everlasting dominion*, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall *not be destroyed*. (Daniel 7:13-14).

“But the *saints of the most High* shall take the kingdom, and possess *the kingdom for ever*, even for ever and ever” (Daniel 7:18).

What have the saints been promised?

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which *the Lord*, the righteous judge, shall give me *at that day*: and not to me only, but unto *all them also that love* his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).