

Questions About the Return of Jesus

In the first century, there was a lot of controversy surrounding the return of the Lord Jesus. Some taught that He had already returned (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2). Some taught that the Lord wasn't coming back at all (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Unfortunately, in our time, there continues to be controversy surrounding this critical issue. Let's consider four questions that many still have about the return of Jesus.

Is Jesus going to return?

- Yes. Jesus promised to return personally (John 14:1-3).
- The angels make the same promise (Acts 1:9-11). The Lord "will come in just the same way" as He left the earth.

Will there be signs that precede His return?

- No. Jesus doesn't even have the inside scoop (Matthew 24:36). The signs mentioned in Matthew 24:4-33 are to be applied to events that would precede the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:34).
- The Lord's return will be like a thief and labor pains upon a woman with child (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:1-3).
- No man can know when the Lord will come back!

What will occur at His return?

- The world will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10).
- The resurrection will occur (1 Corinthians 15:23; John 5:28-29).
- The final judgment will occur (Matthew 25:31ff).
- The wicked will be in a lot of trouble (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).
- Eternity will begin for us (Matthew 25:46).

How should we respond?

- We must live righteously (2 Peter 3:11, 14).
- We must encourage others (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We must encourage the lost to obey the gospel and encourage erring brethren to be restored (Mark 16:15-16; Galatians 6:1).
- We must live in eager anticipation (2 Peter 3:12).
- The return of Jesus should practically impact our lives!

Conclusion:

Even if the Lord doesn't return today, how do you know you won't die?

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