

occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. But immediately after the tribulation of those days... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:15,21,29a,30b) Jesus said that when you see the Abomination of Desolation, then you know that the start of the tribulation period has begun. However, according to Daniel 9:27, this Abomination of Desolation takes place in the middle of a seven year "COVENANT" made by Antichrist with Israel and with many other nations of the world. This "COVENANT" will be clearly recognizable, since Antichrist and his system will come to popularity and power by negotiating a peace that will seemingly solve a world-wide political crisis. This SIGN clearly marks the beginning of the countdown to the coming of Jesus.

### Be Careful of Secondary Signs

There will be secondary signs which will contribute to the fulfilling of end-time prophecy and the coming of Jesus. Such signs include: technology for the mark of the beast; global economy; the new world order; Y2K crisis; the false church; etc. These signs are helping to set the stage for the rise of Antichrist and his evil system. However, be careful not to use these signs as the basis for calculating when Jesus will come. Instead, look for the SIGN that Jesus gave and the signs given in the Bible!

### Are You Ready?

Jesus said, "For this reason you be ready too, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." (Matthew 24:44) Jesus said that His people should be ready when He comes. Though the signs will give God's people an approximate timetable for His coming, they will not give the day nor the hour of His return. There will be an element of surprise in His return. His people should be in a state of readiness living their Christian life in preparation for His return. How can you be ready?

### Desire His Coming!

"...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day; and not only me, but to ALL WHO HAVE LOVED HIS APPEARING." (1 Timothy 4:8) Cultivate a love for God and for His Son, Jesus, so that you will have a real desire for His coming. Even though you find yourself pre-occupied with living your Christian life in this world, look

forward to being with Jesus in eternity. "Come, Lord Jesus." (Revelations 22: 20b)

### Be Alert!

"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming." (Matthew 24:42) "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; ...so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:4,6) To be alert means: to be watching for signs of His coming; to be serious about it; and to be prepared for it, spiritually. Read Matthew 25:1-13.

### Be Cautious!

"For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." (Matthew 24:24) Be careful to know the truth of God's word, be committed to a church and Christians who can help you maintain that truth, and be cautious about those who attempt to influence you with supernatural signs that draw attention to themselves and not to Christ. At the same time, be careful not to judge and condemn other Christians because their doctrine or experiences differ from yours.

### Be Committed!

"And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death." (Revelation 12:11) You can be ready to face those days before Christ's return by committing yourself to: trust in what Christ has done for you; have a strong personal relationship with God that you share with others; and live your life for God's eternal kingdom.

### Keep Serving God!

"Who then is the faithful and sensible servant whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master finds so doing when he comes." (Matthew 24:45,46) God has given you the responsibility to help take care of His family by serving other Christians. He wants you to be doing that until He comes. Read Matthew 24:45-51, 25:14-46. Don't let yourself get sidetracked by man-made causes and personal agendas which take you away from being "faithful and sensible" about God's purposes.

### Become A Child of God!

If you have not personally trusted Christ to be your Lord and Savior, then you are not ready for the coming of Jesus. You can become a child of God and be ready.

Through prayer (talking to God) you can make that decision now and become a child of God. Tell God you want to become His child. The following prayer may be used to help you make this important decision.

Dear God, I thank you for loving me and for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sin. Forgive me for my sin and rebellion against You. I choose to repent, to turn away from sin and to stop going my own way. By faith, I put my trust in You to be my Lord and Savior. I surrender my life to You so that You can make me what You want me to be. Come into my life through Your Holy Spirit and make me Your child. I want to know You and experience the life You have planned for me. Thank you, in Jesus name, Amen!

# JESUS IS COMING!

Do You Believe It?

Why Is Jesus Coming Again?

What Are The Signs Of His Coming?

Are You Ready For His Coming?



KNOW THE TRUTH

"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

Pastor Lynn Kern

## Do You Believe Jesus Is Coming?

Jesus said, "And if I go to prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes to the west, so shall the COMING OF THE SON OF MAN be. For this reason, you be ready too; for the SON OF MAN IS COMING at an hour when you do not think He will." (John 14:3; Matthew 24:27,44) The Apostle John wrote: "Behold, HE IS COMING with the clouds and every eye will see Him..." (Revelation 1:7a) The Apostle Paul wrote: "...and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." (I Thessalonians 5:23b)

## Believe It!

Jesus and His Apostles said He would come again. Do you believe it? There are many Christians who have been taught about the second coming of Jesus and have looked forward to His return. However, many churches have failed to teach the coming of Jesus because they claim it is difficult to understand, controversial, and not practical to Christianity today. Like the majority of our society today, many church people can view the coming of Jesus as more of a science fiction plot in a movie than a real event. Also, there have been doubts raised through the years because Jesus did not come back when some people predicted He would. Whatever may be your background, it is important for you to believe Jesus is coming again; understand why He is coming; consider the signs of His coming; and be ready.

## Your Eternal Hope

Because life is temporal and often disappointing, believing in the coming of Jesus brings a hope (future trust) in God's promise of eternal life with Him in Heaven. Trusting in His coming can help you face the trials of life with confidence and view life from an eternal perspective. Believe it! "For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire." (I Thessalonians 1:6,7)

## Your Conduct in Life

Believing in the coming of Jesus can have a convicting affect on how you live your Christian life. "...what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God." (II Peter 3:11b,12a) Believe it and live it!

## Your Christian Service

Believing in the coming of Jesus should motivate you to invest your time, money, material resources, abilities, gifts, etc., in the lives of other Christians and in those who are spiritually lost. Jesus teaches that you will be held accountable for what you do with what He has given to you. Read Matthew 25:14-46. Are you investing in Christian service?

## Why Is Jesus Coming Again?

Jesus Christ is coming to complete the work of salvation He started when He came the first time, 2000 years ago. "...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." (Hebrews 9:28) He is coming for His people, to reward them, to judge the world, and to establish His Kingdom.

## Jesus Is Coming For His People

Jesus is your Lord and Savior, the One who died and rose again to purchase your eternal salvation and give you a new life. He is coming back for you. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord." (I Thessalonians 4:16,17) "For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die. For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die." (I Corinthians 15:52b,53 NLB) Jesus will come again to give you a supernatural, heavenly body so that you can live with Him forever.

## Jesus Is Coming to Reward His People

Not only will Jesus come for His people, but He will reward them according to what they have done in their Christian life. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be rewarded for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (I Corinthians 5:10) "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done." (Revelation 22:12)

## Jesus Is Coming to Judge the World

When Jesus comes again He will judge the people of the world for their sinful, rebellious, and evil ways. God will send terrible plagues, natural disasters, and supernatural beings to torment and punish just before Jesus comes again. Then Jesus will come and lead Heaven's army against the armies of the world at the Battle of Armageddon. Read Revelation 8:7-9:21; 16:1-21. Since Jesus is the only way of salvation, He will pronounce eternal judgment upon those who claimed to be His followers. Read Matthew 25:31-46.

## Jesus Is Coming to Set-Up His Kingdom

Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. He will come to set up His kingdom and rule the world with justice and goodness as God had originally intended. He will rule with His people for 1000 years. "Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6)

## What Are the Signs of His Coming?

The disciples asked Jesus, "...what will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3b) Jesus answers them by describing natural calamities and events which will take place in the world before He comes again. Other Bible writers have described specific signs that indicate the coming of Jesus. Though there are other signs in the Bible, the following signs are more clearly stated as to the coming of Jesus.

## Signs of the Times

What will be the general condition of the world just before the coming of Jesus? Jesus described it as a time when many false Christ's and prophets would appear bringing much spiritual deception.

He said that wars and the talk of war would increase, along with famines and earthquakes in unusual places. God's people will come under severe persecution and lawlessness in society will cause people to lose their concern for one another. (Matthew 24:4-13)

## The Sign of the Gospel

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come." Jesus said that one of the signs of His coming was when the gospel (good news of Christ) was shared with every tribe, tongue and nation.

## The Sign of Israel

"For I (God) will take you from the nations, gather you from all the land, and bring you into your own land." (Ezekiel 36:24) God promised to bring the Jewish people back to their land, which was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation. This has set the stage for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy concerning conflict in the Middle East, the rise of Antichrist, and the Battle of Armageddon.

## Two Important Signs For the Church

"Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction..." (II Thessalonians 2:3) The Apostle Paul instructs the church at Thessalonica that two important signs must take place before Jesus will come. The first is the "apostasy" which means a falling away from the faith. In other words, many Christians and so-called Christians will leave their faith in Christ, possibly due to spiritual deception and persecution. Jesus said, "And at that time many will fall away..." (Matthew 24:10a) The second is the rise of Antichrist, "...who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God." (II Thessalonians 2:4)

## The SIGN That Begins the Countdown

Is there a definite sign that will clearly mark the beginning of the countdown to the coming of Jesus? Yes! Jesus specifically said, "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ...for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not