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**The Mystery of Christ's Return**

April 28, 2024

Jim Bricker

"I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?"

**2 Peter 3:3b-4a NLT**

"Men of Galilee . . . why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

**Acts 1:11 NLT**

## 3 Major "End Time" Events:

### 1. The 1st Coming: Incarnation.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:14 NIV**

Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.

**1 Timothy 3:16 NLT**

### 2. The Cross: Redemption.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love . . . he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

**1 John 4:9-10 NLT**

(We) are all justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

**Romans 3:24 NIV**

### 3. The 2nd Coming: Christ's Return.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 NIV**

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17 NIV**

(Jesus) "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

**Revelation 22:12-13 NIV**

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**Weekend Music:**

Enter the Gates (Brian & Katie Torwalt) • Mystery (Charlie Hall)  
Here As in Heaven (Elevation Worship) O Praise the Name (Anástasis)(Hillsong Worship)