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Title: He's Coming Again

Purpose: Create an expectant awareness that Jesus is coming again and provoke people to always be watching and ready to meet Him.

Truth for Today: If we're watching and ready for Jesus to come again, there will be great joy, if we're not there will be despair and judgment.

Topic: Second Coming, Prepared

Text: Acts 1:9-11

## He's Coming Again

### I. Introduction

- A. Context: Before the Wise Men came to worship baby Jesus, [Mt. 2:3–6 (NLT)] King Herod ...<sup>4</sup>...called a meeting of the...teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem...” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: <sup>6</sup>...O Bethlehem...for a **ruler will come** (*the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus to earth*) from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’] The prophet Micah predicted the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus would be in Bethlehem about 700 years before it happened. **Fulfilled prophecy is strong argument for Biblical authenticity.**
- B. Nobody has to tell us to get ready to celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus. We see manger scenes, we hear Christmas songs, and the calendar reminds us Christmas was declared a national holiday in 1870. However, there is another coming of Jesus Christ that will happen one day. It's called the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ and many are unaware and not ready. Today we'll talk about His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and our need to be watching and ready.
- C. Title: He's Coming Again

### II. Jesus is coming again, not as a baby in a manger but as King of Kings

- A. Context: After the resurrection, [Acts 1:9–11 (ESV)]...as they (*disciples*) were looking on, **he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.** <sup>10</sup>...two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said...This Jesus, who was taken...into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”]**
- B. Broadly, there are 2 allusions of His coming: (1) He'll meet His followers in the air in the rapture, [1 Thes. 4:16–17 (NLT)] **For the Lord himself will come down from heaven...First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.** <sup>17</sup> Then...we who are still alive...will be **caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.]** (2) **He will come to earth as a Warrior King and Judge to destroy evil and establish His Kingdom.** [Zech. 14:2–4 (NLT)]...I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations...<sup>4</sup> On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...And the Mount of Olives will split apart,** making a wide valley running from east to west.]
  - 1. The Book of Revelation, Jesus Himself and OT prophets describe what He will do when He comes. Our focus today isn't on when He comes or the sequence of His activity on earth, but rather on us being ready when He comes.

### III. Jesus predicted His coming and warned us to always be ready.

- A. [Mt. 24:37–44 (NLT)] “When the **Son of Man returns** (*i.e. comes again*), it will be **like it was in Noah’s day**.<sup>38</sup>...before the flood, the **people were enjoying...parties and weddings** right up to the time Noah entered his boat.] I.e. people were living for themselves, working and having fun assuming tomorrow would be like today.
1. Over 200 ancient civilizations around the world have narratives about a major flood, often depicting it as a divine act of retribution that destroys civilization.<sup>1</sup>
  2. What was Noah’s day like? The world was wicked and violent, but Noah was a ‘preacher of righteousness’ but everyone ignored him. **App** today: Unbelievers are oblivious and sadly some professing Christians are not ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.
- B. **Vs. 39** **People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes...<sup>42</sup>So you, too, must keep watch** (*NCV always be ready; stay awake, be alert*)! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming...<sup>44</sup> **You also must be ready all the time**, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.] Unbelievers are unaware about what’s going to happen. The follower of Jesus is to always be ready.
1. Key words: *keep watch* and *be ready*. **App** watch in military: always awake and ready if something unexpected happens, e.g. plane catches on fire.
  2. Somehow, we must develop a daily alertness and expectancy that Jesus could come today, **e.g.** expecting a letter, we go to the mailbox every day until it arrives.
- IV. **The big question is, how do we watch and stay ready every day?**
- A. Be honest with yourself; am I truly saved? Is the priority of your life to follow and serve Jesus or is your spiritual life more like a hobby I do once in a while.
- B. Practical: When we wake up, offer our self to do God’s will. Now I’m going to try to add, “Lord, if you come back today, help me be watchful and ready”.
- C. **\*\*Prioritize our relationship with God above everything else.** [1 Jn 2:28 (NIV)]...dear children, **continue in him** (*ESV abide in Him, NLT remain in fellowship*), so that **when he appears** we may be **confident and unashamed** before him **at his coming**.] **E.g.** spouse trip. A 24/7 Christian is in an ongoing personal relationship with Jesus and close to the Holy Spirit. I believe He’ll prepare us. 1<sup>st</sup> coming [Luke 2:25–26 (NLT)]...there was a man...named Simeon. He was **righteous...** and...**eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come...**The **Holy Spirit was upon him**<sup>26</sup> and had **revealed to him** that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.
- D. **Don’t let worldly pursuits distract us.** This is the greatest challenge a prosperous person faces. [1 Jn 2:15–17 (NLT)] Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.<sup>16</sup> For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions...]**e.g.** Jesus moves from front seat to back.
- E. **Stay focused every day looking for opportunities to do the Lord’s work.** [Luke 12:35–37 (NIV)] “Be dressed **ready for service...**<sup>36</sup> **like servants waiting for their master to return...** so that when he **comes...**they can **immediately open the door** for him.]
1. When we deliberately serve the Lord, we’re automatically close to Him.
  2. A huge blessing awaits those who faithfully serve Jesus. **[Vs 37]** It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **watching when he comes**. Truly I tell

you, **he will dress himself to serve**, will have them recline at the table and **will come and wait on them.**] Is this the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

- V. Conclusion: [John 14:3 (NLT) **“When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”**] We should be excited because we’re going to meet Jesus, face to face, and have a new home in heaven with Him forever. His coming may be sooner than we think [Rev. 22:20 (NLT)]... “Yes, **I am coming soon!**” **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**] Let’s be watching and ready.

VI. Response

A. Prayer:

B. Souls:

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. How many ancient civilizations have a worldwide flood narrative?  
DuckDuckGo.com, search assist.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. Moses Mt. Sinai, smoke thunder, earthquake, Exodus 20:20 (NLT) “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!”
- B. Rethink where my home is.
1. Hebrews 13:14 (NLT) For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.
  2. John 14:1–3 (NLT) “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> **When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**
- C. Luke 2:36–38 (ESV) And there was a prophetess, Anna...She was...a widow until she was eighty-four. **She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.** <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were **waiting** for the redemption of Jerusalem.
- D. // Santa coming/ The shepherds were excited when they left baby Jesus and told everyone they met what they had seen and heard.
- E. [1 Thes. 3:13 (NIV) May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be **blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.] E.g. this is a picture of a Christian living a godly life instead of a worldly life.
- F. Parable of the sower, [Mt. 13:7–22 (NLT) Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants...<sup>22</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly **the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth**, so no fruit is produced.

