

# Jesus is coming: He Gathers His People

Matthew 24:31

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The return of Jesus, His Second Coming is one big part of the hope that I have in my heart. I can't imagine that this world is all that there is, that this life is all that there is. It's hard for me to think that human beings doing the worst they can do to one another is the meaning and purpose of our existence on this planet. Likewise for all the good things we do between birth and death are the fulfillment of our lives.

One day a sign will appear in the sky. Everyone, everywhere will see it. We all be surprised. One day Jesus will return. When He returns it will be more glorious than anything we can imagine. His return will be more magnificent than any of our dreams. His coming will bring about all of God's plans and purposes. Jesus' arrival will set free all those who believe in Him.

***Matthew 24:31 (NIV) "And He, the Son of Man, will send His angels with a loud trumpet call"***

**Not only will Jesus appear in the sky at an unknown moment, we will hear the angels' trumpets.** The Second Coming of Jesus signals the beginning of our final salvation. Remember this is happens in an instant. Without warning the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky. In this same moment a trumpet will blare. The angels of heaven will descend to earth searching everywhere for all those who believe in Jesus. Every believer who is alive will be brought together with Jesus. The harvest will be separated from the weeds. The grain will be separated from the chafe. At that moment we will all bow before Jesus. We will all proclaim that He is the Lord of all.

This is exciting to think that the entire church of Jesus Christ will come together in one place and worship Jesus as our Savior and Lord. The church gathered at the feet of Jesus rejoicing and giving thanks. The church gathered at the feet of Jesus united in faith and adoration. The church gathered at the feet of Jesus focused on the only one who matters.

Denominational differences will no longer exist. Theological debates will have ended. Petty disagreements will be meaningless. The Body of Christ will be together. Nothing will separate one believer from another. Ethnic background, race, skin color, economic status, hair color, body shape, age will no longer be barriers. The only thing that will matter is that we are together and Jesus is Lord.

This is the beginning of our final redemption. Jesus will establish His eternal Kingdom. The new heaven and the new earth will descend from heaven. All things will be made new.

Let me introduce you to six words. Pre-tribulation is the theological idea that this arrival of Jesus, the rapture, has occurred before the tribulation. The Tribulation is a time period of seven years when Satan does His worst, and evil runs rampant. Many people interpret this passage and others in scripture this way.

Mid-tribulation is another theological idea about the arrival of Jesus. Not as many people believe this idea. They see the rapture happening after three and one half years of the tribulation. So, in the middle of Satan doing his worst and evil running rampant Jesus removes His church.

Post-tribulation is the theological idea that the seven years of tribulation are not literal, but figurative of the perfect timing of God. That in God's perfect timing Jesus returns to end all tribulation and establish His eternal Kingdom.

This idea also works with Postmillennialism. Millennial being a thousand years and interpreted as figurative. Which means that we are presently in the millennium of Christ's reign on earth.

Amillennialism is another term that is pointing towards a literal battle in the land of Israel. The time of the millennial is figurative, and the coming of Jesus is more important than the battle. A Christian can believe this and also hold to any of the three tribulation ideas.

Premillennialism puts forward the belief that all the Christians have been removed from the earth in the rapture. There is the ever growing power of Satan on earth culminating in a earth ending battle with Jesus emerging as the victor and setting up His eternal kingdom.

I've shared all of these because some people make these titles and these ideas an issue of salvation. But, they aren't. The important thing is Jesus will come when we don't expect Him and His angels will gather all believers.

***Matthew 24:31 (NIV) "And He, the Son of Man, will send His angels with a loud trumpet call"***

**When you think of the sign in the sky and the trumpet sounding, are you not filled with awe and inspiration?** As Christians in the midst of troubles and problems this reminds us that salvation is coming. I told you last week that when Jesus returns I will be one of those people who will be rejoicing. I've encouraged you to make your life practice to be giving thanks and praising God throughout your day.

When I read the many passages of scripture about Jesus returning to earth to take home His church, I am in wonder of the glory of my Savior and stirred by the greatness of my Lord. We all say oh and ah, wow and amazing when we see fireworks displays. As we are witness to amazing and wonderful things we feel empowered. We are encouraged by the acts of heroism. We are moved emotionally with scenes of victory and triumph.

But, does the thought, the hearing of Jesus' Second coming cause you to raise your hands in adoration? Does the sound of the words that Jesus will come again light a fire within you? If it doesn't maybe it's because the weight of daily life blocks you from seeing the majesty and wonder of your risen Savior. If you aren't getting excited about Jesus coming maybe it's because you've seen so many bad things happen to you and around you that hope has been diminished. If you can't get motivated about Jesus' return are you still thinking it's a long way off in the future.

You and I can easily fall prey to the influence of the world. Think about all the people busy with life before Noah closed the door on the ark. Consider the hoards of people who didn't believe God will allow an invading army to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem, then it happened.

We want to believe that Jesus is coming, we do believe it. But daily life has dulled our spiritual senses to Jesus promise to deliver His church from the world and the power of sin. We believe we're saved from the punishment of our sins. But, we've put on a back shelf the truth that Jesus will return, judge the world, and take His church to heaven.

Sinners aren't aware of this awesome hope that is in our hearts, spirits and souls. What do sinners believe? From my conversations with people and my observations they believe that life is about this moment and this moment only. They believe that personal satisfaction and pleasure is of the highest importance. They have built up an idea that they have to work hard and hard work is the only thing that matters. They also believe that just because they are breathing that they are entitled to something.

Sinners operate out of selfishness. They are self-centered. They are easily manipulated and then controlled by their desires. The end of the world, the coming of Jesus, is unimportant and irrelevant for them. They don't care, and they don't care that they don't care.

That is sad for them and for some Christians. This can either be discouraging or it can be motivating for the church. It can be fatalistic or it can be inspiring for disciples of Jesus.

***Matthew 24:31 (NIV) "And He, the Son of Man, will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds."***

**The very thought that we will see Jesus and hear the trumpet inspires us and motivates us.** Every Christian alive at Jesus' return will be united. I'm of the biblical opinion that the work of the angels to gather all the believers will happen quickly. We will be brought to the feet of Jesus praising and glorifying Him faster than we can get out the words.

From the north, south, east and west the angels will bring to Jesus every saint. Those who confess Jesus as their Savior and Lord will appear before Jesus. Our skin color, our accent, our hair length, our eye color, our place of origin will be immaterial. Believers will come together looking only at Jesus. Believers will be united under one name. Believers will be unified with one voice.

Our voices will rise to heaven like a sweet aroma. Like we enjoy the fragrance of beautiful flowers Jesus will be blessed. As we breathe in the aroma of the most desirable things Jesus will be blessed by our voices. Jesus will breathe in our praises with delight and joy.

This moment will give Him the pleasure He has awaited from the moment He entered our world. The gathering of God's people will bring the contentment Jesus has anticipated since He breathed His last breath. All that God desired when He said let there be light will be fulfilled as Christians are united. Every plan and every purpose of God will be satisfied as all the believers will be joined together.

This stirs my soul. To know that Jesus is anticipating His return fires up my spirit. The final work of our redemption is an incredible moment. I'm filled with joy and want to sing out my praises. I'm more excited by the thought of Jesus returning than anything except my salvation. I find myself wanting others to experience this joy and this excitement. I want others to experience the forgiveness of their sins. I want those around me to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. I want friends and family to experience the hope of heaven.

You will have the opportunity to see friends and family in heaven. No matter where your friends are right now, you will be united with them when Jesus returns. Isn't that exciting? Regardless of where family members are at this moment, you will be together when Jesus returns. Doesn't that motivate you?

The only why family and friends will be with you at Christ's coming is if they believe in Jesus. No one gets to the Father unless they believe in Jesus. No matter what people think unless they believe the

truth that Jesus is God's Son, they won't be in heaven. Unless they choose Jesus as their life they won't be gathered in by the angels when the trumpet blows.

My existence on this earth is not to ride a motorcycle. That's a blessing God has given me. My purpose for being born isn't just to eat, work, sleep, and repeat. I was born to proclaim with my life that Jesus is Savior and Lord. Your existence on the planet isn't to have a hobby or own things. Those are blessings from God. Your purpose for being born isn't to merely to find pleasure. You were born to proclaim with your life that Jesus is Savior and Lord.

**Matthew 24:31 (NIV)**

***And He, the Son of Man, will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.***

**This week look for opportunities to tell family and friends that Jesus wants them in Heaven.**

We want our family and friends to be in heaven. I am praying daily for various family members and friends to know that God's love goes to the highest heavens. They can't go high enough in the sky, through space, into other galaxies and escape God's love. God loves your family and friends like He loves you.

I pray for family and friends to know the depth of God's love. There is no hole so deep that anyone can escape God's love. God loves your family and friends like He loves you. My prayer for family and friends is for them to know the width and length of God's love. Turn to your right or to your left and God's love will be present. God loves your family and friends like He loves you.

It is my prayer that family members and friends who don't love Jesus will see their sin. They will see how they are ignoring Him. They will see how they are rejecting Him. They will turn to Jesus, choose Jesus, welcome His love into their soul, their spirit, their heart, their mind, their bodies. My prayer is that I will have the opportunity to plant and water and harvest these seeds of the Good News.

I also pray this for you, your family, and your friends. May God's love flow in you and through you. May the Holy Spirit speak to you and through you. May Jesus Christ be glorified.

In this moment you can make the choice to be met by angel when the trumpet sounds. At the sign of the Son of Man in the sky may you be filled with joy. As you see Jesus appear in the sky may your voice join with all the other believers.

Give to Jesus your rebellion. Hand over to Jesus your attitude of selfishness that leads to rejection. Place at the foot of the cross every sinful and evil desire in your body, mind, and spirit. Jesus gave His life on the cross to take away all of your sins. He became your sin, and paid the death penalty for your sins. He has cast your sin away. Stop picking up your sin and leave it in the tomb. Embrace the love of Jesus. Claim the forgiveness, grace, and mercy of God. Proclaim Jesus as your Savior and Lord.