

# Jesus Is Coming! Are YOU Ready?

Sunday, 11/25 – 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 11/26 – 7 PM

Last Sunday in the Church Year – 2018

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: It's been nearly 2,000 years ago since Jesus said He would return. Since it's been so long, *it's easy for us to become complacent*; however, each passing day does *bring us closer* and each distressing event does *point us ahead to the reality of His coming!* Therefore, it is essential for each of us to **be** and **remain** ready!

1. **Jesus' Return:** As we get into the text, notice that some words describe *ongoing reminders of Jesus' return*, while other words describe *His actual return!*
  - a. Cataclysmic events: <sup>24</sup> **“But in those days, after that tribulation** *[thus after false Christs, wars, earthquakes, famines, betrayal, and hatred], the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> **and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.** // We know of the ongoing reminders, and may we keep being reminded *that Jesus is coming!* But now, think about His actual return: Everything in the universe is so orderly because “in [the Son of God] all things hold together” (Col. 1:17 ESV), but, when He comes, “the powers in the heavens will be shaken.”*
  - b. The appearance of Jesus: <sup>26</sup> **And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.**

- i. Who will see Him? At least those living on earth. But the Bible says that “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him” (Rev. 1:7 ESV); therefore, when Jesus is coming, *He will also raise everyone who has died* (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15b-16)!
- ii. During Jesus’ earthly life, *He limited His power*; when He returns, His power will be unlimited – *so everyone will obey* (Phil. 2)!
- c. The gathering of God’s chosen ones: <sup>27</sup> **And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect** [*chosen, predestined ones*] **from the four winds** [NEWS], **from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.** // As people see Jesus coming, so, *at the same time*, He will send angels to gather all of God’s chosen ones; *they will be gathered to His right*, the others to His left (Matt. 25:31-46). We cannot comprehend the details, but God, *in His unlimited power*, will do all He has promised!

## 2. **Signs Pointing to Jesus’ Return:**

- a. The fig tree: <sup>28</sup> **“From the fig tree learn its lesson** [*parable*]: **as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.** // Those words are *an earthly reality that everyone can understand!*
- b. The signs: <sup>29</sup> **So also, when you see these things taking place** [*false Christs, wars, earthquakes, famines, betrayal, and hatred*], **you know that he is near, at the very gates** [*doors*]. // As fig leaves signify the nearness of summer, *so the appearance of those various things should remind us that Jesus’ return*

*is near; He is even **at the door** and **ready to enter at any moment!***

c. These things will continue: Both of the following are **very bold** yet **very true!**

i. This generation: <sup>30</sup> **Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.** // Since a

generation is about 25 years, *and yet the people living in Jesus' day are no longer living, what did He mean?* Lenski wrote that **"this generation"** refers to **"the type of Jews that Jesus contended with"** (588).

So what about today – have many Jews become Christians? Only **2.4%** of all Jews believe in Jesus as the Promised Messiah.<sup>1</sup>

ii. My words: <sup>31</sup> **Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.** // To most people: heaven and earth *seem indestructible*, while Jesus' words *seem like nothing*. Nevertheless, heaven and earth WILL pass away, **but** Jesus' words WILL NOT pass away!

### 3. **Being Ready for Jesus' Return:**

a. Don't set any dates: <sup>32</sup> **"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** //

Therefore, let us not waste time setting dates; instead, let us – *by God's grace* – be ever-ready in Christ and urge others in the same!

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<sup>1</sup> Jews: 14,500,000 worldwide; Jews who believe Jesus is the Messiah: 350,000

- b. Pay attention: <sup>33</sup> **Be on guard** [*watch, beware*], **keep awake** [*be alert, keep watch*]. **For you do not know when the time will come.** // Being ready is very important, *thus the multiple warnings!*
- i. Example: <sup>34</sup> **It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake** [*keep watch*]. // Jesus has journeyed from earth to heaven – *with the promise to come again*. Right now each person is to do his work, while the doorkeeper – *maybe the pastor or maybe all of us* – is to watch!
- ii. Application: <sup>35</sup> **Therefore stay awake** [*keep watch*] -- **for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening [6-9], or at midnight [9-12], or when the rooster crows [12-3], or in the morning [3-6]** -- <sup>36</sup> **lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.** // Note that the coming will be at night, *thus unexpected!*
- c. Summary: <sup>37</sup> **And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake** [*keep watch*].” // Even if only the pastor is being referred to above, *the words here surely call EVERYONE to keep trusting in Jesus!*

**Let Us Pray:** Lord Jesus, You have done Your work and now we are doing ours; even while we seek to serve You, keep us ever-trusting in You for eternal life! In Your holy name!

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