

The Second Coming of Jesus: The Coming of the Son of Man

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Scripture: Matthew 24:29-31

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Introduction:

These Bible verses offer insights into the significance of the title "Son of Man," as used in the Scriptures to refer to Jesus Christ. They highlight His authority, divinity, humanity, and future return in glory as the Son of Man.

1. Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV)

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

2. Matthew 8:20 (NIV)

"Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'"

3. Matthew 9:6 (NIV)

"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the paralyzed man, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.'"

4. Matthew 12:8 (NIV) "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

5. Matthew 24:30 (NIV)

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

6. Mark 8:38 (NIV):

"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

7. John 3:13 (NIV)

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man."

8. Acts 7:56 (NIV)

"'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'"

9. Mark 14:62 (NIV)

"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Main Points:

1. Cosmic Signs - Sun, moon, and stars will signal His coming.
2. Visibility - Jesus' return will be unmistakable and seen by all.
3. Gathering of the Elect - Angels will gather believers from the earth.

Application 1: Recognizing Cosmic Signs as Indicators of Christ's Return

Main Point: Cosmic Signs

Jesus spoke of extraordinary cosmic signs heralding His return: "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken'" (Matthew 24:29, NIV).

Cosmic signs are not mere occurrences in the natural world; they are significant indicators of the fulfillment of biblical prophecies. Jesus emphasized the importance of

recognizing these signs as precursors to His return. We are living in a time when we can witness events and changes in the universe that align with the prophetic scriptures, reminding us to stay spiritually alert and prepared for the imminent return of Christ.

In today's modern world, staying informed about biblical prophecies and their potential fulfillment is crucial. Beyond reading the Scriptures, we should also engage in studying and understanding the signs of the times. As believers, we should be conversant with biblical teachings and prophetic insights, enabling us to discern and interpret the signs around us.

Maintaining spiritual readiness involves continually evaluating our lives in light of God's Word. It requires a commitment to living in a manner that is pleasing to God, seeking purity and holiness in our thoughts, words, and actions. Moreover, we should be vigilant in our spiritual disciplines, regularly examining our hearts and minds to ensure they are aligned with the will of God.

In fostering a lifestyle of prayer and reflection, we must seek divine guidance and wisdom to understand the times and discern the significance of the cosmic signs we witness. This involves maintaining a consistent prayer life, seeking clarity and illumination from God to comprehend the unfolding events and their implications for our spiritual preparedness.

Application:

Believers should be aware of the significant signs in the natural world that foreshadow Christ's return. These signs serve as reminders to stay spiritually alert and prepared for His coming.

Practical Steps:

1. Stay Informed: Be aware of and understand biblical prophecies concerning the end times to recognize when they are being fulfilled.
2. Maintain a Spiritual Readiness: Regularly examine and refine your spiritual life, ensuring that you are living in a manner that is pleasing to God.
3. Frequent Prayer and Reflection: Keep a consistent prayer life, seeking clarity and wisdom from God to understand the times and act accordingly.

Application 2: Assurance in the Visibility of Jesus' Return

Main Point: Visibility

Biblical Context:

Jesus made it clear that His return will be visible to all: "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven... and all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30, NIV).

Jesus assured His disciples of the unmistakable nature of His return. His coming will be a visible and glorious event witnessed by all peoples of the earth. This certainty grants us an abiding hope and assurance, reinforcing our faith and stirring within us a sense of anticipation for His imminent return.

Standing firm in our faith amidst skepticism and doubt about Christ's return requires unwavering conviction and steadfastness. It involves fortifying our belief in the promise of His visible return, holding fast to the truth of His Word even when the world around us questions or denies it.

Sharing the assurance of Christ's visible and glorious return with others is an act of love and responsibility. By kindling hope and confidence in those around us, we can bolster the faith of our brothers and sisters, inspiring them to persevere with unwavering assurance in the promise of Christ's return. This encouragement can serve to unite and strengthen the body of believers as we collectively anticipate His coming.

Living with the expectation of Christ's return entails a mindset of constant readiness and anticipation. We are called to infuse our daily activities with the awareness that Jesus could return at any moment. Such an expectancy should shape our behavior, attitudes, and priorities, motivating us to live purposefully and intentionally as we await His arrival.

Application

Believers can find comfort and assurance in knowing that Jesus Christ's return will be clear and unmistakable. This encourages us to remain steadfast in faith, knowing that Christ's return is a definite future event.

Practical Steps:

1. Hold Fast to Your Faith: Stand firm in your faith, especially amid skepticism and doubt about Christ's return.
2. Encourage Others: Share the assurance of Christ's visible and glorious return with others to instill hope and motivation for holy living.
3. Live with Expectation Carry out your daily activities with the awareness and expectation that Jesus could return at any moment.

Application 3: Hope in the Gathering of the Elect

Main Point: Gathering of the Elect

Biblical Context

Jesus described the gathering of believers at His return: "And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other" (Matthew 24:31, NIV).

The promise of the angels gathering the elect at Christ's return is a source of great hope and encouragement for believers. It signifies a joyous reunion and the fulfillment of God's promises to His people, underscoring the eternal unity and fellowship we will experience with one another in His presence.

Cultivating relationships within the body of Christ is vital, knowing that our unity and connectedness with fellow believers will endure into eternity. This nurturing of relationships serves to strengthen the bonds of community and fellowship, fostering a sense of belonging and anticipation for the gathering promised by our Lord.

Engaging in evangelistic efforts to share the gospel and ensure that more people hear the Good News and join the elect is a demonstration of our commitment to extending the invitation of salvation and inclusion in the gathering of God's chosen ones. It reflects our desire to see others experience the same hope and assurance that we have in Christ's return, compelling us to actively participate in God's redemptive work.

Encouraging perseverance among believers involves reminding ourselves and others of the ultimate hope and reunion that awaits us at Christ's return. By nurturing a spirit of endurance and fortitude, we strengthen the collective faith community, uplifting one

another in trials and challenges as we look forward to the blessed gathering promised by our Lord.

Application:

Believers should find hope and motivation in the promise that Jesus' angels will gather them. This gathering signifies eternal reunion and fulfillment of God's promises to His people.

Practical Steps:

1. Cultivate Relationships: Strengthen relationships with fellow believers, knowing you'll be united for eternity.
2. Participate in Evangelism: Engage in evangelistic efforts to ensure that more people hear the gospel and join the elect.
3. Encourage Perseverance: Remind yourself and others of the ultimate hope and reunion that awaits, fostering perseverance through trials and strengthening the collective faith community.

Call to Action:

1. Pay attention to signs, both cosmic and worldly, as reminders of Jesus' words, and remain vigilant and prepared for His return.
2. Live each day with a sense of urgency and expectancy, aligning our lives with the truth of His imminent return.
3. Foster community and unity among believers, supporting one another in readiness and anticipation for the glorious return of Christ.

Quote: "Christ will cast away none who come to him by faith." - Matthew Henry

Conclusion:

In conclusion, let us be prepared, for the return of Christ will be sudden and evident. As we go forth, may we live with the anticipation of meeting Him face to face and continue to encourage one another in the blessed hope of His imminent coming.

Prayer:



Heavenly Father, stir within us a sense of urgency and anticipation for the return of Your Son. Empower us to live in readiness and faithfulness, shining Your light in a world awaiting His arrival. In Jesus, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, guiding you in anticipation of the glorious return of our Savior. Amen.