

What Happens When Jesus Comes Again?

Introduction:

- I. *Read Acts 1:6 - 11...*
 - A. The disciples reveal their thought on what would happen in verse six.
 1. They thought Jesus was about to establish an earthly kingdom ([discussed Monday night](#)).
 2. When He ascended into heaven, they must have been dumb-founded.
 3. Yet, they are told by an angel that He would return again the same way he left.
 - B. The New Testament tells us that we are to be a people who are watching ([we learned this Sunday night](#)).
 1. Jesus said so: **Mt 25:13** *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*
 2. Paul said so: **I Th 5:6** *“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”*
 3. Peter said so: **II Pt 3:10ff** *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!”*
- II. Therefore, the **one thing that will not happen** when Jesus comes again: It won't be on anyone's calendar.
 - A. People are continually predicting the second coming of Jesus.
 - B. They have never been correct!
 1. [As we saw on Sunday night](#), the entire 25th chapter of Matthew is devoted to parables on this very subject.
 2. Chapter 25 is introduced by two parables on this same subject at the end of chapter 24 — the most famous being that of the thief who breaks in to steal.
 3. You don't know when the thief is coming.
- III. Let's take a look at what will happen when Jesus comes again.

Body:

- I. **No One Will Miss this Event...**
 - A. God's coming is never the secret rapture taught in the religious world today.
 1. Many teach that at some point in the future, Jesus will secretly steal people away.
 2. The pilot will suddenly be missing, drivers will disappear, friends and family will vanish...
 3. Ironically, the very passage used in an attempt to “prove” this doctrine actually denies it!
 - a. **I Th 4:17** This passage is used to justify the doctrine (*caught up*).
 - b. **I Th 4:16** *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”* (Do you think you will miss this?)
 - B. Not only will His return be sudden (without warning), it will give no opportunity to “make things right” for judgment.
 1. People tend to think they will be able to repent when they see Jesus coming — too late!
 2. **Mt 24:40-42** *“Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”*
 - a. Jesus is not telling us that the one left will have to wait.
 - b. The point is how sudden, as we learned in our study on [Tuesday night](#).
 3. For Christ to make intercession, He sits at the right hand of God: **Rom 8:34** *“who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”*
 4. In this position, He acts as our High Priest: **Heb 8:1** *“Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”*
 5. When He comes, it will already be too late for you to receive forgiveness by His intercession. He will have already left God's right hand.
- II. **The Dead Will Be Raised...** ([studied in Thursday night's lesson](#))
 - A. **Jn 5:28f** *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth...”*

1. The premillennialist tells us that there will be more than one resurrection:
 - a. The righteous first. — *show overview chart, including the three resurrection days.*
 - b. Seven years later, the righteous during the seven year period.
 - c. One thousand years after that, the wicked will be raised.
2. Jesus made it clear that there would be only one resurrection!

B. **I Th 4:16** *read...*

1. But will it be only the dead in Christ? No!
2. **I Th 5:2f** *“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”* (They think themselves safe, but their destruction will come in that day)

III. **Every Mouth Will Confess to God...**

- A. **Rom 14:10c & 11** *“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.’”*
1. The idea is two-fold:
 - a. Everyone must stand before Christ in judgment.
 - b. Every aspect of our lives will be open to His scrutiny.
 2. **Heb 4:13** *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*
- B. The greatest blessing for the righteous will be to stand in the presence of God.
- C. This greatest blessing for the righteous will be the greatest curse for the wicked.
1. Every sin, of which you said “no one will ever know,” will be fully known.
 2. No mouth will be capable of deceit in that day.

IV. **The Righteous Will Be Changed...**

- A. **I Cor 15:50** *“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”* (If flesh and blood cannot inherit heaven, then we must be changed)
- B. **I Cor 15:51f** *“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”*
- C. **I Jn 3:2** *“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”*
1. We shall be like Him.
 2. Jesus is glorified now and we shall be changed into conformity with His being.
- D. **Phil 3:20f** *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”*
- E. To no longer be as we are now will be necessary for our eternal happiness.
1. **Rev 21:4** tells us that there will no longer be any death or sorrow, pain or tears.
 2. To be in the likeness of Christ will be a grand blessing alone!

V. **A Just Recompense Will Be Given to Each...**

- A. **Lk 16:19 - 24** *read...*
1. Lazarus was comforted in Abraham’s bosom.
 2. The rich man was in torment (a word that meant torture).
 3. Such was the result of the fate they had prepared for themselves while living upon the earth (v25).
 4. **No second chances here, as some would like to believe!**
- B. **II Cor 5:10** *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body...”*
1. Notice that this is not a trial, where you can present some defense, and later enter appeals.
 2. The word “judgment” refers to handing down a formal sentence.
- C. **Mt 25:46** *“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*
1. **Some want to believe that the wicked will be annihilated, and suffer little harm.**
 2. They use the illustration of a piece of paper telling us, “Burn a piece of paper. It will be forever burned, but will not be forever burning.”
 3. I have a simple answer to that: **“You and I are not pieces of paper!”** You have an eternal soul created in the image of God!
- D. You are currently preparing for yourself the eternal fate you will partake of when this life is over!

Conclusion:

- I. The word of God is clear on certain elements of the return of God:
 - A. Review each point.
 - B. Note the erroneous ideas held.
- II. There is no time guaranteed for your preparation for eternity, other than the present.
 - A. You must serve the Lord now, if you would live with Him through eternity!
 - B. **II Cor 6:2b** *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*