

# The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ

This article is **not** going to try to set dates for Jesus Christ's second coming as it would be a useless task.

**Matthew 24:36** [NIV] *“No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

It is part of God's great wisdom that we do **not** know this date.

If we knew the precise date, we might be tempted to be lazy in our work for Jesus Christ to extend the Kingdom of God and publishing the Good News that He brought to all humanity.

Worse still we might plan to keep sinning and then turn to God in repentance at the last moment.

**What is critically important is that the expectation of the return of Jesus Christ is foremost in our thoughts and actions.**

This article aims to point us towards those scriptures that show this importance.

**The faith of the early New Testament Church was dominated by this expectation of Jesus Christ's return.**

Every book or letter of the New Testament refers in one way or another to the return of Jesus Christ.

One simple, logical and important fact is that for each of us personally, the return of Jesus Christ will be the next moment of consciousness that we experience after our physical death, or our body change at Christ's return if we are still alive.

**Matthew 16:27** [NIV] *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

Jesus Christ confirms His own return.

The reward he mentions is for both Christians and non-Christians, according to what we have done in our lives with the understanding we have received as to the purpose of human life.

**Matthew 24:42-44** [NIV] *“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Frequently Jesus told those who heard Him to watch for His return, since He would be coming at an unexpected time.

**Luke 12:40** [NIV] *“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Christ's return at an unexpected time is **not** a trick by which God hopes to catch us off guard.

**2 Peter 3:9-10** [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”*

In fact God is delaying His return so that all He wants, in each generation, will have the time to live out their beliefs and to reflect God's love as they relate to other people.

Christians should **not** sit and wait for Christ's return, but we should live with the realisation that for each of us time is short and that we have important work to do for Jesus Christ. [read **Matthew 5:13-16**]

**Luke 12:41-48** [NIV] *“Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?” The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. “That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

Christians who are ready for the return of Jesus Christ are –

- a) **Not** hypocritical but sincere in their faith. [**Luke 12:1**]
- b) **Not** fearful but ready to witness for Jesus Christ. [**Luke 12:4-9**]
- c) **Not** worried but trusting God at all times. [**Luke 12:22-32**]
- d) **Not** greedy but generous to all in need. [**Luke 12:33-34**]
- e) **Not** lazy but diligently serving Jesus Christ, their Master. [**Luke 12:37-40**]

Our lives must be more like that of Jesus Christ so that His return will be a time of great joy for all of us.

**John 14:1-3** [NIV] *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

In this farewell discourse, Jesus tells His disciples that after He leaves the earth to return to His Father's Throne, that He would return.

During this stay at His Father's Throne He would be two things for His disciples, all Christians.

- a) Our High Priest. [**Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 4:14-16**]
- b) A Saviour and Master who is preparing for our eternal future, on His return to earth. [**Acts 1:10-11**]

“Rooms” is translated from the Greek word “*monē*” meaning an abiding residence.

“Place” is Greek “*tōpōs*” meaning opportunity.

The picture that would come into the minds of those who heard Jesus Christ's words was the Temple in Jerusalem.

The hearers would know “*the Father's House*” referred to the temple with the inner and outer courts and the Holy of Holies.

Also along the sides of the temple courts were rooms that were, in modern terms, the offices of those priests who were on duty.

So what Jesus Christ was saying, you will have one of these rooms as an official serving Him and the Father.

**Matthew 19:27-30** [NIV] *“Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”*”

Here we see added clarity given to what Jesus Christ had said in **John 14:1-3**.

**Acts 1:10-11** [NIV] *“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*”

This promised return of Jesus Christ was confirmed by heavenly messengers.

We should be actively preparing for a sudden return of Jesus Christ, **not** just standing still and looking up to heaven.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6** [NIV] *“Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety”, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.”*

We should be in a state of ever readiness, even if we do not know the date of Jesus Christ’s return.

All of Paul’s letters have this keen consciousness of the nearness of Jesus Christ’s return.

**Philippians 4:5** [NIV] *“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*

The Greek word translated “gentleness” is “*ēpiēikēia*” meaning forbearance, conciliatory, courtesy or consideration. The attitude of a person who knows when to relax the law under the greater and higher law of love. For example when standing up for their “rights” is legal but would **not** be the act of a Christian.

The prompt for such an attitude is the fact that the return of the loving and merciful Judge, Jesus Christ, is near.

**Romans 8:16-21** [NIV] *“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”*

This expectation of the return of Jesus Christ is **not limited to human beings**. The whole of the rest of physical creation is awaiting the return of Jesus Christ to restore it to its former glory. The newly-created children of God will be fully involved in this restoration.

**Revelation 21:1-7** [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”*

A short description of this restored new world that all the created children of God can enjoy, and eventually all humanity.

**Titus 2:11-14** [NIV] *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”*

How we are to live our lives as we wait for what we should be hoping for the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 9:26-28** [NIV] *“Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

Our hoped-for salvation is something that Jesus Christ will bring at His second coming, for all who are waiting for His return.

The “*end of the ages*” refers to the first coming of Jesus Christ to sacrifice His perfect life to atone for our sins, through to Jesus Christ’s second coming as King of kings and righteous Judge.

**1 Peter 5:4** [NIV] *“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”*

At the return of Jesus Christ all true and faithful Christians will receive their crowns of glory.

Paul calls this a “*crown of righteousness*.” [2 Timothy 4:8]

The apostle Peter is specifically speaking to elders in the church, but this is **not** limited to people ordained to a position of rank or responsibility in the church.

The Greek word used is “*prēsbūtērūs*” which literally means older or senior person with long experience of secular or spiritual life. Such a person who can be a living example to those who are young in years or spiritual experience. [read verses 1-3]

**2 Peter 3:10-13** [NIV] *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”*

The return of Jesus Christ will **not** be something humanity are able to ignore.

This should put pressure on every Christian to ensure that we are ready for this event. Our aim should be becoming Holy and Godly people.

This can only be accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit in us as we place Jesus Christ on the “*throne*” of our lives.

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” which means the totality of our lives, physical body, mind and human spirit.

Notice what living such Holy and Godly lives will accomplish, as we look forward to Christ’s return.

### “**Speed its coming**” [2 Peter 3:12]

How can the hastening of Jesus Christ’s return be accomplished?

#### **Prayer –**

**Matthew 6:10** [NIV] *“your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

Do we pray this with real meaning and desire or is it just part of the worship ritual we go through each Sunday service or other religious event?

If in no other way, prayer can do this when we open our lives to the rulership of Jesus Christ.

#### **Preaching the gospel message –**

**Matthew 24:14** [NIV] *“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.”*

All humanity must have available to them for a witness the gospel message.

The sooner this is accomplished, the sooner will be the return of Jesus Christ.

[This website is seeking to be a part of this witness, please let as many people know about it as you can.]

The first and foremost job of every Christian fellowship is this “*preaching*” of the gospel message.

All other activities must take second place.

#### **Penitence and obedience –**

**Revelation 3:11-13** [NIV] *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no-one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Here was a church that had given to them an “*open door*” of evangelism, yet they are warned that they could lose their reward if they do not “*overcome*.”

Overcome what?

Lack of repentance and obedience to God's laws of love?

Yes, but more is indicated.

**Revelation 12:11** [NIV] *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."*

Overcame "him." Who is the "him" ?

Satan and the influence he has over all humanity [v9].

How was this accomplished?

Preaching the good news of what Jesus Christ has done for all humanity and their own example of a person living a Christian life to the full.

Even to the extent of literally risking their physical lives.

Certainly symbolically by the surrender of time and substance to support this preaching of the gospel message.

**1 John 2:28-29** [NIV] *"And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him."*

The visible proof of being a Christian is right behaviour. Many people, Christian but also non-Christian, do good deeds but don't have faith in Jesus Christ.

Others claim to have faith in Jesus Christ but rarely, if ever, produce good deeds.

To lack either will bring shame on us as Christians at Christ's return.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** [NIV] *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

We are **only** saved from eternal death by faith in the grace of God.

But we are saved **for** certain good deeds, which God in advance of our calling had prepared for us to do personally.

**James 2:14-17** [NIV] *"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

Faith that does **not** result in our doing practical good works is dead.

Only with faith and good works will we **not** be ashamed at the return of Jesus Christ.

**1 John 3:2-3** [NIV] *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure."*

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:29** [NIV] *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

Every one who is called of God is predestined to be given the opportunity to become like Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 3:20-21** [NIV] *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

At Christ’s return we will receive a glorified body similar to that of Jesus Christ the Son of God, but also the Son of Man.

**James 4:7-10** [NIV] *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

To receive this gift from God, there are certain things that have to be accomplished in our lives.

“Come near to God” – we can only do this if it is part of our goal in life along with the other things that James is mentioning in these verses.

Submit to God and resisting Satan we have already covered in this article.

“Wash your hands” – **Isaiah 59:1-3** [NIV] *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.”*

Our sins have cut us off from God’s presence and are likened to blood on our hands. Only accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the atonement of these sins can our hands be cleansed.

“Purify our hearts” – our hearts are the driving force of our human life, spiritually it is what motivates our thoughts and actions.

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This can only happen if we allow the Holy Spirit of God to **re-educate** our mind and spirit.

“Double minded” – the Greek word translated means “two spirited;” are we still allowing the spirit of this world [Satan] to influence our lives after asking for the Holy Spirit to be director of our lives?

“Grieve, mourn and wail” – **Ezekiel 9:4-6** [NIV] *“and said to him, “Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.” As I listened, he said to the others, “Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.”*

It was **only** those who were grieving and lamenting their own sins, also the sins of this world, who were saved from death.

We must not be afraid to express deep heartfelt sorrow for all the sins in this world. Crying out to God, *“how long, how long before you return to bring purity and peace to this world?”*

*“Humble ourselves”* – the pride of self-reliance is one of the many *“self-sins”* that it is all too easy for any human being to commit.

**Revelation 1:7** [NIV] *“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.”*

This is a direct reference to the promise that the apostle John and the rest of the disciples received through the heavenly messengers as recorded in **Acts 1:11**. The appearance will **not** be limited to the disciples of Jesus Christ at Christ’s return.

**Revelation 22:20** [NIV] *“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”*

This theme of the second coming of Jesus Christ lasts right to the end of the New Testament scriptures.

**This same lively expectation of Christ’s return should pervade every Christian’s thoughts, actions and be preached constantly in every church fellowship.**

If this expectation of Christ’s return is **not** present then there is something radically wrong in that fellowship.

**Luke 12:45-46** [NIV] *“But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.”*

It is the unfaithful servant of Jesus Christ who will suffer great loss for ignoring the many warnings we have in scripture.

**There are various reasons for the loss of this sense of expectation in the church today.**

Present churches are so caught up with material and secular concerns that interest in the second coming of Jesus Christ is fading into the background.

It may be that many Christians **no longer believe** in the literal return of Jesus Christ.

It may also be that many of those who do believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ, have pushed the event so far into the distant future that they no longer live in lively anticipation of that return.

Whatever the reasons may be for the loss of anticipation, it is a powerful sign of spiritual sickness in that church fellowship.

The main theme of the record of the final words of our Saviour Jesus Christ, as recorded by the apostle John is Christ’s return and the events that surround it.

So I feel it is fitting to end this article with those final words.

**Revelation 22:16-20** [Good News Bible] *“I Jesus, have sent my angel to announce these things to you in the churches. I am the descendant from the family of David, I am the bright morning star. The Spirit and the Bride say, “come!” Come, whoever is thirsty; accept the water of life as a gift, whoever wants it. I, John, solemnly warn everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to his punishment the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes away anything from the prophetic words of this book, God will take away from him his share of the fruit of the tree of life, and his share of the Holy City, which are described in this book. He who gives his testimony to all this says, “Certainly so! I am coming soon!” So be it. Come, Lord Jesus!”*