

The Second Coming of Christ

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Jesus gave the urgent call, *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come"* (**Matthew 24:42**). If Jesus came today, would you be ready, waiting and watching for Him? Do you long to be forever with the One who loves you more than you can imagine? Are you ready for Jesus to come?

Preview

You've grown up in a world of "Star Wars" and TV invasions from out of space. How can you be sure that the dazzling being appearing in the sky is not fiction or, as the Bible says, another of Satan's deceptions? Can you really believe Christ's wonderful promise in **John 14:1-3**? *"Let not your _____ be _____; ye _____ in God, _____ also in me. In my Father's house are many _____; ... I go to prepare a _____ for you. And if I go and _____ a place for you, I will _____, and _____ you unto myself; that where I am, there _____ may be also."*

When Jesus returns, how will you know it is really Jesus? Does the Bible give you enough information so you can be sure? Who will He take with Him? He would love to take all His created family back to heaven with Him. But if He did, it wouldn't be heaven. It would be ugly and sinful---filled with people who hate, hurt, destroy, and kill---just as on our earth now.

Jesus told us how to stay prepared. *"Let us hold _____ the _____ of our faith without _____: (for he is _____ that _____)" (Hebrews 10:23).*

Points to Ponder

How will I know this is really Jesus when He comes and not the devil working miracles to deceive? Jot down the positive proof from the Bible in the blanks provided.

1. You can believe Jesus' promises. Jesus, His disciples, and the prophets said He is coming again. We can believe these promises, as recorded in the Word of God.
 - a. **Revelation 22:20**: *"Surely, I _____ quickly."*
 - b. **Jude 14**: *"The Lord _____ with ten thousands of his _____."*
2. The return of Jesus is real, literal, and personal. When He ascended, He sent angels to declare that this same flesh-and-blood Jesus would return as He went up.
 - a. **Acts 1:11**: *"This same _____, which is taken up from you into _____, shall so come in _____ as ye have seen him _____ into heaven."*
3. Christ's return will be visible to all people everywhere. Wherever you are on the earth, if you are alive, you will see Him come.
 - a. **Revelation 1:7**: *"Every _____ shall see _____."*

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- b. **Matthew 24:30:** "They shall _____ the _____ of _____ coming in the _____ of heaven with _____ and great _____."
- c. There will be nothing secret. His coming will be "as the _____ cometh but of the east, and shineth even unto the _____; so shall also the _____ of the Son of _____ be."
(**Matthew 24:27**).

Standing on a Singapore beach, a family watched a spectacular display of dazzling forks of lightning flashing from the clouds to the sea below. They closed their eyes and covered them with their hands, yet they could see the beautiful array of glorious patterns across the dark sky. Much more so, when Jesus returns with all the angels. Then every eye will see the splendor of His glory.

4. Christ's return will be audible.

- a. **1 Thessalonians 4:16:** "For the Lord himself shall _____ from heaven with a _____, with the _____ of the archangel, and with the _____ of God"
- b. **Matthew 24:31:** "He shall send his _____ with a great _____ of a _____."

5. Christ's return will cause a glorious resurrection.

- a. **1 Thessalonians 4:16:** "The _____ in Christ shall _____."
- b. **Matthew 16:27:** "For the Son of Man shall come in the _____ of His _____ with his angels."
- c. Describe the glory referred to in **Revelation 19:11-16**:

Satan can't counterfeit this worldwide resurrection of the faithful from every land and every generation.

6. Christ's coming will gather all the saints to be with Him.

- a. **1 Thessalonians 4:17:** "We which are alive and remain shall be _____ up together _____ them [the resurrected saints, v. 16] in the _____, to meet the _____ in the air."
- b. What will happen to the living believers? They will be given new perfect bodies. "For this corruptible must put on _____, and this _____ must put on _____."
(**1 Corinthians 15:53**).

7. What devastating terror happens to the lost---the unbelievers?

- a. **2 Thessalonians 2:12:** "They all might be _____ who believed not the _____."
- b. **Romans 1:32:** "Who knowing the _____ of God, that they which commit such things are _____ of _____."
- c. **Revelation 6:16, 17** speaks of the horrible cry of the lost: They "said to the mountains and rocks, _____ on us and hide us from the _____ of _____ that sitteth on the _____ and from the _____ of the _____!"

Nuts and Bolts

How can we know when Christ's coming is near? Does the Bible give us definite and important signs?

1. Signs in the natural world.

a. **Revelation 6:12:** _____

b. **Matthew 24:29, 30:** Signs in the sun and moon. Give the date when this sign occurred.

c. **Revelation 6:13:** Falling of the stars. When did this phenomenon occur?

2. Signs in the religious world.

a. A great religious awakening. The Gospel is preached throughout the earth.

"Having the everlasting _____ to preach unto them that _____ on the _____."
(Revelation 14:6, 7).

"Knowledge shall be _____." (Daniel 12:4).

b. Moral and spiritual decline, increase in crime, sexual sins. From **2 Timothy 3:1-5**, list some of the sins of the last days.

c. Decline of religious freedom.

Revelation 13:15-17: *"As many as would not _____ the image of the beast should be _____ . And he _____ all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a _____ in their right hand, or in their _____ : And that no man might _____ or _____ , save he that had the _____ or the name of the _____ or the number of his name."*

3. Disasters, calamities, and wars.

Read **Luke 21:10, 11** and list some of these signs:

Words to Remember

Resurgence: To rise or appear again in power.

Elect: Those saved by God through their faith in Him.

Translation: The living saints who will be taken up to meet Jesus, without seeing death, when He returns.

The Difference Between

First Advent: Jesus is born as a baby in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago to die for the sins of humanity.

Second Advent: Jesus is coming the second time in glory with all the angels to take all who have accepted Him as the Saviour to be with Him in heaven.

I Truly Believe

After reading the statements below, check the boxes that reflect your commitment:

1. At the time of Christ's second coming all the world will be praying. I must now choose which prayer I will pray then.

[] *"And [they] said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:16, 17).*

[] *"And it shall be said in that day, behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." (Isaiah 25:9).*

2. When Jesus comes, what words will He say to me?

[] *"And then I will declare to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." (Matthew 7:23).*

[] *"Then the King will say ... Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 25:34).*

Have you ever wondered why Jesus delays His coming? A silversmith melted the ore to 1,761 degrees Fahrenheit. Gradually, the impurities in the ore rose to the surface, and he skimmed them off. Over and over, he carefully worked with the molten mass. When he could see his face reflected with perfect clarity, he knew there was only pure silver left.

Jesus is now doing the same thing with you. "Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple" (The Desire of Ages, pg. 827). Yes, dear friend, "When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own." (Christ's Object Lessons, pg. 69).

My Prayer

Dear Father,

Please remove from my life anything that mars, blurs, or spoils the reflection of Jesus. Fill me with Your love, holiness and meekness, so that I may perfectly reflect You. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen

Your Name

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Quiz

Read the following Bible texts and with the help from the lesson above, answer the following questions by circling "T" if the statement is true or "F" if the statement is false. (**Hint:** there are 8 true and 2 false)

KEY TEXTS	Isa. 25:9	John 14	Acts 1:11	1 Cor. 15
	Titus 2:13	Heb. 9:28	Rev. 19:12, 16	Rev. 22:20

1. **T or F** The Second Coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. (see pg. 371).
2. **T or F** The early Christians expected all the prophecies and promises of Scripture to be fulfilled at the Second Advent. (see pg. 373).
3. **T or F** The certainty of the Second Advent is rooted in the Trustworthiness of Scripture. (see pg. 373).
4. **T or F** Christ warned that before the Second Advent, false christs and false prophets would arise and show great signs and wonders. (see pg. 374).
5. **T or F** Christ's coming will be a secret event or rapture. (see pg. 375).
6. **T or F** When the righteous dead are resurrected, the righteous living on the earth at the Second Coming will be changed. (see pg. 377).
7. **T or F** Scripture has not revealed any signs that will precede the Second Coming. (see pg. 378-379).
8. **T or F** Scripture predicts that a number of significant signs in the religious world will mark the time just preceding Christ's return. (see pg. 380).
9. **T or F** We do not know the day or the hour of Christ's coming; we must be ready at all times. (see pg. 384).
10. **T or F** The Redeemer's return brings to a glorious climax the history of God's people. (see pg. 385).

All answers are based on the latest upgraded book, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .* 2nd Edition, 2005