



# LOOKING AHEAD

What the Bible tells us about the future  
(eschatology)

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info



## PART 4: THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

The second coming of Jesus Christ is the hope of believers that God is in control of all things and is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. In His first coming, Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, just as prophesied. Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection.



However, there are some prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has not yet fulfilled. The second coming of Christ will be the return of Christ to fulfill these remaining prophecies. In His first coming, Jesus was the suffering Servant. In His second coming, Jesus will be the conquering King. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In His second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side (Houdmann).

### A. Jesus came first as a servant; he will return as King.

Jesus' First Coming (Servant)	Jesus' Second Coming (King)
He came in humiliation (Phil. 2:5-7)	He will return in exaltation (Rev. 1:5-6)
He came to serve (Matt. 20:28)	He will return to be served (Rev. 22:3)
He came as the suffering servant (Phil. 3:30)	He will return as the conquering King (Rev. 19:16)

### B. The return of Jesus can be viewed as one miraculous event with two stages.

- Stage 1: At the rapture Jesus comes for his followers (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
- Stage 2: At the second coming Jesus comes with his followers (Rev. 19:11-14).

### C. Jesus' second coming will be astonishing.

- Jesus' second coming will be unexpected (Matt. 24:42-44; 1 Thess. 5:1-2).
- Jesus' second coming will be glorious (Matt. 16:27; 25:31).
- Jesus' second coming will be visible (Mat. 26:64, Acts 1:9-11).
- Jesus' second coming will be loud (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
- Jesus' second coming will be decisive (Matt. 25:31-46).

- Jesus' second coming will be victorious (Rev. 16:12-6; 19:17-21; 20:1-3).

**D. We do not know when Jesus' second coming will occur.**

- Nowhere in the Scripture are believers commanded to figure out the date of Christ's return. In fact, there is a great deal of Scriptural warning against date setting (Matt. 24:36, 42, 44; 25:13; Mark 13:32-33; Acts 1:7).
- Jesus will return when he is not expected (Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:40; 1 Thess. 5:1-2).

**E. But we are to always be ready for the return of Jesus.**

- We must be ready and alert for Jesus' return (Matt. 24:44; 25:13; Titus 2:11-13; Jas. 5:7-8).
- We are to live in continuous fellowship with Jesus so that when he returns we will be confident and unashamed before him at his coming (1 John 2:28).

**F. Seven clues that the "Day" may be approaching (Heb. 10:25).**

- Clue No. 1: Israel will be regathered as a nation (Ezek. 37:1-14).
- Clue No. 2: The gospel will be preached worldwide (Matt. 24:14).
- Clue No. 3: There will exist a global means of communication (Rev. 11:9).
- Clue No. 4: The economy will be controlled on a worldwide scale (Rev. 13:16-18).
- Clue No. 5: Clue No 5: It will be just like the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37; Gen. 6:5; 2 Tim. 3:1-5).
- Clue No. 6: The rise of a powerful federation of ten (Dan. 2:31-44; 7:1-7, 24).
- Clue No. 7: It will be preceded by scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4).



**G. Jesus is coming soon...**

"Jesus Himself said that He is coming soon: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon'" (Revelation 22:20). And then John adds these words: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." John's book was penned nearly two thousand years ago, which leads many people to wonder what Jesus meant by "soon."

The Greek word *tachu*, which is translated "soon" or "quickly," means "without unnecessary delay." It does not mean "immediately." The same word is used in other places in the New Testament, but, interestingly, it is used most often by Jesus in the book of Revelation (Revelation 2:16; 3:11; 11:14; 22:7, 12, and 20). The meaning seems to be that events have been set in motion that will usher in His arrival without any unnecessary delay. Everything is moving along according to God's timetable" (Houdmann, S. Michael).

Because he is coming soon...

- We are to be evangelists (Matt. 28:1-20).
- We are to be examples (Titus 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:11-12).
- We are to be encouragers (Heb. 10:25).