

## THE RETURN OF CHRIST

3 - 7 +earthquakes this week... Flooding...  
Apocalyptic floods, Destroyed by runaway planet, Seared by sun,  
Destroyed by aliens, Small but reputable group: Cats w/thumbs.  
Basics: Bible is a collection of 66 books written by 40 authors.  
Over 20% of bible devoted prophecy.  
5x as many 2nd coming than 1st

Thessalonians thought Jesus would return any day: Next Tuesday.  
Afraid for their loved ones that had died—might miss out.

*1 Thess 4:13-18 "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words."*

The Hope we Have as Christians

### **1) THE RETURN: CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN.**

John 14:3 *"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."*

Marantha, Greeting in early church—"our lord comes."  
Look forward to return—unless you are engaged to be married.

1 Thes. 4:14 *"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. "*

Not bored and sleep in church.

Xians who died. Same word: Lazarus died in Jn 11.

1 Thes 4:16 *"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."*

God spoke, God whispers.

Trumpet sounds, Michael archangel cries out, Lord shouts!

Greatest victory demands the greatest shout!

Dead in Christ—this is not the resurrection of the dead—Later

Rev 20:6 *“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them...”*

**Born once—die twice. Born twice—die once.  
YOLO—YODO**

**2) THE RAPTURE: LIVING CHRISTIANS ARE TAKEN AWAY.**

1 Thes. 4:17 *“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...”*

Matt 24:39-41, 44 *“...That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left... 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

Rev 16:15 *“Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”*

**3) THE REUNION: CHRISTIANS WILL BE WITH GOD FOREVER.**

1 Thes 4:17-18 *“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. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Wes Stafford story about heaven

1 Cor 15:51-55, 57-58 *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality... 54b then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”... 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

**YOUR END TIMES**

Rev 22:12-13 *“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. “*

What’s going to happen at the judgment? Your life played on a screen.

- **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

Luke 14:14 *"Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

2 Cor 5:10 *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

Not a judgment of salvation or damnation, rewards—Bema  
Not bench judge sat to punish criminals, Throne to distribute awards  
Sam running race!

- Incorruptible Crown (Run a Faithful Race) 1 Cor. 9:24-27
- Crown of Rejoicing (Share their Faith) 1 Thes. 2:19-20
- Crown of Righteousness (Love His Returning) 2 Tim. 4:8
- Crown of Glory (Faithful Pastors) 1 Peter 5:2-5
- Crown of Life (Those who Suffer) James 1:12

Crowns—crown of thorns  
24 elders lay their crowns down at his throne  
WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE?

Bored—Bald, naked, baby angels playing harps!

### **1) GOD WILL ESTABLISH A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH.**

Rev. 21:1 *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... "*

Heaven on earth!  
Colorado—Bookie peeing in river

No eye has seen—no ear has heard.

### **2) YOU WILL NEVER SUFFER AGAIN.**

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." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Rev 21:4-5

Pain, Fear, Worry, Stress, Hunger, Sickness, Heartache, Loneliness.  
War, aids, famines, genocide, hurricanes, earthquakes

### **3) YOU WILL LIVE WITH GOD FOREVER.**

Rev 21:3 *"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. "*

No one can look at God and live

Moses said, Show me your glory... OT high priest... Holy of Holies

Most believe heaven is the default place—it's not.

Matt 7:13-14 *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

## THE FINAL JUDGMENT

- THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.

Rev 20:11-12, 15 *"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books...15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

That's not fair—Sin is punished—fair—justice.

Not fair that Jesus would die in our place!

- Christ Returns (John 14:3, 1 Thes 4:14, 2 Thes 2:1-2)
- Dead in Christ Rise (1 Thes 4:16, 1 Cor 15:51-52)
- Christians Raptured (1 Thes 4:17)
- Believers Rewarded (2 Cor 5:10, Lk 14:14)
- 7-Year Tribulation (Rev 7:14)
- Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:19)
- Satan is Thrown into the Bottomless Pit (Rev 20:2)
- Christ Returns to Earth for 1000-Year Reign (Rev 20:1-3)
- Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15)