

We believe in the premillennial, personal, bodily return of Christ as the crowning event of the Gentile age. This event will include the resurrection of the righteous to eternal heaven, and the Millennium will be followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous unto eternal punishment in the lake of fire and that the righteous shall enter into the heaven age.

(John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19; 20:4-6; 20:11-15; 21:8)

What is the purpose of His return? What will happen to those who believe in Him? What about the nation of Israel, what will happen to God's people? Will Jesus set up a kingdom on this earth? What about His eternal kingdom? And what does His return mean for me today? How does it apply to my life right now?

We are going to look at the scriptures to find the answers to these questions. Before we look at these some of you may be asking,

Will He return?

John 14:1

We need to understand that Jesus _____ breaks His promises. He said He would come again.

Man is sinful, he will _____ promises. However, God is Perfect! He _____ carries through with His promises!

Jesus _____ that He will Return and He will!

But that leads us to another question, When will He return? (Matthew 24:36)

The Return of Jesus will happen when _____ looks at His Son and says, "Go!"

But What is the Purpose of His return?

The first time Jesus came, He came to _____ His life for the sins of man, but His return will be different.

There are four main purposes to His return:

1. He will return to _____ believers.

Those who have died but had trusted Christ as Savior, we know their bodies have been placed in the ground, their bodies are buried here on this earth, but their souls and spirits are with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus" in other words those believers who have passed on, "will God bring with him."

Paul also says tells us in verse 16 that "the _____ in Christ shall rise first". Those believers who have passed on, their bodies will be brought out of the ground and Christ will reunite the spirit, soul and body of these believers.

Then verse 17 says, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:"

The Return of Jesus Christ

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So the believers who are still alive at His coming will also be “_____” - snatched away, plucked out, this is where we get the term rapture, together with the Lord and with the passed on believers and will meet the Lord in the air.

Then Paul concludes this by telling us “*so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” In other words we will be with the Lord _____ and _____.

1 Corinthians 15:52 “*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible*”... this is that reuniting of the _____ of those who have passed on but had placed their faith in Christ before their death. Then Paul continued to say, “*and we shall be changed*”.

Those believers who are alive at His return will be changed from this present sinful body to a _____ body like Christ.

2. He will return to _____ Israel.

In Numbers 34:1-12 God gave Moses the dimensions of the land He _____ Abraham.

This is not present day Israel. Israel does not possess all the land that God has promised to them. Yet God told Israel on two different occasions that they would _____ this promised land forever.

Genesis 13:15 “*For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*”

Genesis 17:8 “*And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*”

In Revelation 20 the Bible says that Jesus will have a 1000 year reign after the _____ of tribulation. It is during this 1000 year reign that Jesus will _____ Israel fulfilling the promise He has made them.

Isaiah 11:12 “*And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*” 11:16 “*And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.*”

Hebrews 8:10 “*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.*”

He will restore to them the promised land but He will also restore to them the _____ that He has always wanted with Israel.

3. He will Return to judge Satan and all unbelievers.

Revelation 20:7,9 “*when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.*”

Satan will then _____ the nations and will gather an army as many as the sand of the sea. But verse 9 tells us that fire will come down from God out of heaven and _____ them.

Then Jesus will sentence Satan to be cast into the lake of fire for ever and ever.

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Verses 11-15 of that same chapter tell us about a great White Throne Judgment.

Rev. 20:11-15, *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

All unbelievers will stand before Christ and He will _____ them. These people had _____ accepted God’s gift of grace and mercy, Jesus Christ, therefore they will be judged according to their works. After their judgment, they will be cast into the eternal lake of _____ and will remain there forever.

4. He will establish His _____ and _____ Kingdom.

Isaiah 11:6-9, *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”*

The earthly reign of Christ will be a _____ time between beast and beast and between man and beast. But it will also be a peaceful time between man and _____. It will be a time when the whole earth will know about King Jesus who will rule and reign from Jerusalem. Jesus will have a _____ year earth kingdom.

In Revelation 21:1 *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”*

After Jesus gathers His believers, restores Israel, judges Satan and unbelievers and has His 1000 year earthly kingdom then He will establish a _____ and new earth, His eternal kingdom.

This is the kingdom that the book of Daniel refers to as a kingdom not made with _____. It is Jesus’ eternal kingdom that will last forever and ever.

But what about right now? **What does His return do for me today?** How does it apply to my everyday life?

As believers the return of Christ is our _____.

So when you have a bad day, when you are discouraged, when you are aggravated and all seems hopeless, remember, He’s Coming! He’s Coming back!

LIFE APPLICATION

I will come again... John 14:6

The first time we returned to our hometown, it was obvious that it had changed a lot. The small town had begun to show its age and slowness with not keeping up with modern times. The old laundromat, or Ebby's Washateria as it was called, was missing all of the washers and dryers, as well as a few windows. The old gas station was still standing, but the pumps were nowhere to be seen. What disappointed me most was the old Bump's grocery store, where candy was only a nickel and a bottle of soda was only a dime. This also was long gone. The biggest difference I saw in the store was that part of the roof was now sitting on the floor.

The people had changed a lot as well. Sometimes I struggled with recalling a name or not even having a clue if I knew the person. But one avenue became very encouraging to me. It was when certain ones would begin talking about the Lord. Instantly, we had a refreshing conversation started that was current and lively. Memories of church life, pie suppers, family, and friends were covered in the conversation. It was like having a mini-reunion each time I bumped into someone that was still part of the community.

When we see Jesus return in bodily form, what a great reunion that will be!

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Luke 12:40

This may be a blessing to your immediate family. Go back to a "remember when" moment. Remember when we would have a picnic in the backyard? Remember when we would stop at a roadside park and fix sandwiches? Remember when you would tell us you loved us and tucked us in bed? Remember when you read Bible stories to your children and ate popcorn together? Write a note, letter, or a "thinking of you card" to a loved one. OR Plan an evening when you can sit with the Lord and just count your blessings and name them one by one. Soon you will see what all the Lord has done.