

QUESTION: When is Jesus coming back? How is the Second Coming of Jesus laid out in the Bible?

ANSWER: Jesus preached a great deal about **His RETURN** or "**Second Coming.**" The Bible teaches us that we can **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** **the EVENTS LEADING up to His return**, but that **NO ONE will know** the **EXACT** day or time (Matthew, chapters 24 & 25, Luke 17:20-37). His **FIRST COMING** was when He came as a baby in the manger of Bethlehem, and later, as a man, the God/Man, to give His life for our sins on the cross. The 300 prophecies in the Old Testament concerning His first coming are scattered throughout the Scriptures, like precious gems that God gave to His people to collect and put together into a beautiful picture of Who the Messiah would be. There are about 500 prophecies concerning His Second Coming, and they are presented in the same way - scattered throughout both the Old and New Testaments. We should always use Scripture to compare and explain Scripture, so as we put together the prophecies of Jesus' return, we come up with a picture of what will happen, and approximately when it will happen.

- **Matthew 24:3** "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, **WHEN will these things be?** And what will be **the SIGN of Your coming**, and of the **END of the AGE?**'"
- **Matthew 24:14** "And this **GOSPEL** of the kingdom will be **preached in ALL the WORLD** as a witness to all the nations, **and THEN the END WILL COME.**"
- **Matthew 24:36** "But of that **DAY** and **HOUR** **no one KNOWS**, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."
- **I Thessalonians 5:1-4** "But concerning the times and the **SEASONS**, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves **KNOW** perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night.....But you, brethren, are not in darkness (ignorance), so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."
- **Luke 17:26** "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in **the days of the Son of Man.**"
- **Genesis 6:5 & 8** "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.**" "But Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord."

Definition: "DAYS OF THE SON OF MAN" - Also called "the day of the Lord" or "the Last Days", refers to the time just before the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. One of the "signs" of His **SOON RETURN** will be the spread and **INCREASE** of wickedness, violence, and all forms of evil, or in other words, the condition of the human race **just before Jesus returns** will be as wicked and evil as it was before God destroyed the earth with the Flood. Read also II Thessalonians 2:1-12 and II Timothy 3:1-13, and take a look at today's newspapers. Also, Jesus said in Matthew 24:14 that the **GOSPEL**, the good news of Jesus Christ, will be preached in **ALL THE WORLD** before He returns.

The **Second Coming of Jesus Christ** will happen in two stages: **(1.) The "Rapture"** - when the Believers in Christ are **CAUGHT UP** to meet Jesus in the clouds. This "return" is not visible to the general public (the world), because Jesus only comes down part way, to the clouds, for a **SECRET RETURN to GATHER UP His church**; and **(2.) The "Glorious Appearing"** - At the **END** of the seven-year Great Tribulation, at the battle of Armageddon will be His **VISIBLE** and triumphant return (the "sign" of His coming). The Rapture is **NOT** the same as His **VERY VISIBLE** Second Coming, when His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, and He will come with all His armies of saints (believers) and angels with Him. The Rapture and the Second Coming at the "end of the age" are **TWO SEPARATE EVENTS**.

****RAPTURE - His coming FOR the saints:**

- **I Thessaonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first (Christians who have died will be RESURRECTED). Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (taken up) together with them **in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall ALWAYS BE WITH the Lord."
- **Read Matthew 25:1-13** "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out **to meet the BRIDEGROOM**. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the Bridegroom was DELAYED, they all slumbered and slept. And **at midnight a CRY was heard**: "Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him!" (Verse 10) "And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were READY went in with Him to the WEDDING; and the door was shut."

Definition: "Behold, the BRIDEGROOM is COMING" - Jesus told this parable (story) to illustrate what it will be like **when He RETURNS again**. The "ten virgins" were the maids of honor waiting for the groom to appear for the wedding, and they represent those in the churches today, both real Christians and professing Christians. The "foolish virgins" represent those who are in Christian churches today, perhaps even active members, but they are "Christians" in name only - they have **never really been BORN AGAIN**. The "wise virgins" with "**oil in their lamps**" represent the TRUE CHRISTIANS who have the Holy Spirit (oil is used in the Bible to represent the Holy Spirit). Remember, Jesus, in John 3:3,6 & 8, said that we must be BORN AGAIN, and also called it **being BORN of the SPIRIT**. When Jesus returns for the "Rapture" of the church, these church members **will NOT be READY**, and **Jesus will only take the TRUE BELIEVERS** with Him to heaven for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:7-9).

Definition: "At midnight a CRY was heard" - I believe this is the same as the trumpet sound and the voice of the archangel that will occur at the moment the church is caught up to the Lord (the Rapture). The idea of midnight means that it will be at a time when most people will not be prepared or ready (at midnight, most people are sleeping). Jesus will come back in the clouds to receive His church at the Rapture, and it will be without warning, so be ready!

****SECOND COMING - His coming WITH the saints:**

- **Matthew 24:31** "Then shall **APPEAR the SIGN of the Son of Man** in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth MOURN, and **they shall SEE the Son of Man coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."
- **Zechariah 14:1-5** "....and I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle..... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations.... and **His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem.....and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof.....and the Lord my God shall come, and **ALL the SAINTS WITH YOU**."
- **I Thessalonians 3:13** "....at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **WITH ALL HIS SAINTS**."
- **II Thessalonians 2:8** "And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by **the APPEARANCE of His COMING**."
- **I Timothy 6:14** "That you keep the commandment without stain or reproach, **until the APPEARING of our Lord Jesus Christ**, which He will bring about **at the proper time**...."
- **Revelation 1:5-7** ".....**JESUS CHRIST**, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead (first to be resurrected), and the ruler over the kings of the earth..... **Behold**,

- He is COMING** with clouds, and **EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM**, and they also who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him."
- **Read Revelation 19:11-21** "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war..... He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses."

Please also read Second Coming of Jesus.