

The End of Time

One day we will be just like Him and see Him as He is.

1 John 3:1-2

BIBLE PASSAGE

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

1 John 3:1-2

INTRODUCTION

1. One day we will be just like Jesus, see Him just as He is, and see Him face to face!
Now that is an amazing thought, which fits perfectly into our theme of Standing Firm in the Lord.
2. The Bible talks about the End of Time when our Lord WILL return.
3. We do not want to miss eternity and be without Jesus.
4. So, let's make sure we are ready and watching, prepared to meet our Maker.

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Jesus promised to return. The NT treats His return as fact.

EXPLANATION

A. John 14:1-3; 18 esp. 3, 18. I am coming to you...

1. "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 **If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.** 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

B. Acts 1:9-11 – at his ascension into heaven, note the angel's words.

1. "And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

C. 1 Corinthians 11:26 – until He comes.

1. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until He comes.**"

D. Hebrews 9:28 – Christ... will appear a second time.

1. "so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear **a second time for salvation without reference to sin**, to those who eagerly await Him."

2. **"This verse contains both a promise and a warning. As Christians, we say "maranatha!" ("Come, Lord Jesus!" Rev 22:20) for we desire to be with him. Yet it is a matter of utmost importance that, in an age when people rarely expect to be held accountable for how they live their lives, two truths are yet certain. All men die. And all men will face judgment. On that day, only one decision will matter—whether we have embraced the Christ who sacrificed himself for our sins and our salvation."** (Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). *Hebrews*. College Press.)

E. James 5:7 – be patient until the coming of the Lord.

1. "Therefore be patient, brethren, **until the coming of the Lord**. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains."
2. Some (vss. 1-6) may have been rich and defrauded the poor (vs. 7ff); James tells the poor brethren that suffering in this world is small compared to eternal life when the Lord returns.

F. 1 Peter 5:4 – the Chief Shepherd (will) appear.

1. "And when the **Chief Shepherd appears**, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

G. 1 John 2:28 – when He appears...

1. "Now, little children, abide in Him, so that **when He appears**, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame **at His coming**."

2 We Have Been Warned to Watch

EXPLANATION

A. There is a sense of urgency connected with this.

1. **Mark 13:32-33; 35-37**- Be alert!

a. "But of that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*. 33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. **35** Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

2. At an hour you do not expect – Matthew 24:42-44. See also Luke 12:35-40.

a. Matthew 24:42-44; "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*."

B. Paul commanded the Thessalonian brethren to stay awake – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.

1. "Now as to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are

all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."

C. Some will not be watching & will come up short on judgment.

1. 2 Peter 3:3-14
2. 1 John 2:28 – not be ashamed before him at his coming.... "Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming."

D. Why should we be vigilant in looking for Christ's return

1. Revelation 3:11; "I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."
2. 16:15; "Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame."
3. 22:12; 20 – I am coming soon!

3 What Happens at His Coming?

EXPLANATION

- A. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – Jesus will descend from heaven
- B. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – All will know of His return. Nothing secret/silent about it!
- C. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – The dead in Christ will rise.
- D. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – Those who are alive will be caught up together in the clouds.
- E. When Jesus comes –We'll put on an immortal body. **1 Corinthians 15:50-53; "Now**

I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality."

- F. What of earth? **2 Peter 3:10-12; "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!"** – it will be destroyed.

4 Then Comes the Judgment

EXPLANATION

- A. Hebrews 9:2; "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,"– This is not optional.
1. Paul spoke of judgment as a fact – 2 Timothy. 4:1; "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:"
- B. It is at this time that every knee will bow. Philippians 2:9-11; "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 20:11-15

5 Eternal Destinations

EXPLANATIONS

A. Some will receive a sentence of eternal death-

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; "and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"
2. Matthew 7:21-23; "'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"
3. 2 Peter 2:20-22; "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy

commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

B. Others receive eternal life because of the forgiveness of sin.

1. 2 Timothy 4:8; "in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."
2. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; "so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."
3. Matthew 25:31-46;
4. Colossians 3:23-25; "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality."

CONCLUSION

- A. Life is uncertain. Death is certain. Eternity is forever.
- B. Are you prepared?

QUOTE

“ Matt Allen