

### **All the Dead Will be Raised:** <sup>NIV</sup> Acts 24:15

“...there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.” <sup>NAS</sup> John 5:28 “...an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, <sup>29</sup> and shall come forth ...”  
No one will be missed; *all will be raised!*

### **All Bodies Will be Changed:** <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Corinthians

15:51 “...we will all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” Now our bodies are perishing; *then they will last forever!*

### **Spirits Will Return to their Bodies:**

1. **Believers:** <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:14  
“...God will bring with Jesus those [spirits] who have fallen asleep in him.”
2. **Unbelievers:** <sup>NIV</sup> Revelation 20:13  
“...Hades gave up the dead [the spirits of unbelievers] that were in [it]...”

To each immortal body will return his/her soul and spirit – *from heaven or hell!*

### **All Will be Gathered and Separated:** <sup>NIV</sup>

Matthew 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory... <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people...”  
*Goats / unbelievers on the left, sheep / believers on the right!*

### **All Will Appear Before Christ:** <sup>NIV</sup> 2 Cor. 5:10

“...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...” Our knowledge of that coming day *should influence our thoughts, words, & actions!*

### **Every Knee Shall Bow:** <sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 2:10

“...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” “...not even a demon in hell will be able to deny the Lordship of...Jesus Christ.” (Lenski, 792-793)

### **The Final Judgment Will Take Place:**

<sup>NAS</sup> Revelation 20:11 “...I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it... <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds...” <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 14:23 “...everything that does not come from faith is sin.” <sup>NIV</sup> Heb. 11:6 “...without faith it is impossible to please God...” Faith in Jesus is the key; *from faith comes works that are pleasing to God!*

1. **No faith, no works, no life:** <sup>NAS</sup> Rev. 20:15  
“And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”
2. **Faith, works, life:** <sup>NAS</sup> Romans 8:1 “There is...no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” <sup>NAS</sup> John 6:47 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

### **All Will Go to their Eternal Places:** <sup>NAS</sup> Mt.

25:46 “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”  
So, with eternal bodies, each group will go to its place – *one so terrible, the other so wonderful!*

Now, since Jesus has not yet returned – *but knowing it could be soon* – let us ✨rejoice in our forgiveness *through Jesus* and ✨faithfully share the Bible with all who are willing to listen! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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# **The Return of Jesus!**

➔ What will happen **BEFORE**  
and **WHEN** He returns?

## **Introduction**

God created a *perfect* world but people sinned, *which brought separation and death*; therefore, *God promised to send His Son to bring restoration and life for all people of all time!* In regard to the two comings of Christ, the Bible says: “...**Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**” (Hebrews 9:28 ESV) Therefore, *as Christians*, God has ✨made us sorry for our sins, ✨enabled us to trust in Jesus as our Savior, and ✨caused us to eagerly anticipate Jesus' second coming!

## **What Will Happen BEFORE He Returns?**

**When are the Last Days?** The Concordia Self-Study Bible defines the last days as “**the whole period introduced by Christ's first coming. These days are last in comparison to OT days, which were preliminary and preparatory.**” (1921) **Think about it like this:** The OT focused on the Savior to come; since then, once the Savior had

†come, †lived, †died, †risen, and †ascended, His promised return has been anticipated!

**What Will the Scoffers Say?** They will mock us for waiting on Jesus: <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Peter 3:4** They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised?” But we are to remember this reality: <sup>8</sup> “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” In other words, we are bound by time *but the Lord is not*; therefore, *TO THE LORD*, a thousand years are LIKE a day!

Furthermore, *we should view Jesus’ return as patience and love!* God is allowing time for more and more people to repent and believe – *before it is too late!* But no one should wait – *not even until tomorrow*, because, as the Bible says: <sup>10</sup> “...the day of the Lord will come like a thief.”

### **What are the Birth Pains?**

1. **Many will claim to be Christ:** The internet lists at least 16 people who have made that claim, including Jim Jones (Jonestown), David Koresh (Waco, TX), and others who are still alive and leading people astray! Jesus said: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:5** “...many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”
2. **There will be wars:** The internet lists 17 wars that are currently taking place in various places around the world. Jesus said: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:6** “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”
3. **There will be famines and earthquakes:** The internet states that “nearly 1 billion will still face chronic hunger this year.” (<http://www.mapreport.com/subtopics/d/0.html#m8>) Also, in ONE recent week (first week of November 2010), there were 34 earthquakes around the world with a

magnitude of 5.0 or higher! ([http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/recenteqsww/Quakes/quakes\\_big.php](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/recenteqsww/Quakes/quakes_big.php)) Jesus said: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:7** “There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

**SUMMARY:** What do claims, wars, famines, and quakes indicate? Jesus told us: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:8** “All these are the beginning of birth pains.” As birth pains indicate that a baby will soon be born, so *claims, wars, famines, and quakes point toward the closeness of Jesus’ return!*

### **How Do Christians Look Like Losers?**

1. **Persecution:** Jesus said: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:9** “...you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death...” [www.PrisonerAlert.com](http://www.PrisonerAlert.com) states: “In more than 40 nations around the world today Christians are being persecuted for their faith. In some of these nations it is illegal to own a Bible, to share your faith in Christ, change your faith or teach your children about Jesus. Those who boldly follow Christ—in spite of government edict or radical opposition—can face harassment, arrest, torture and even death.”
2. **Decline, deception, selfishness:** Jesus said: <sup>NIV</sup> **Mt. 24:10** “...many will turn away from the faith... <sup>11</sup> many false prophets will appear and... <sup>12</sup> the love of most will grow cold...” Now, think about today: †85% of churches in America are flat or declining, †false teachings are common, and †love for SELF is more common than love for OTHERS!

**SUMMARY:** Today is not a day to fear, but to be ever-ready for Jesus’ return! By the Spirit working through the Word, GOD will keep us †aware of

our sin, †sorry for our sin, and †trusting alone in Jesus as our Savior! Therefore, let us remember who we are as believers in Jesus Christ: <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 10:39** “...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”

## **What Will Happen WHEN He Returns?**

### **Things Will be Proceeding as Normal:**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 24:37** “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” Therefore, His return will be unexpected – *like a thief in the night!* (1 Th. 5:2)

### **Jesus Will Return:** <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

“...the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...” So when He comes, *everyone will know it!*

### **Some Rejoicing, Others Terrified:**

1. **Rejoicing:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 21:28** “When [the signs of Jesus’ actual return] begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” This sinful world can be tough, *so we rejoice at Jesus’ rescue!*
2. **Terrified:** <sup>NIV</sup> **Revelation 6:16** “They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!’ See *Hebrews 10:31*