



Waiting for Jesus to Come
Hebrews 9:27,28; Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:9-11

Jesus Will Come Again

Hebrews 9:27,28 states, "And just as it is appointed for people to die once – and after this, judgement - so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." Because Jesus died for our sins, we don't have to fear condemnation after death (Rom 8:1), but we can look forward to deliverance. At his first coming, Jesus delivered us from the penalty of sin. When he comes again, he will deliver from the presence of sin. When the prophets foretold of the Messiah it seemed all his work would be accomplished at once. He would die for sin (for example Isaiah 53, Psalm 22), then rule over an earthy kingdom (For example, Isaiah 9:1-7). However, it didn't happen at once. When Jesus came, the religious leaders and the Jews for the most part rejected him (John 1:11). Paul in Romans 9-11 tells us this rejection was a mystery (something not revealed by God previously). So, God's plan included a span of time between Jesus' death and rule. In this span of time Jesus is building his church of Jews and Gentiles. *Why is waiting so hard for us?*

The World Won't Miss Jesus' Second Coming

When Jesus came the first time, most of the world didn't even know he came. Even today there are many people who haven't heard that Jesus came! Revelation 1:7 states, "Look, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. And all tribes of the earth will mourn over him. So, it is to be. Amen." (See Daniel 7:13 and Zechariah 12:10. See also Matt 24:30). Revelation 19:11-16 describes Jesus coming back to the earth for the last battle against Satan and evil in which Christ is victorious. No one will miss the presence of the conquering warrior and ruler Jesus Christ. *Why do you think Jesus is taking his time in coming back to earth?*

What Do we Do While We Wait

Jesus' words in Matthew 24:36 and Acts 1:7 make it clear that no one knows when Jesus is coming back. And although we should certainly know what God says about the future, nowhere in Scripture are Christians encouraged to try to figure out when Jesus is coming back. We are commanded to keep watch and be ready (Matt 24:42-44). We have a job to do while we wait (see Acts 1:9-11). Also, there are many people who need to know about Jesus. His death, resurrection, and return so they can be ready for Christ's return. I believe we are waiting now for the rapture of the church which is an event distinct from the second coming of Christ. Paul said this event was a mystery (not previously revealed). See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. Paul tells us in Titus 2:11-13 how to live while we wait. *Who is one person you could share the good news of Jesus' first and second coming?*