



# A Generation Satisfied in God: Why the Return of Jesus Must Shape the Way We Live and Lead

*By Matt Wallace*

*Friendship Sports International | The SAVA Project*

When I sit with athletes, students, or leaders in our ministry, I often sense a low-grade ache in the soul—a tension between what we *believe* about God and what we still see in the world. We tell people about the God who created, the God who loves, the God who saves. And we should. But many are left silently wondering: *Then why is everything still so broken?*

Yes, there's a growing ache in this generation—and it's not for more content. It's for real substance. Our phones are full. Our feeds are nonstop. And still, our souls are hungry.

**Psalm 107:9** says, “*For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.*” That verse is the heartbeat of our newest initiative at Friendship Sports International: **The SAVA Project**. From the Hebrew word *sava* (שָׂבַע), it means “to be deeply satisfied, filled, nourished.” That’s what we’re after—not hype, not noise, not shallow faith. We’re calling a generation to be deeply rooted in the Word, fully equipped as leaders, and eternally focused on the return of Jesus.

But here’s what we’re finding: when we leave out the end of the story, we leave this generation starving for answers.

## Jesus Is the God Who Is to Come

We’ve preached the God who *was*—the Creator, Promise-Maker, and Redeemer. We’ve encountered the God who *is*—present, loving, near to the brokenhearted through the Holy Spirit. But we cannot stop there. **Jesus is also the God who is to come** (Revelation 1:8)[7]. And that truth impacts everything.

As educator and writer Grayson Borders recently shared, the younger generation doesn’t want a watered-down Gospel that ignores suffering or skips straight to heaven.[1] They’re asking honest questions: *Does Jesus care about what’s broken here? Will He do something about the injustice, violence, and despair we see around us?*



The answer is a resounding yes. The prophets declared it. The apostles preached it. Jesus is returning—not just to rescue, but to reign. Not just to forgive, but to restore.

In Zechariah 14, He stands on the Mount of Olives. In Isaiah 63, He comes as a righteous warrior, drenched in justice. Revelation 19 reveals Him riding a white horse, called Faithful and True, with eyes like fire and a name no one knows but Himself. This is our King—and He's not done yet.[2]

## **SAVA: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow**

Understanding this reality doesn't just give us theology—it gives us strength. This vision of Jesus as the One who is to come cultivates what we call *spiritual grit*—a daily endurance rooted in eternal hope.

As Paul wrote, *"We do not lose heart... For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory"* (2 Corinthians 4:16–17). And again, *"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training... They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever"* (1 Corinthians 9:25).

Eschatology, the end of the story isn't a distraction from discipleship. It's the engine behind it. As Dr. John Harrigan puts it, *Eschatology drives discipleship*.<sup>[3]</sup> When we know where history is headed, we can live with boldness, clarity, and urgency. We train like athletes, discipline like soldiers, and endure like saints—because we know the crown is coming (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8).

The SAVA Project exists for this very purpose. We're discipling 18–25-year-olds who are tired of shallow faith and ready for substance. We're pointing them to the Living Word of God and equipping them to live ready for Christ's return. Because when you know what's coming, you can persevere in what's now (Romans 8:22–23).<sup>[6]</sup>

## **Why Israel Still Matters**

It's important to make this clear: any full telling of this story includes Israel. God's promises are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). The return of Jesus is not a mystical idea—it's a geopolitical reality. He will return to Jerusalem (Acts 1:11)<sup>[8]</sup>. He will restore the Jewish people. And He will reign from the throne of David, drawing to Himself people from every nation who put their hope in Him.

As one of my favorite authors, Joel Richardson, reminds us: *the end of the story is thoroughly Jewish*.<sup>[4]</sup> Without this lens, we end up with a Westernized Gospel—a version of faith that turns church into a social club and heaven into a vague hope. But the biblical Gospel is grounded, historical, and prophetic. It calls us not just to believe, but to **prepare**.



I hear so many Christians say often, “*God keeps His promises.*” But what promises are we talking about? If we believe God is faithful—and He is—then we need to ask: *What exactly has He promised?*

Some of the clearest, most foundational promises in Scripture come through His covenants—with Abraham and David. To Abraham, God promised land, a great nation, and that through his offspring, the seed, all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1–3; 15:5–7)[9]. To David, God promised that one of his descendants would sit on the throne *forever* (2 Samuel 7:12–16)[10]. These aren’t abstract metaphors—they are specific, eternal, and central to the biblical story. And they find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who will return to reign from Jerusalem and fulfill every one of God’s promises including these.

## Not Just Informed—Transformed

At Friendship Sports International, and through the SAVA Project, we’re not interested in spiritual fluff. We’re calling a generation to be:

- **Satisfied in the Word** – Deep, clear, joyful Bible teaching
- **Set apart in Leadership** – Christlike influence, not celebrity
- **Secure in the Return of Christ** – “*waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*” (Titus 2:13)
- **Steadfast in Endurance** – Walking with perseverance and grit in trials, rooted in the eternal hope of Christ’s return

As our SAVA tagline says: “**Fully Satisfied. Eternally Focused.**”

So if you’re hungry for clarity in a confused culture... if you’re ready to be equipped for life, leadership, and lasting impact... if you want to live every day with the return of Jesus in view—**we invite you to follow along** and stay tuned to future SAVA Project teachings.

Because the God who was and is... **is coming again**. It’s redemption. Restoration. Renewal. “*Behold, I am making all things new,*” He says (Revelation 21:5).

That hope changes everything.

While seeking satisfaction in God’s presence, word, and purpose is vital, true fulfillment will only be complete when Jesus returns. Until that glorious day, our hearts remain anchored in the hope of His coming—living with purpose, perseverance, and expectancy. As we eagerly await His return, may we remember that our deepest satisfaction is found in Him, and that everything broken will be made whole in Him. Let this hope shape how we live, lead, and



love today, knowing that the best is yet to come. So whether you're an athlete, a student, or a mentor... **live like He's coming.** Because He is.

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## Reflection Questions

1. How does understanding Jesus as "the God who is to come" change the way you approach daily challenges and leadership opportunities?
2. In what ways do you see the "low-grade ache" of a broken world in your life or community, and how does the hope of Jesus' return speak into that ache?
3. What promises of God—especially those to Abraham and David—give you confidence in His faithfulness today?
4. How might anchoring your life in the reality of Jesus' return reshape your priorities, endurance, and the way you influence others?

## Six-Day Devotional Plan — “Fully Satisfied. Eternally Focused.”

### Day 1 – Satisfied in the God Who Fills the Hungry Soul

**Scripture Context:** *Psalm 107:1–9*

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!  
... For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.”  
(vv. 1, 9)

**Topic:** Only God can satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. This passage recounts God's faithful acts to His people when they wandered, hungered, and cried out for help. Just as He met Israel's needs in the wilderness, He promises to satisfy our spiritual hunger as we anchor ourselves in Him—not in trends, achievements, or possessions.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What “hungry places” in your soul are you tempted to fill with something other than God?



2. How can you make more space in your week to be satisfied in His presence and Word?
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## Day 2 – The God Who Was, Is, and Is to Come

**Scripture Context:** *Revelation 1:4–8*

“Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come... ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’” (vv. 4, 8)

**Topic:** The Gospel isn’t only about what Jesus did in the past or what He is doing now—it is also about what He will do when He returns. John’s opening vision in Revelation roots our hope in the unchanging, eternal nature of Christ. He holds history in His hands and will bring it to its intended conclusion.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How does knowing Jesus is “to come” affect your approach to today’s challenges?
  2. What areas of your life need to be brought into alignment with the reality of His return?
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## Day 3 – Endurance Fueled by the Eternal Prize

**Scripture Context:** *1 Corinthians 9:24–27*

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it... They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”

**Topic:** Paul draws on the athlete’s discipline to picture the Christian life. Just as an elite competitor trains with a clear goal in mind, followers of Jesus endure hardship and resist distractions because they know a crown of eternal glory awaits. This future vision fuels present perseverance.

### Reflection Questions:



1. What distractions or “weights” (Hebrews 12:1) might be slowing down your race?
  2. In what ways can you train spiritually this week to build endurance for the long haul?
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## Day 4 – God’s Promises to Israel and the Nations

**Scripture Context:** *Genesis 12:1–3 & 2 Samuel 7:12–16*

“I will make of you a great nation... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen. 12:2–3)

“...I will raise up your offspring after you... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2 Sam. 7:12–13)

**Topic:** God’s promises to Abraham and David are unshakable and central to the biblical story. They point directly to Jesus, the promised Seed and King who will reign forever from Jerusalem. Understanding these covenants deepens our trust that God keeps His word—not just to individuals, but to nations and history itself.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How does seeing God’s faithfulness to Israel strengthen your own faith?
  2. Why is it important to keep the “Jewishness” of the Gospel in view?
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## Day 5 – Groaning for the Coming Glory

**Scripture Context:** *Romans 8:18–25*

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us... we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

**Topic:** Paul reminds us that the tension we feel—between a broken world and the promises of God—is temporary. Creation itself is longing for restoration. The hope of Jesus’ return helps us see suffering differently: as birth pains leading to a glorious renewal.

### Reflection Questions:



1. What present trials are you facing that could be reframed in light of this passage?
  2. How can hope in Jesus' return help you endure with joy?
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## Day 6 – Behold, I Am Making All Things New

**Scripture Context:** *Revelation 21:1–5*

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man... Behold, I am making all things new.’”

**Topic:** The story ends not with escape from the earth but with heaven coming down, God dwelling with His people, and all brokenness removed. This is the ultimate fulfillment of “SAVA”—complete satisfaction in His presence forever.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How does this future vision give you courage for the present?
2. What steps can you take to live more “eternally focused” this week?

