

Lord Jesus is coming soon!

How do we know that Jesus is coming again? Because He said so. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again" (John 14:2-3) When the Bible speaks of the coming of the Lord, it is speaking of the personal, visible coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the time of Christ's ascension, while the disciples stood watching Him go up into Heaven, two angels appeared to them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus...will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) He will come in the same manner in which He ascended into Heaven. The disciples saw Jesus go back into Heaven, and those who are living when He comes again will see Him then and Hope of God's children today.

When is Jesus Coming? Does any man know the exact time of the Lord's coming? No. The Lord Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knows no man." Since we do not know exactly when the Lord is coming, we should be ready for His coming at all times. "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.(Mathew 24:42) The proper attitude of a Christian is to be always looking for the coming of the Lord Jesus. Though we cannot know the exact time when Jesus will come, we do know that He is coming soon. How do we know this? By the signs which the Bible gives concerning the time of His coming. Let us see how these are being fulfilled.

Jesus said that the end times would be marked by a great increase in the number of wars. There have always been wars, but Jesus said that the end times would be marked by a great increase in the number of wars. He said, "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." The Lord Jesus said "...there will be famines, and viruses, and earthquakes in various places."(Luke 21:10,11) Never before in history have the scientists recorded so many earthquakes as they have in the last 20 years. At the time of the end, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."(Daniel 12:4) This is another sign that the coming of the Lord Jesus is near.

Six hundred years before the time of Christ, Israel ceased to exist as a nation. And in A.D. 70 when the Roman general Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews people were scattered to the ends of the earth. But the Bible prophesied that God would bring His people back into their land in the last days, and that the desert which had lain barren for so long would "blossom as a rose."(MAR13:28) This has been fulfilled. The nation has been re-established, the land has been reclaimed, the ancient language has been revived, the Jews are back in Jerusalem, and Israel is the focal point of world politics. Jesus says in Luke 21:28 that when these signs begin to happen, we should "look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Another sign of the last days is the great increase in peace conferences. But peace efforts have failed and will continue to fail until Jesus comes. He is the Prince of Peace, and there will be no peace in the world until He is reigning. "The envoys of peace will weep bitterly." Isaiah 33:7.

Jesus said that society will become increasingly lawless and immoral as the time approaches for His return. In fact, He said it would become as evil as it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:12,37-39). "As it was in the days of Noah so it will be also in the days of the Son of man." (Luke 17:26) It was a time of great wickedness on the earth. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."(Genesis 6:5) In Luke 17:28"as it was in the days of Lot" The days of Lot was characterized by Sodom and Gomorrah, their sin so grievous.(GEN18:20) Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, there will be characterized by three loves — the love of self, the love of money (Materialism), and the love of pleasure. Men's minds will become corrupt (Romans 1:28), and people will call evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20).

The current interest in horoscopes, fortune-tellers, witchcraft, and spiritism is another sign that we are living in the last days. The Bible says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."(1 Tim 4:1) The Bible tells us that the last days just before Jesus comes will be marked by great apostasy. The word "apostasy" means "a falling away from the truth"(2The 2:3 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. They were keeping others from the correct path, blind leaders of the blind, who create dissension cause divisions. Teachings about God's Kingdom are not being taught, do not practice Lord's great commission; make disciples of all nations, no longer sound doctrine encouraged.(Mathew 28:19-20) What do these signs tell us? They tell us that Jesus is coming soon! Jesus said, "When you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near." Luke 21:31. For yet a little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.(Hebrews10:37)

Let us not give up meeting together[fellowship], as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more faithfully as you see the Day approaching.(HEB10:25;ACT2:42) It will be those who are awake will, "see the Day approaching", they should be "waiting for Him" as, taught to us in Hebrews 9:28 "and he(Jesus) will appear a second time, ..to bring final salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him without sin" Further, the book of Revelation implies, faithful will know when the Lord is coming: "Wake up! ...But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you"(Revelation 3:2-3)

What Will Happen When Jesus Comes?

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First, the Lord Jesus will come secretly to take His Bride out of the world. In a moment, "in the twinkling of an eye," "will be caught up to meet the Lord".(1Cor 15:51-55) Blow the trumpets for breaking the assembly[signal for gather/moving out](NUM10:2,7;2CO5:1-) Those who are dead in Christ will be raised, resurrection bodies will be incorruptible, glorious, powerful and spiritual. The redemption of the body is the rapture. At the resurrection death will have been defeated. Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are alive and left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.(1TH4:16) With trumpet call of God, signifies that His voice is being heard, the First-fruits(Bride) are caught up to Mount Zion followed by the harvest will be taken in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.(H. Jerusalem)

What will the world be like when all the true Christians are gone? It will be a world without decency and restraint. Evil and wickedness will abound as never before. At this time, an extra-ordinary man will appear on the earth. He will possess great leadership ability and marvelous powers. He will even be able to call down fire from heaven. But his power will not come from God; his power will come from Satan. The Bible calls this man "the Antichrist." The word "anti" means against. He is against God and against Christ. Through deceit and his miraculous powers, Satan's Antichrist will gain control of the whole world. No one will be able to buy or sell without his mark. He will set up a great image and require people to worship him and his image. Those who refuse to do so will be killed. The antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3, 2 John 1:7) is identified as a liar and deceiver who denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is apparently killed and raised, exalt himself, persecute God's people. He will sit in the temple, demands the worship of all inhabitants of the earth. He will claim to be Messiah and God.(His name no. 666) The Abomination of Desolation will occur in the temple.(Mark13:14) Then will come a time of great trouble and distress as God pours out His wrath on a wicked, Christ-rejecting world. This terrible time is called "The Great Tribulation"

The Bible says that, at this time, there will be disturbances in the heavens. The sun will turn black; the moon will turn blood red. On earth, there will be plagues, diseases, earthquakes, and famines. One third of the inhabitants of the world will be killed.(1The5:2-) There will be sudden destruction. This sudden destruction will usher in the time described in the Word of God, as the day of the Lord. One might think that those who had heard and rejected the gospel before would surely repent of their sins and turn to Christ during the Great Tribulation, but they will not. The Bible says, "...because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved...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."(2Thes 2:10-12) Read also Revelation 9:20-21. The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts. It is indeed a serious thing to reject the gospel!

Following the terrible events of the Great Tribulation, the Lord Jesus will return to earth in great power and glory. He will destroy His enemies and set up His kingdom here on earth. The Bible says, "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."(2 Thes 1:7-8) For the unbelievers, the coming of the Lord Jesus will be a time of terror and judgment. But, for the believers, the coming of the Lord is associated with the word "Hope." It is a blessed hope. When Jesus comes, He will change our bodies to be like His glorious resurrection body. This will take place in an instant. Then we shall be forever with our Lord. The Bible says, "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"(Titus2:13) It is a comforting hope. The unbelieving people bury their dead with no hope of ever seeing them again. But not so with the believers. When Jesus comes, our loved ones who died trusting Him will be raised from the dead, and we shall be reunited with them forever. It is a purifying hope. The Christian who truly believes that the coming of the Lord is near "purifies himself,"—that is, he gets himself ready for the Lord's coming. Because he knows that he will soon stand before the Lord Jesus to give an account of his life. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10)

At the judgment seat of Christ, we will be judged for what we have done after we were saved. He will judge us by how much of His Word we have learned and obeyed. He will judge us by our obedience or lack of obedience to the Great Commission. He will call us before Him and say, "I committed the gospel to you. What did you do that others might be saved?" He will judge us by how we have used our time, our talents, and our money. Some believers will be found to be faithful servants and will receive great rewards from the Lord. Others will be found to be unfaithful servants and will be dealt with as such. What we do for the Lord, we must do it now!

What can I do for my Saviour before He comes? How can I glorify Him? How should my time, my money, and my talents be used for Him? If you truly believe that Jesus is coming soon, here are some things that you should be ready for the Lord's return: We should, because when He comes He will judge everyone.

The text Luke 12 falls into two sections: the theme of 12:35-40 is readiness for His coming. And in 12:42-48 is that when the Lord comes, He will judge everyone according to what they have done with what they have been given.

1. Readiness: (Luke 12:35-40). "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and[a] not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Jesus uses four word pictures here to emphasize Be ready for His return. "Be dressed in readiness" is literally, "let your waist be girded." In that day, everyone wore long robes which were a hindrance if you needed to move quickly or freely. The verb here indicates a state of perpetual readiness for action. The second figure, "keep your lamps burning," If you were expecting a midnight visitor, you would keep an oil light burning so that when he knocked on the door, you could see to let him in. Again, the idea is, be ready for the Master's coming. The third picture is of servants who are awaiting their master's return from a wedding feast. The servants would need to be ready when they heard their master arrive to open the door and serve him. The master could come in the middle of the night, when you least expect him, so you must be ready. The fourth picture is of a thief breaking into a house in the middle of the night. If the homeowner had known when the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. He would have been ready and waiting. Then Jesus states the application of all four pictures: "You, too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect"(12:40).

Scoffers may say, "It's been almost 2,000 years since Jesus spoke these words. Every generation since then has thought that it was the final generation before His coming, but they all died without seeing it happen. It's just not going to happen!" The apostle Peter points out (2 Pet. 3:3-13) that such foolish scoffers fail to note that God spoke the universe into existence by His powerful word and that He has given us an object lesson of the terror and power of His judgment in the flood. The present heavens and earth are being reserved, not for a judgment of water, but of fire. Also, with the Lord, a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years are as a day. His view of time and ours are vastly different! The only reason He has delayed judgment is His great patience as He waits for more to come to repentance. Many people believe there is nothing that can be known about the timing of the Lord's return because Jesus said He would return like a "thief in the night" (Matthew 24:42-44). Peter uses Jesus' image of a thief: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God ..." (2 Pet. 3:10-12a). While it is true that we all will stand before Him when we die, the Bible clearly teaches that we should live every day in the hope that He may come at any time. "Be ready!"

The word "ready" in terms of Jesus' return is shown to be a watchful state in Luke 21:36, as follows: "Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." Watching, in reference to the signs of the end, implies knowing the signs, recognizing them as they take place, and warning Christians of the time. To be ready, of course, requires initial salvation. Do I know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior? "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). Salvation is an ongoing process, as well. He describes the testing of one's faith as a process that is "of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire." If the testing of faith is to be compared to the refining of gold, then faith's refining by trials occurs so that "your faith. . .may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7,9). "For you are receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls"

The final result of salvation will be the redemption of the body. Paul says, ". . .We wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies"(Romans 8:23). This explained, would happen when Jesus appears in the rapture. What happens between initial salvation and final redemption to make one completely ready? 1 John 3:2-3 shows the state of readiness that welcomes Jesus in His second coming. "When he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." To see Jesus as He is means to be like Him. To ready oneself for His coming is to purify oneself in obedience to His commands (1 John 2:3)

How can I be ready for His coming?

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(1) To be ready for Jesus' coming, he must be your master: There is a sense in which Jesus is the Lord of every person. He clearly assumes the authority to be the rightful judge of everyone who has ever lived. But, also clearly, it will only go well for those who are rightly related to Him, who submit to Him as their personal Lord or Master. They will be blessed (12:37, 38, 43) when He comes; the rest will face His punishment. Some will say, "Jesus is my Savior, but I haven't yet made Him my Lord." Can you find a biblical evidence that gives you comfort with such a condition? Every saint struggles daily against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and many saints have not learned to have consistent victory over these enemies of the soul. The only people ready for His return are those who daily seek to bring every area of life under His lordship. It is a constant struggle, but if you are not engaging in the struggle, you need to examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Those who are ready for Christ's return seek to follow Him as Lord.

(2) To ready for Jesus' coming, you must be His servant: It should be obvious that a master is master of servants. His servants live to obey his commands and to do his bidding. Jesus here commends the servants who are up in the middle of the night, ready for their master's expected return. Servants do not have a life of their own; they live to please their master. Being a servant of Jesus Christ is first and foremost a mindset and secondarily a specific ministry. As Paul says, "You are not your own, for you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). As a servant of the Lord Jesus, obedient to His will. In addition to a servant mindset, servants of Christ should seek out an area of service in line with their spiritual gifts. God has given all of us a function to perform in the body of Christ and that body will be healthy and grow to the degree that every member functions as he ought (Eph. 4:16). If you are not serving Christ or looking for a place to serve, you are probably living for yourself. Servants seek to serve their Master. When He comes, He wants to find them serving Him.

(3) To be ready for Jesus's coming, you must live in expectation of His return: "Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert" (Luke 12:37). The homeowner should have been expecting the arrival of the thief. So, Jesus says, "You too, be ready"(12:40) If you're expecting a guest, especially an important guest, you live differently than if you are not expecting anyone. If you're expecting the King of kings, how should your life look? Would you have been comfortable if He had come back during your activities this past weekend? Are there books or magazines or videos that you need to get rid of before He comes to your home? Do you watch TV shows where you would be mortified if the Savior knocked on your door while they were on? Jesus says that we should be ready immediately to open the door to him when he comes and knocks. So to be ready for Christ's return, make sure that He is your Master; be involved in serving Him all day every day; and, live as if you expect His soon coming.

2. Reason for readiness: When the Lord returns, He will judge everyone in accordance with the light they have been given (12:41-48). In answering Peter's question, Jesus lists four categories of servants, each of whom will receive a different reward or punishment.

(1) Some will be rewarded because they knew about the master's coming and lived as faithful stewards(42-44) The reason this parable especially applies to those in leadership is that Jesus refers to the servants who have been put in charge of other believers/servants to give them their provisions at the proper time. The job of pastors is to feed the Lord's flock (Ezek. 34:2). In Ezekiel 34, the Lord upbraids the shepherds of Israel because they dominated His flock and used them for their own purposes, just as those in the second category here were doing. But the faithful and sensible steward who will receive a reward regards the needs of the servants in his charge and remembers that he will give an account to his master. Three times (12:37, 38, 43) Jesus calls these faithful servants "blessed". He makes the startling statement that He, the Master, will wait on such servants! He literally did that when He washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1-11). Here, Jesus is referring symbolically to the honor that He will bestow on those who have faithfully served Him when He comes. He also states that He will put them in charge of all His possessions. The Lord will give us meaningful responsibilities throughout eternity if we have faithfully served Him here on earth. While we cannot fathom the blessings that God has in store for His faithful servants, if Jesus calls them blessed, you know that they will truly be blessed!

(2) Others will be punished very severely because they ignored the master's coming and abused stewardship(45-46) This is the worst category of punishment. These servants wrongly thought that they had plenty of time before their Master returned and so they began to live for themselves by abusing those under their charge. They used their stewardship for their own pleasure and advantage, without regard for the Master's purposes. But it is a fatal mistake. The Master will return and they are assigned a place with the unbelievers, hell (12:5). These unfaithful who have used their office to teach false doctrine because they want to dodge their sin, which is exposed by God's Word. They use religion to promote their own greed and immorality. If we know about the things of God, but we don't repent of our selfishness and abusiveness toward others, love money, especially in our homes, are we not just like these unfaithful stewards? This especially applies to every believer who professes to be a Christian.

(3) Does not get ready?

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This category knew the Master's will, but they did not get ready or act in accord with His will.(12:47) They will receive many lashes. This refers to people who have been in religious circles enough to know the truth, but they don't act on it. Maybe they procrastinate, thinking, "Someday I'll follow Christ and serve Him, but right now I've got to devote myself to my business. In Luk14:16-24 everyone makes excuses on why they cannot come to the wedding feast. Many Christians pay no attention to it, when the concern of the return of Christ is brought up, they are caught up with the things of this world by means of unrighteous mammon (deceitful riches; money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in) Besides, to get ahead these days, and so I'm not quite ready to follow Christ." Beware: To sin against greater light means greater punishment! To hear the truth proclaimed in church and to go out and ignore that truth the rest of the week is a risky way to live. What if the Master comes this week?

(4) Others will be punished because they did not know about the Masters's coming (12:48a): Final category for judgment are those who did not even know the Master's will. They will be judged less severely, with a few lashes, but judged nonetheless. Ignorance of God's law is no excuse for not obeying it because we are responsible to know it. "Our very ignorance is part of our sin". Even those who have never heard of Christ have enough revelation through creation and conscience to know that there is a righteous God. But they have suppressed the truth in unrighteousness, so that they are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-20).

Conclusion

Jesus sums up the principle in Luke 12:48: "And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." Those who have been given the most light have the most responsibility and will be judged the most severely. Jesus clearly assumes His own authority to judge every person! Each person needs to answer the question, "Do I have a 'welfare mentality' regarding spiritual things?" Are you living for today only, with no regard for the Master's return and the accounting that He will demand? Are you foolishly putting it out of your mind by thinking, "I've got time"? Jesus says that we should be "like men who are waiting for their master when he returns." We should live each day with an eye on that future day when "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God" (1 Thess. 4:16). We will be blessed if the Master finds us ready when He comes.

It is written in Luke 4:17-21, to proclaim the 'year of the Lord's favor'[Grace and Truth] Jesus quoted this verse concerning Himself related to His' first coming as suffering servant. Then he rolled up the scroll, Jesus didn't read the last part of the same verse in Isa 61:1-2 because 'the day of vengeance of our God' relates to His second coming. (ISA26:21) But now very very soon, the second part is going to occur "the day of vengeance of our God"

There is no way to escape the conclusion that we are living on grace period time. The signs of the times are upon us, and they are shouting for our attention. Are you ready? If Jesus were to return today, would He be your "Blessed Hope"(Titus 2:11-14) or would He be your "Holy Terror" (Rev 6:12-17)? If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, now is the time to act. Repent of your sins, and call upon the name of the Lord that you might be saved (Acts 2:14-39). And if you are a Christian, are you living as if Jesus might return any time? Have you committed your life to holiness? Are you praying for the lost and witnessing for the Lord when you have an opportunity? Are you yearning for the Lord's return? Can you say with Paul that you are a candidate for the "crown of righteousness" because you have lived your life "in the love of His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7-8)? We hope that it will awaken in you so that we can say along with the Apostle John, "Even so come quickly Lord Jesus"

Jesus is returning for His Bride, a Glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, washed white in the blood of the Lamb(EPH5:27) Halleluiah! For now the Lord our God reigns. Let us celebrate and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.(REV19:6-8;22:14) Are you ready for the return of Christ, your bridegroom? Are you ready for that love when Jesus comes back?

After the Man-child, Bride left, the remnant church will have to suffer persecution. Rev13:14-18 tells us that the mark of the Beast is the mark of the Antichrist. A person who worship image and takes this mark has effectively denied Jesus as his exclusive way to salvation and will be eternally lost.(REV14:9-12) But true Christians being sacrifice their lives for the testimony of Christ and die as martyrs.(MAT24:14,22) They overcame him(anti-christ) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives to death"(REV12:11) They will recognize the anti-christ for who he really is and they will not believe the lie. Rev.12:9 calls him the great dragon ... that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who leads the whole world astray will deceive people by performing signs and lying wonders through his subtle power.(IITH2:9,10) There will be a great multitude from every nation around the world to come out. It will be a large group of people, numerous to count.(REV7:9,14;19:9)