

Jesus is Coming: With Power and Glory

Matthew 24:30

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Every believer needs to know that Jesus is coming back. Every disciple of Jesus needs to know that one day He will return. It is our hope in the midst of all that we see in the future. In the midst of the human disasters all around, we need Jesus to come back. In the midst of our human nature, we need to Jesus to return for His followers. Every new believer needs Jesus to come back for us. Every old believer needs Jesus to return. One day Jesus will return. No one on this earth knows when He will return.

We began this year talking about praying for sinners to come to know the love of God. We learned to pray for sinners to see their sin and to turn to Jesus. When sinners come to Jesus they need to know how to pray. When sinners come to Jesus they need to know that there is hope beyond this life. This hope is realized when Jesus returns to our world.

Matthew 24:30 (NIV) “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky”

Every person, both saints and sinners, needs to know Jesus is coming with glory. Jesus has shared with His disciples about the fall of Jerusalem and His return. He has told them about many terrible things that will happen: persecution, earthquakes, wars and many other things. The words He shares about the end of Jerusalem and the end of the world follow one after another. The distinction for all of us is this sign of the Son of Man appearing in the sky.

Jesus is the Son of Man. He has used this title for Himself throughout His ministry. The Son of Man title is from the prophet Daniel several hundred years prior. Therefore, the disciples know He is referring to Himself. Many people, common folk to well read and educated scholars, have debated the sign. Some say the sign is the appearing of a Cross in the sky. Others will say it is Jesus appearing.

Here is what I think is important. When we see the sign we will know. All the world will know. Saints and sinners alike will know. Young and old will know. The sign will be so magnificent and glorious that there can be no mistake that Jesus has returned. When we see the sign in the sky it will be too late to second guess, or plead for mercy. The time for repentance and forgiveness will be over. The time of judgment will begin. That part of His return I will discuss in a few weeks.

One of the things Jesus will bring is the glory of heaven. When He appears it will be glorious in ways that words cannot describe. His majesty will be revealed. We will see Him as Peter, James and John saw Him when Moses and Elijah appeared. Those who believe in Jesus will be amazed and we will be in awe. You and I will either fall to our knees with respect to honor Him, or we will shout words of praise and adoration to honor Him.

His second coming will be nothing like His first coming. Well, that is except for the angels singing to the shepherds. Picture that moment and you begin to get an idea of Jesus' return. There will be no baby in a manger. The Son of Man will not come as the humble servant. Jesus will come as the ruler of the new heavens and the new earth.

Another thing Jesus will bring is an end to all the suffering and persecution. Which really means Jesus will bring an end to sin and all of its power. Suffering is the work of sin released into our world. Suffering is the result of our selfishness and rejection of God as Lord and Savior, Creator and Sustainer, the Almighty Lord of all life.

The persecution experienced by believers from the time of Cain and Abel to the day Jesus arrives will come to an end. The enemies of God, the haters of Jesus, the deniers of the Holy Spirit will all be judged and condemned. But, I'll get to that in a few weeks.

For every believer a new world will exist where there is no sin and punishment for sin and no penalty for sin. Jesus' arrival will bring a new existence in heaven for every believer.

Matthew 24:30 (NIV) "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn."

When Jesus returns will people be crying their eyes out or watching with enthusiasm? Every person will be surprised, but will it be terror or joy? It doesn't matter whether you are a saint or a sinner you will be surprised by Jesus' return. You can be a man, a woman, or a child and you will be surprised when He returns. If you are wealthy or poor, a worker or an owner you will be surprised. You can live in the mountains, on the plains, in the valley, or by the beach and His return will surprise you. If you live in China, Antarctica, Hawaii, Russia, Kansas, or Israel you will be surprised when Jesus returns. No matter how many signs you mark off your prophecy list you won't be able to predict His arrival. You can read every prophecy in scripture a thousand times and you still won't know when He is coming again. Go ahead and read every scholar, read all the tea leaves, stare at the stars and you will still be surprised when Jesus appears in the sky.

Furthermore if you are living anywhere on the planet or an astronaut in space you will see Him at the same time. South Africans and Icelanders, along with Koreans and Canadians, Australians and Norwegians will see Jesus come all at the same time. The arrival of Jesus, the sign of the Son of Man in the sky, can't be predicted.

The Second Coming of Jesus will be for all people to see at the same time. No form of artificial intelligence, no scientific formula will be able to explain how every person will see Jesus at the same time in the same place. But it will happen.

At the right moment in God's perfect plan the resurrected Lamb that was slain will appear for everyone to see. If I am on this earth at that moment I will be surprised, but I will be rejoicing. I will be shouting hallelujah, hosanna, praise the Lord, thank you Jesus. I may be standing or I may be on my knees or I might be lying face down, but voice will be raised in adoration to my Savior.

People in every nation will mourn for their own souls. Someone standing next to me or down the street from me will be mourning for their soul. Somebody in a high government position and somebody cleaning windows will be mourning for their soul. Those who are collecting money and those who give away their money will be mourning for their soul. The person who has everything under the sun and the person who only has the clothes on their back will be mourning for their soul. The cousin you can't stand and the neighbor you failed to meet will be mourning for their soul.

They will realize in the blink of an eye that they are judged and are guilty, condemned and without a second chance. They will know that at the appearance of Jesus in the sky that they made a mistake by not choosing Him as their Savior and Lord and there is no longer time to choose. They will

instantly be aware that their lack of trust in Jesus has condemned their eternal soul to an unescapable terror.

They will be terrorized by the reality that their refusal to give their lives to Jesus is resulting in a pain that is worse than anything they have experienced before and that it will never go away. They will know that all they had to do was believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead to give them eternal life.

Matthew 24:30 (NIV)

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky.”

As you watch for Jesus to return sing His praises with the expectation that He is coming.

From this moment until the moment Jesus appears in the sky we can be living to honor His name. Every believer can live their life watching for Jesus to appear by the way they live.

As a child I was taught that if I was sinning when Jesus returned I would go to hell. It scared me. I'm certain that this was somebody's idea to get me to behave. Their fear tactic was to keep me in doing what was right, being obedient. What it created within me was a lot of fear. I was scared to do anything, just in case I did something wrong.

The other thing it taught was my salvation was based on my good actions, regardless of my spiritual condition. I lived for a number of years not loving Jesus, but obeying the rules. Once my soul got right with Jesus, I lived seeking to honor Jesus. My attitude changed to live in a way that would honor the death of Jesus for my sins. I began to think about my life, my actions, my thoughts and attitudes as a way to love Jesus for taking away my sins.

He rose from the dead to raise me from the power of sin and to give me a new life. I wanted to honor Him with my life. Gratitude and appreciation to Jesus became more and more important to me. I wanted to sing His praises. I wanted to express the joy that was in my heart. I didn't care who would see and hear me lifting up the name of Jesus.

My expectation became that Jesus was coming. I was prepared for His arrival because I believed He had died and risen from the dead to take away my sins. I was prepared for His arrival because I was living my life for His glory and honor.

He could arrive at anytime. My heart, my spirit, my soul was right with God. He could come at any moment. My thoughts and attitudes were set on honoring Him. He could appear in the sky whenever He was ready. My life was in His hands.

Those who are suffering and those who are sinners need to know that one day this world will end. I know Jesus. I am waiting and watching for Jesus to return. But, so many people in our little community live as if there is no end to this life. They live as if when the end comes they will have earned their way into God's house. They live thinking that heaven is the next step no matter what believed in this life. They live believing that this life is all that there is, nothing happens when we die.

But, what if they don't die? What if tomorrow the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky and all the world sees Him coming in the clouds?

That day will come. God knows when Jesus will return. God's judgment will be on everyone at that moment. Some will be rejoicing, because they love Jesus. Others will be mourning because they never choose Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Matthew 24:30 (NIV) "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

Keep watch and prepare others to welcome Jesus at the end of world. Jesus is coming and we don't know when He will arrive. Watching and waiting is how we live from now until that day. We watch how we live as people who love Jesus. We wait for His return as people who are honoring Him.

Let's honor Jesus by living and being like Jesus. Let's be people who talk to our Father in heaven. Whenever we have the opportunity talk to Him. Talk about the crisis before you. Tell Him how you feel. Let's take our prayer life to the next level as we praise Him. We take our prayer life to the next level being humble before Him. We take our prayer life to the next level by seeking to comfort others.

Let's honor Jesus by being people of compassion who speak with love. As we look at family, friends, neighbors, co-workers let's see people Jesus wants in Heaven. Therefore we can talk with them about Jesus' love that took Him to the cross. We can share about Jesus power to forgive our sins and rise from the dead.

Even though people will be surprised they need to hear that Jesus loves them. On the day of Jesus' return everyone will be surprised. You will either rejoice that He has come or you will weep.

The time we live in now is the time to turn to Jesus. You can rejoice today and on the day of His arrival. But, to be rejoicing you need to take a step of faith. You need to believe that you are a sinner in need of salvation. Jesus has already paid the price for every sinner to be forgiven of their sins. He has put the ransom for your sins at the foot of His cross. It has your name written on it. All you need to do is to claim the ransom payment.

Confess your sin to Jesus by simply saying that you are a sinner. Choose to believe that He loved with such a great love that He will give you a new life. Your new life will be free from the penalty and the power of sin. Your selfishness, your self-destruction, will be taken away and you will be filled the power of heaven to overcome sin.

As you confess your sins, turn to Jesus. Turn to the only one who can forgive you. Turn to Jesus as the one you will cause you to rejoice when He returns.