



What's Next?

Preparing for Jesus' Return

I. Jesus' Return to Earth

A. A Promise & A Reward

Revelation 1:7 (NIV®)

⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Revelation 22:12-16 (NIV®)

¹² **"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me,** and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. ¹⁴ "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and **may go through the gates into the city.**

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶ **"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.** I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

B. Delay used for Excuse

2 Peter 3:3-8 (NIV®)

³ First of all, **you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come,** scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

⁷ **By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.** ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

C. Something New

2 Peter 3:13-14 (NIV®)

¹³ But in keeping with his promise **we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,** the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Romans 8:20-21 (NIV®)

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the **creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

Isaiah 11:4-8 (NIV®)

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

II. What to Look For

Matthew 24:4-14 (NIV®)

⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 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. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- ❖ Deception, v.4
- ❖ Wars & rumors of wars, v.6
- ❖ Conflict: national & ethnic, v.7
- ❖ Persecution (for Christian faith), v.9
- ❖ Apostasy, v.10
- ❖ Betrayal, v.10
- ❖ False prophets & deception, v.11
- ❖ Increase of wickedness ---diminished expression of love, v.12
- ❖ Some stand firm, v.13
- ❖ Gospel preached globally, v.14
- ❖ The end will come, v.14

III. Where to Look for Help

John 14:16-18 (NASB®)

¹⁶ "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 14:25-27 (NASB®)

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷ "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

IV. Survival Essentials

Proverbs 23:23 (NIV®)

²³ Buy the truth and do not sell it;

Matthew 13:44 (NASB®)

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV®)

¹² For **the word of God is living and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I rejoice that my future rests in Your watchful care. Just as You care for the flowers of the field, You have a plan and purpose for my life. Holy Spirit grant me the awareness to invest myself in the Kingdom of my Lord. I cast all of my anxiety upon You, Your grace and mercy surround me. Help me to order my steps that I may be pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name, amen.

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