



Message 1
Why Should I Care About the Return of Christ?
Pastor Mike Chapman

In the 40 years of so, there have been many mysterious claims and strange predictions about the “last days” and the second coming of Jesus. Consequently, many Christians have become confused, and feeling misled have shied away from the topic. (See Matthew 24:36 and Acts 1:7)

In this two-part series, I want us to look clearly at what the Bible says and what it doesn't say about this very important teaching of Scripture. From the earliest statements of the faith (Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, etc.), Christians confess the return of Christ as a foundational doctrine of the Church. Let's put it back where it belongs.

IT'S EVERYWHERE IN THE BIBLE

At least **one half** of Old Testament Messianic prophecies deal with Christ's Second Coming.

There are about **300** references in the New Testament.

Whole book have it as a **central theme**.

For example ...

Jesus, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for

you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am.” John 14:1-3 NCV

Angels, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11 NET

Paul, 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 those who have died believing in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive will be gathered up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 NCV

FOUR SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF CHRIST’S RETURN

Christ will be **revealed**.

1 Peter 1:13, Put all your hope in the grace that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

1 John 3:2, When Christ appears...we will see him as he really is.

The children of God will be **revealed**.

Colossians 3:4, When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ESV

Evil will be **judged** and **destroyed**.

Revelation 19:11-16, Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title

was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. NLT

He will make all things **new**.

Revelation 21:1-5, Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them...He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new...It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End."

Matthew 25:13, So always be ready (live in anticipation), because you don't know the day or the hour the Son of Man will come.