

## "JESUS IS COMING AGAIN"

Many know about Jesus coming into the world in the first century. Did you know that Jesus is coming again? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." We're going to explore what the Bible says about the second coming.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. God gives us the answers that we need to the most serious questions about our souls, our future, and our need for salvation. He's given us His word to help us understand His will and to prepare for the coming Judgment Day. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 4 and verse 4, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" If our lives and eternity depend on knowing God's word, then we must study diligently. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week.

Jesus promised in John 14:1 to 3, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." The Lord Jesus has gone to the Father to prepare a place for His disciples, but what's going to happen to those who don't know the Lord? Will He judge us? When is Jesus coming again?

Many strange ideas surround the second coming of Christ, but the word of God can help us find what will actually will happen. It's crucially important for us to know and to believe the truth about the second coming and what will happen to us. We don't want anyone to rely on a false hope. We don't want anyone to imagine they're saved only to hear the Lord say, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7 verse 23).

We offer this study free on Jesus is Coming Again. And if you'd like a printed copy of our study and you live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). We also have materials free on our website at [searchtv.org](http://searchtv.org).

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from 1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 18, and explore the facts of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Our reading today comes from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 13 through the end of the chapter, verse 18.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For, if we believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead, so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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 will rise first. Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words."

And yes, the Lord coming for us, and taking us home with Him, is going to be a great comfort. Let us pray.

"Father we're thankful for the promise of the second coming, and knowing that we can live with You forever and ever. Father help us to do Your Will, and to love You. In Jesus name, Amen."

Peter said in 2 Peter 3:3 to 10, “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 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.” We can surely believe Jesus Christ will one day return to this earth and will judge us all.

Now, some doubt that Jesus will come again. They live as secular people never thinking about their souls or that they must give an account to God for their ways. Some deny that God exists. Some are mocking even today and questioning whether Jesus will ever come again. But when He arrives, no one will be scoffing. People mocked Jesus when He was on the cross, and people sneered at the idea that Jesus arose from the dead. But when the stone was rolled back and the grave clothes were lying by themselves, people marveled!

Whatever Jesus predicted always proved true. He predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24; and in 70 AD Titus and the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy to the last detail. Jesus also predicted the end time in Matthew 24:35 to 36, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” Jesus said He did not know when He would return—in fact, no one knows but the Father. Some people think they know, but Jesus said no one knows!

That’s what Peter and Paul mean when they say that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (2 Peter 3 and verse 10 and 1 Thessalonians 5 and verse 2). Now, if Jesus, Peter and Paul said no one knows when it will happen, we doubt those who think they do know. In every generation since the first century, some have imagined they had figured out the day and the hour when Jesus would return. I remember years ago getting a book through the mail, “88 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming in 1988.” Well those 88 reasons proved to be speculation!

I have another book in my library by a self-proclaimed prophet who said the end of the kingdoms of the world will take place in 1914. And he had an elaborate scheme, but his prediction proved false. Jesus didn’t return in 1914. And no one knows when Jesus will come again; but we do know that when he comes, that everyone will know about it. The apostle John said in 96 AD in Revelation 1 and verse 7, “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.” When Jesus comes again, you’ll know it!

Now this passage in Revelation was written more than 60 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, but the soldiers who pierced him would see Him coming in the clouds. Likely those soldiers were already dead. John said even those who are in the tomb will rise from the dead to see Jesus at His return! Not only will people see Jesus when He comes again, they’ll hear about it. You remember Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 to 17, that “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 will rise first. Then we who are

alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

Now when He comes, the dead in Christ will rise first; but they won't be the only ones to rise on that day. You remember, the Lord Jesus said in John 5:28 to 29 “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, and those who committed evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” You see, when Jesus comes again, everyone from all time and all places will rise again!

Now Jesus said this resurrection of both the good and bad will happen in the same hour, when all will hear His voice. Now once the resurrection takes place, then we'll rise to meet the Lord in the air (as Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4 and verse 17), and the faithful will be with Him always. Now once men leave this earth, since “the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire” (2 Peter 3 verse 7). Those who set their hopes on this life or this world need to know that this is not where they're going to spend eternity. The day that Jesus comes again we'll be taken from this earth to stand before the throne of Christ. Now we'll stand before His throne to be judged on that day.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” The Lord Jesus will judge each of us according to our deeds: how we lived, how we talked, how we treated other people, and how we were thinking. The Lord will reward His servants but will condemn those who did not live according to His will. The Bible teaches clearly that each of us will stand on his own before the Lord. No one will escape judgment. This is why it is so important for each one to consider how he or she is living before the Lord.

John in Revelation 20 verses 11 and 12, describes the scene before the throne of God, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 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.” Now, the throne is white, because Jesus is righteous and will judge us righteously and fairly. He knows our hearts and He knows our lives.

And He will judge us from the things written in the books. And of course, those books refer to things that are written in the Bible itself. Yes, there's another book, the book of life, but the things that are His laws are what's going to judge us in the last day. I tell you, there is a higher court than the ones here on earth. There is an eternal court, which at the end of time will be in session to judge all people of all places of all time. And that court of the Lord Jesus is the final court, which will settle your destiny forever. There is no appeal. If you're found guilty, there is only one sentence. And that sentence leads to the lake of fire. And those who enter that place will never leave. That's the worst thing, the worst thing, the worst thing, that can ever happen to anyone. And we must not ignore the warnings found in scripture.

Now, your eternal destiny and my eternal destiny (for all that) will be determined by whether we have obeyed the Lord or have rejected Him. Jesus said in John 12 verse 48, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” Many people treat the Lord's teaching as if it were not important, as if it were trivial or optional. Jesus first came to us as a Savior; but when Jesus comes again, He will come as a judge. My friend, we need His grace; otherwise we'll receive personally the wages of sin, which is death (Romans 6 and verse 23)

Now Jesus Christ Himself said in Matthew 25:31 to 33, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left." Now not everyone will be saved; many will be lost. Many people think surely the Lord is too good to condemn anyone, but the truth is that the Lord is too good not to condemn those who live evil lives and will not repent of their sins.

Jesus said in Matthew 25 and verse 46 about those who would not help others in need, "These [that is the goats on his left] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." When people lead selfish, immoral lifestyles and are not willing to change their ways, God with great sadness, leaves them to the way they have chosen. God doesn't want to condemn anybody. Peter said, you remember in 2 Peter 3 and verse 9, that "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." God wants you to be saved, but you have to repent for yourself.

Now, God has done everything He could to lead us to salvation and to eternal life. He sent Jesus to show us what godly living is. Jesus died for our sins on the cross to demonstrate God's love for us and to cleanse us from all, all unrighteousness. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles and prophets to give us the Bible to teach us how to live and how to please God. Jesus purchased the church with His own blood so that we might have the strength of brothers and sisters in Christ. Now God can do all these things, but He won't twist your arm, He won't make you repent. You have to do that for yourself. You have to decide you're going to leave sin, and you're going to do what is right.

Now when a person lives in sin, he or she will dread the second coming of Jesus Christ; but when a person is right with the Lord, the second coming is the wonderful appearing of someone that we love and serve. Do you look forward to seeing Jesus come in the clouds? Peter said, "beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless" (2 Peter 3:14).

Yes, you have to decide whether you want to be among the sheep or among the goats. You decide whether you'll obey the Lord or reject the words of Jesus. You'll decide whether you love God or love your sins. You'll decide whether you'll be part of His family, the church, or you'll run with the world. You know, there is no neutral ground, there's no third group. You can't serve two masters; friendship with the world is hostility with God (James 4 and verse 4). The grace of God is amazing, but there is no Biblical promise of salvation to those who will not repent of sin and those that will not obey the gospel. And this is why I am praying that you prepare yourself for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Let's pray together. "Father, we're thankful that Your Son Jesus one day will come for us. Help us to be prepared for Him, to love Him with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and to do Your Will. In Jesus name, Amen."

When He comes again, face the Lord prepared. The apostle Peter said in 2 Peter 3:10 to 11, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar with the elements and it will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up [some say, revealed]. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" You know, if we're to be judged by the word of God, doesn't it make sense for us to follow the will of the Lord and please Him?

My friend, are you close to God? Are you reading your Bible? Are you worshiping at church regularly? When was the last time you prayed to God? How do you treat your neighbor? Do you forgive others or do you take revenge? Are you right with God?

Obey the gospel by believing Jesus is the Christ, repent of every sin and decide to do God's will in everything, confess the name of Jesus before others, and be baptized (that is, immersed in water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You see, that was God's answer to what we must do to be saved on the day of Pentecost according to Acts 2:38, and you know what, it's God's answer today. When you're baptized, the Lord will add you to His family the church; and you'll become an heir of heaven if you remain faithful to the Lord. I hope you won't wait another day, but that you'll obey the Lord. Don't risk losing your soul.

We hope today's study about the second coming has stirred you to draw close to Jesus. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons or a newsletter online at our website: [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). There's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches that are in your area. We offer many resources online at our website, [serachtv.org](http://serachtv.org), and they're available for free. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, we're not here asking for money. We're here to help you get to heaven.

We do ask that you focus your heart on God, and do it today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. And there's probably a church of Christ in your area. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. Well, we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about this program. Let them know that you watch regularly. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.