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NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

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URGENCY

Living This Day
in the light of That Day

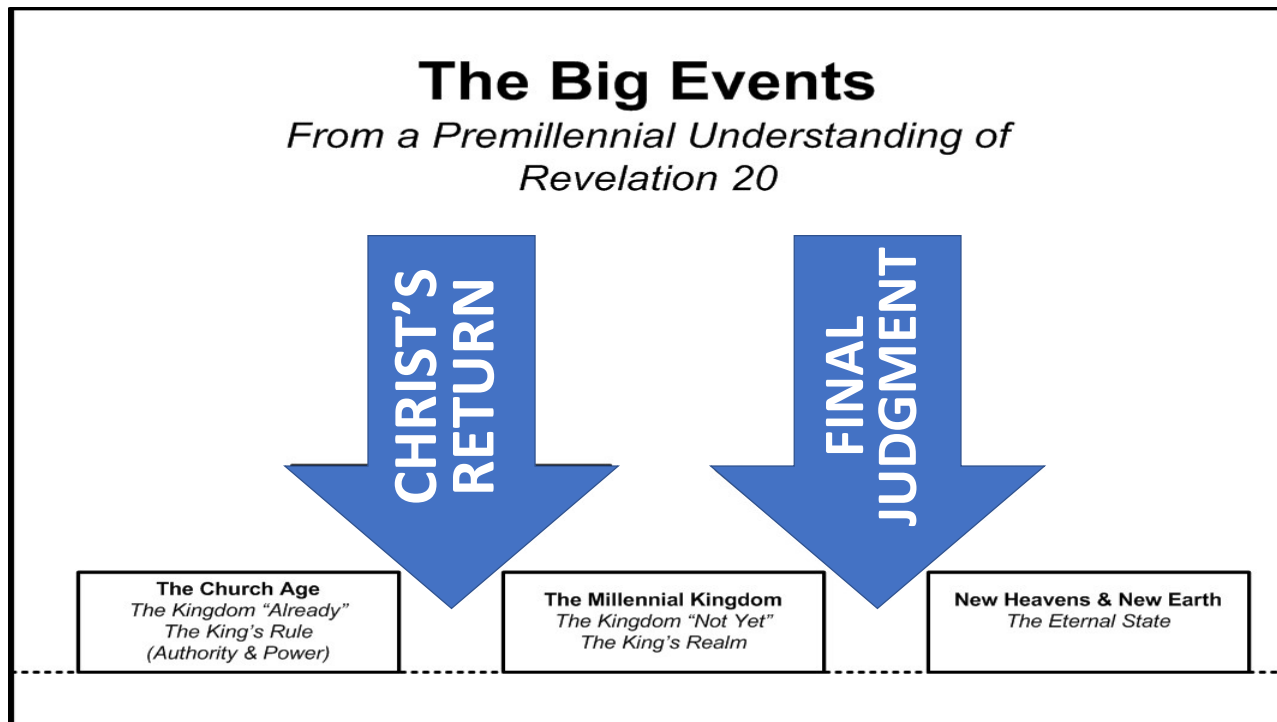
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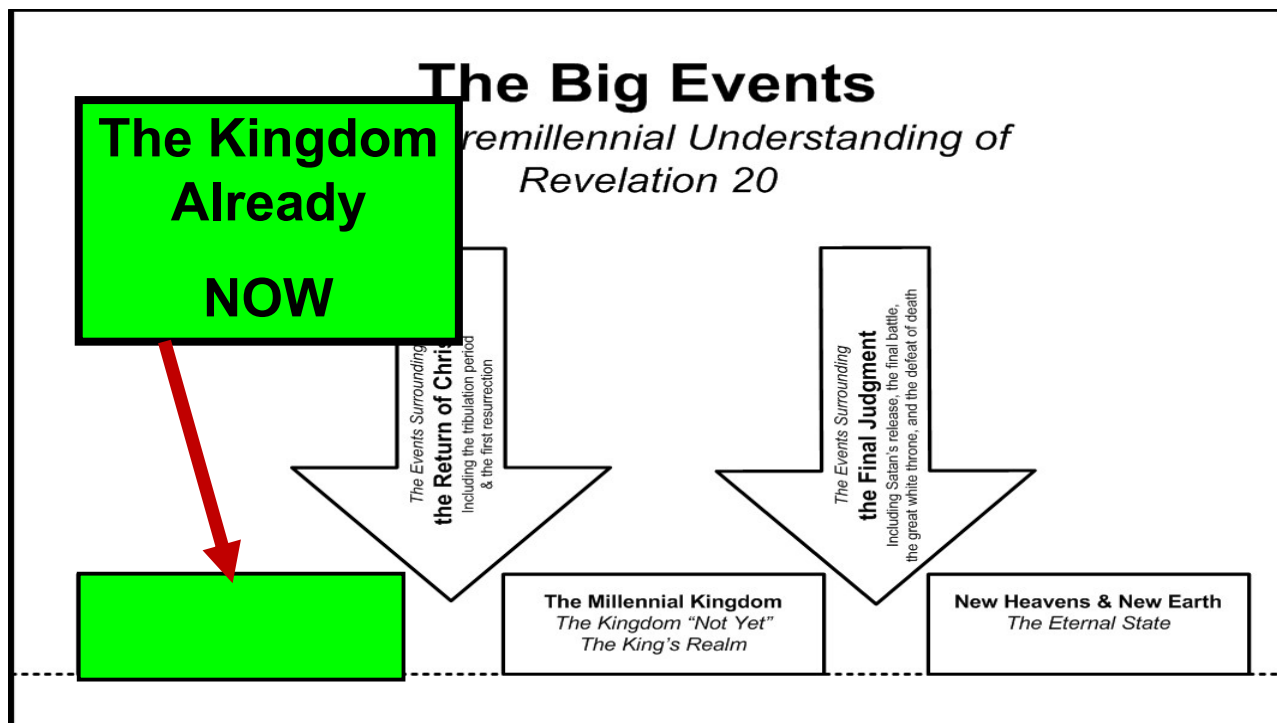
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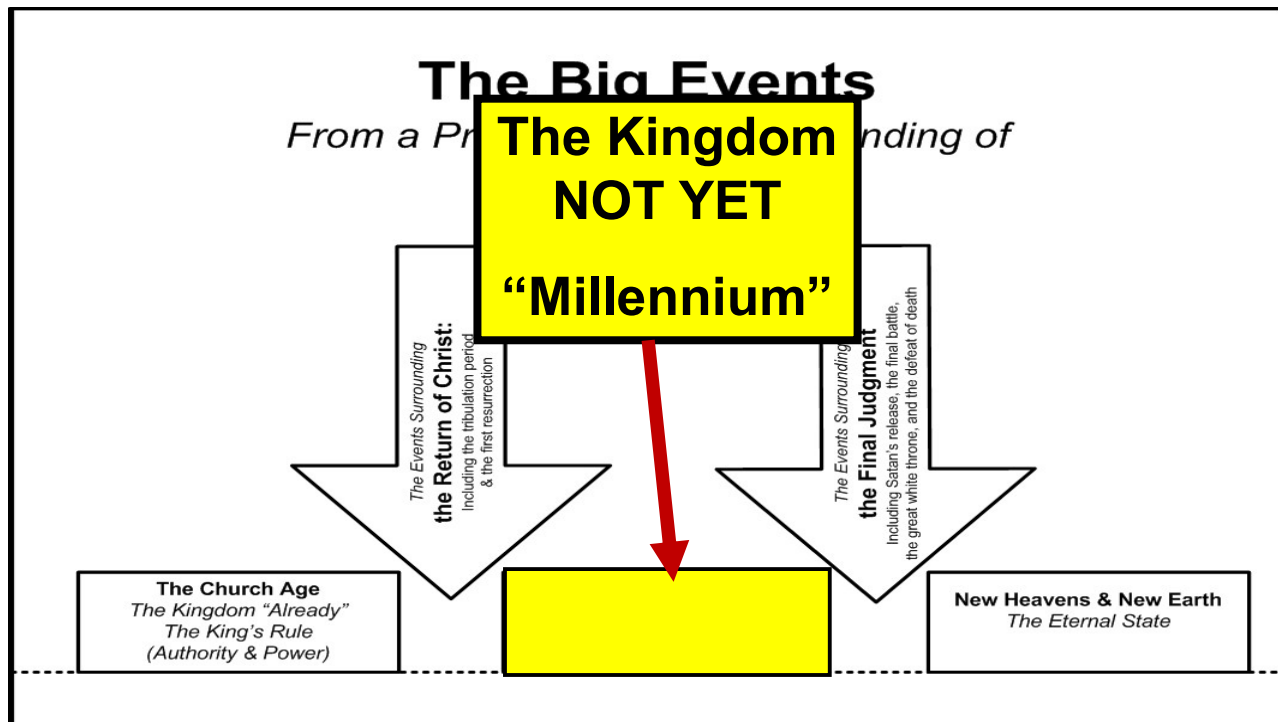
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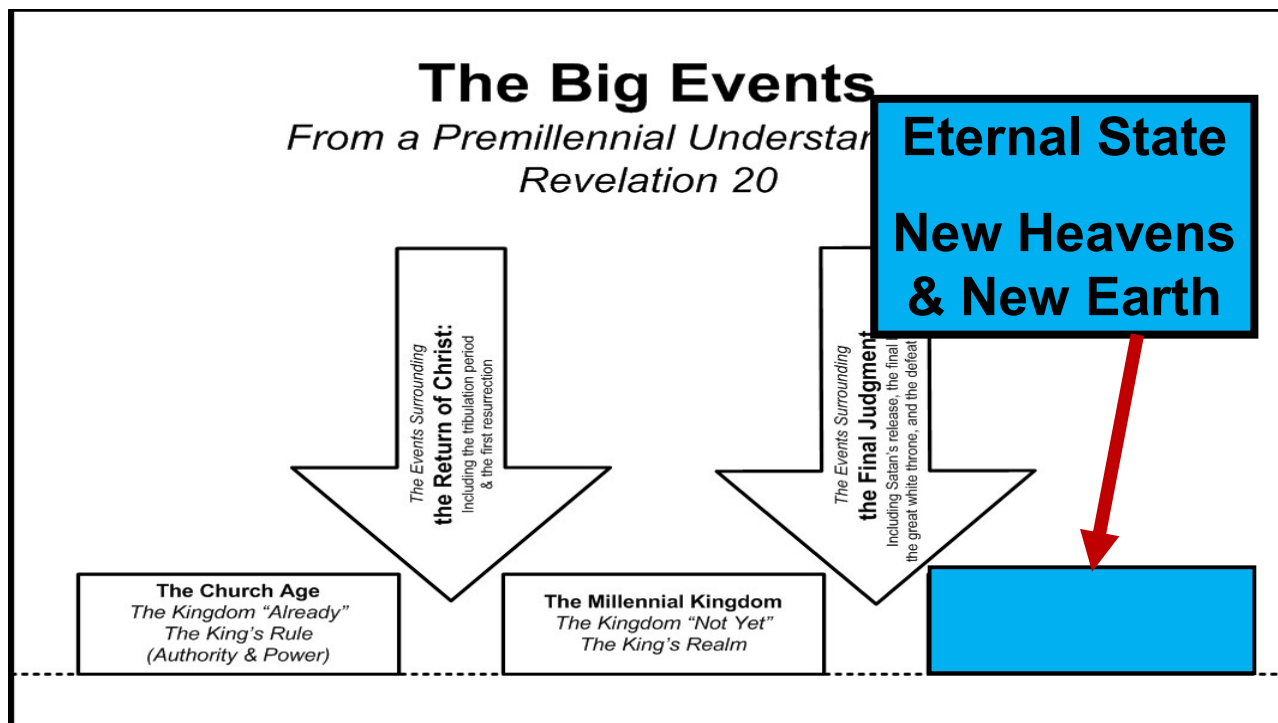
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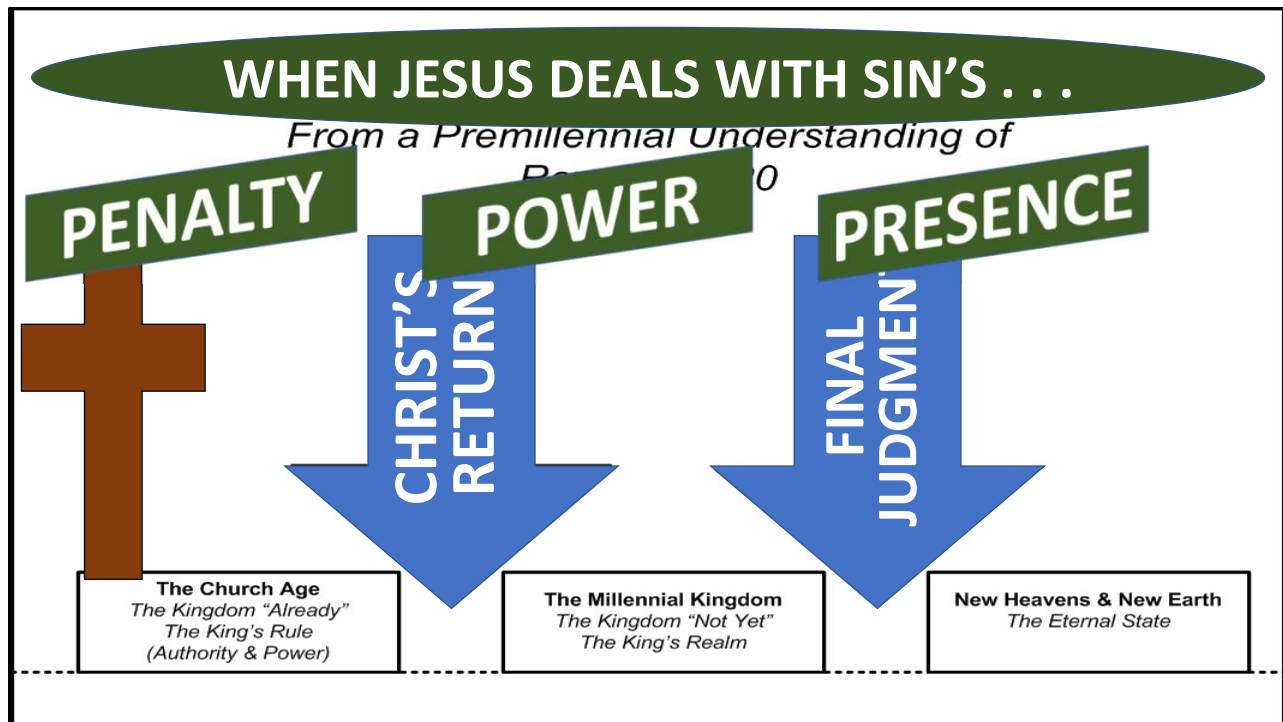
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Three Key Texts:

Revelation 21-22

2 Peter 3:1-13

Romans 8:18-25

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Revelation 21-22

- First heaven and earth pass away.
- Huge & beautiful (1,400 square miles), the New Jerusalem descends, and the dwelling place of God is with man.
- Former things have passed away (tears, death, mourning, crying, pain).
- NO temple, NO night, NO curse, NO death.
- Only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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“The freedom of heaven, then, is the freedom from sin; not that the believer just happens to be free from sin, but that he is so constituted or reconstituted that he cannot sin. He doesn't want to sin, and he does not want to want to sin.”

- Paul Helm

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2 Peter 3:1-13

- The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire (v.7).
- The “day of the Lord” includes a passing away of the old. Whether the earth is annihilated or transformed is debated (v. 10).

(Cf. end of v. 10 – “will be burned up” or “will be found/exposed”)

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Romans 8:18-25

- The creation is waiting to be set free from its subjection to futility (v. 20), and bondage to corruption (v. 21).

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Continuity OR Dis-continuity?

Covenant vs. Dispensational?

Re-newed or New Covenant?

Re-newed or New Bodies?

Re-newed or New Earth?

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**Continuity
AND
Dis-continuity?**

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WHAT WE ASSUME ABOUT HEAVEN	WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN
<p><i>Non-Earth</i></p> <p><i>Unfamiliar; otherworldly</i></p> <p><i>Disembodied</i></p> <p><i>Foreign</i></p>	<p><i>New Earth</i></p> <p><i>Familiar; Earthly</i></p> <p><i>Resurrected</i></p> <p><i>Home</i></p> <p><small>adapted from Randy Alcorn's HEAVEN</small></p>

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WHAT WE ASSUME ABOUT HEAVEN	WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN
<p><i>Leaving favorite things behind</i></p> <p><i>No time & space</i></p> <p><i>Static</i></p> <p><i>Strange and Unknown</i></p>	<p><i>Retaining the good; finding best is ahead</i></p> <p><i>Time & space</i></p> <p><i>Dynamic</i></p> <p><i>Both old and new</i></p> <p><small>adapted from Randy Alcorn's HEAVEN</small></p>

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WHAT WE ASSUME ABOUT HEAVEN	WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN
<p><i>Nothing to do</i></p> <p><i>No learning or discovery</i></p>	<p><i>A God to worship and serve; a universe to rule; purposeful work to accomplish; friends to enjoy</i></p> <p><i>An eternity of learning and discovery</i></p> <p><small>adapted from Randy Alcorn's <u>HEAVEN</u></small></p>

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WHAT WE ASSUME ABOUT HEAVEN	WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN
<p><i>Boring</i></p> <p><i>Loss of desire</i></p> <p><i>Absence of the terrible</i></p>	<p><i>Fascinating</i></p> <p><i>Presence of the wonderful</i></p> <p><small>adapted from Randy Alcorn's <u>HEAVEN</u></small></p>

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Revelation 21:27

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but **only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

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Four Critical Applications

**Make sure you have RSVP'd
to the Lamb of God!**

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Revelation 21:7-8

“The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

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Four Critical Applications

Make sure you have RSVP'd
to the Lamb of God!

**Fight the spiritual battles
and conquer!**

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2 Peter 3:11-12

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

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2 Peter 3:13-14

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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2 Peter 3:15

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

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Four Critical Applications

Make sure you have RSVP'd
to the Lamb of God!

Fight the spiritual battles
and conquer!

**Be diligent in holiness, godliness;
without spot or blemish; at peace!**

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Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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Four Critical Applications

Make sure you have RSVP'd
to the Lamb of God!

Fight the spiritual battles
and conquer!

Be diligent in holiness, godliness;
without spot or blemish; at peace!

Invest your treasure wisely!

174

Hebrews 11:13-14

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and **having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

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6**THE RETURN
OF CHRIST**

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a **URGENT**

6

Living This Day
in the light of That Day

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WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

**Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.**

178

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that here I am you may be also.

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179

Hebrews 9:28

. . . so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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180

WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.

181

Matthew 24:42-43

Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

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Matthew 24:44

Therefore **you also must be ready,** for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night.** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then **sudden** destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

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Revelation 16:15

“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”

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WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

**Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.**

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1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord **himself** will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

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WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.

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Revelation 1:7

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, **and every eye will see him**, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

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Matthew 24:26-28

So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. **For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

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Matthew 24:30

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, **and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

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191

WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.

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Acts 1:10-11

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way** as you saw him go into heaven.”

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WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN

Jesus will return,
suddenly,
personally,
visibly,
and bodily.

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Signs of Christ's Coming

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1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Signs of Christ's Coming

Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations

The Great Tribulation

False Christs and False Prophets

Signs in the Heavens

The Man of Lawlessness

The Salvation of "Israel"

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Mark 13:10

**And the gospel must first be proclaimed
to all nations.**

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Signs of Christ's Coming

Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations

The Great Tribulation

False Christs and False Prophets

Signs in the Heavens

The Man of Lawlessness

The Salvation of "Israel"

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Mark 13:7-8

And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

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Mark 13:19-20

For in those days there will be such **tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation** that God created until now, and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR*Signs of Christ's Coming***Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations****The Great Tribulation****False Christs and False Prophets****Signs in the Heavens****The Man of Lawlessness****The Salvation of "Israel"**

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Mark 13:22-23

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.”

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR*Signs of Christ's Coming***Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations****The Great Tribulation****False Christs and False Prophets****Signs in the Heavens****The Man of Lawlessness****The Salvation of “Israel”**

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Mark 13:24-25

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.”

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR*Signs of Christ's Coming***Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations****The Great Tribulation****False Christs and False Prophets****Signs in the Heavens****The Man of Lawlessness****The Salvation of “Israel”**

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2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

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2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and **the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

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1 John 2:18

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that **antichrist is coming**, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR*Signs of Christ's Coming***Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations****The Great Tribulation****False Christs and False Prophets****Signs in the Heavens****The Man of Lawlessness****The Salvation of "Israel"**

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Romans 11:12

Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will **their full inclusion** mean!

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Romans 11:25-26a

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written . . .

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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Signs of Christ's Coming

Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations

The Great Tribulation

False Christs and False Prophets

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The Salvation of "Israel"

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WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

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Matthew 24:36

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

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Matthew 25:11-13

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, **for you know neither the day nor the hour.**”

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WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

When Jesus will return

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WHAT WE MUST BE OUR POSTURE?

“LOVE HIS APPEARING”

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2 Timothy 4:6-7

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

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2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to **all who have loved his appearing.**

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Luke 21:28

“Now when these things begin to take place, **straighten up and raise your heads,** because your redemption is drawing near.”

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Titus 2:11-13

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **waiting for our blessed hope,** the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

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Romans 5:2

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

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