

### The Coming of our Lord

The coming of our Lord for us is one of the most wonderful events promised in the word of God. It will happen in a moment, and it will usher us into the glories of His presence. This is what we should be living for, and anticipating at any moment. It should fill us with zeal to be serving Him faithfully. **Please note:**

**We are to be:** *“looking for the **blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works”* (Titus 2:13-14).

**We are to live for heaven:** *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform** our lowly body that it may be conformed to **His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself”* (Philippians 3:20-21).

**We shall be then like Him:** *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is”* (1 John 3:2)

**These are salient points taught in Holy Scripture:**

**a. He is coming for His people; we shall meet Him in the air: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:**

He then will judge His people, **Reviewing** (2 Cor. 5:6-11); **Rewarding** (1 Timothy 4:8) leading to **Rejoicing** (Revelation 19:7-10).

**b. He then will come with His people:**

He then will **judge** the world in righteousness and bring in His kingdom on earth followed by the eternal state (Revelation 19:7-10).

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**a. He is coming for His people:**

**This was taught by our Lord Jesus:** *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to My self**; that where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:1-3).

**Paul the apostle also taught this:** *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by **the word of the Lord**, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means **precede** those who are asleep. For the Lord **Himself** will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the **dead** in Christ will 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”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

**Also read 1 Corinthians Ch. 15.** *“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed **in a moment**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be change”* (1 Cor 15:51-52).

**From this we learn that:**

When a Christian dies, their body goes to dust, but their soul and spirit is immediately with the Lord enjoying His presence (2 Cor. 5:8). Then when the Lord returns, the dead in Christ will rise first, and the living believers will be **'caught up'** or **'raptured'** together to meet Him **in the air**. When we see Him we shall be changed and shall be like Him and with Him forever.

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**He will judge His people.**

From the **'rapture'** we go to the **'judgement seat of Christ'** for **'reviewing'** and **'rewarding'**. For we all must stand before our Lord, **not for our sins**, but for the **reviewing** of the deeds done in the body; that is

for our service, motives and our attitudes, whether **good or bad**. Then He will **reward** His people, for there are **crowns** to be won if we have faithfully followed Him.

The Bible says: *“For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-11).

This is not the judgement of our sins, for Christ paid that debt at Calvary. He said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall **not come into judgment**, but has passed from death into life”* (John 5:24). So, **‘Judgement God will not twice demand, first at my bleeding Surety’s hand, and then again at mine’**

Then His people will be prepared for **rejoicing** at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-10). In view of this, Paul the apostle disciplined his body, lest he become **‘disqualified’**. This means with loss of his **present testimony**, and loss of **future reward** (Corinthians 9:24-27).

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**b. He then will come with His people:**

He then return to earth **with** His people, to **judge** the world in righteousness (Revelation 19:11-21) and bring in His kingdom on earth (Revelation Chapter 20). At that time **His feet will touch down on earth** on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. Read Zechariah Chapters 12 to 14 for the repentance of Israel earth shaking events of that Day.

This terrible ‘Day of the Lord’ is referred to in many scriptures (Joel 2:31-32), *“because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead”* (Acts 17:31).

**So please note: when He comes for His people, we meet Him in the air.**

**When He comes with His people, His feet stands on the Mount of Olives at Jerusalem.**

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**A Review of these events:**

The Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples about His coming **for them in the air** (John 14:1-3). Each time we partake of the Lord’s Supper, *“you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes”* (1 Cor. 11:26). The Church is waiting for the Lord Jesus to return at any moment (1 Thess. 1:9-10) after which the great tribulation runs for seven years, called the time of Jacob's or Israel's trouble. See Jeremiah Ch.30; Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew Ch. 24; Rev. 7:13-14). Believers will be in heaven at the judgement seat of Christ.

Then the Lord returns **with His saints to earth** in great power and glory and establishes His 1000 year (Millennium) reign. The resurrection and judgment of the wicked follows, and then the eternal state (Revelation 19:11-21; Rev. Ch. 20-22).

Our Lord Jesus also taught His disciples to use the gifts He had given them, and to *“Do business till I come”* (Luke 19:13). A number of His parables taught the disciples to be ready for His appearing at any moment.

**Let us also be busy serving the Lord, meeting with His people and waiting for His coming.**