

An interview with Jesus about His second coming

21 August 2016

Jesus, are You coming back to us?

I go to prepare a place for you, and... I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you will be also. John 14:1-3

Jesus, when will You come back?

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. Mark 13:32-33

But Jesus, can we calculate when You will return?

It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. Acts 1:7

Jesus, what will be the signs leading up to Your return?

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:37-39

Jesus, when You return, who will be the first people to leave earth?

...Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus, what do You mean: 'the weeds are taken first'?

...The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His Kingdom everything that causes sin, and all who do evil. The angels will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth... Matthew 13:36-43

Jesus it sounds like unbelievers are taken, and Christians left behind.

Two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding corn together; one will be taken and the other left.’³⁷ ‘Where, Lord?’ they asked. He replied, ‘Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.’ Luke 17:34-37

But Jesus, I thought we Christians were taken first.

The Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Jesus, when you come back, where will we meet you?

...After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds; to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thess. 4:16-17

Jesus, how would you describe Your return?

Understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Luke 12:39-40

You yourselves know perfectly well that the Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2

Jesus, what else happens when You return like a thief in the night?

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night; the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the elements will be burned up and deconstituted; and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. All matter is thus to be dissolved. 2 Peter 3:10-11

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.

At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Mark 13:24-26

Jesus, will there be no earth where we live; and where You rule?

I go to prepare a place for you, and... I will come again, and take you to be with Me. Where I am, that is where you will be. John 14:1-3

My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would... But now My kingdom is from another place. John 18:36

Jesus, when the earth is dissolved, where will you take us?

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:1-5

But Jesus, Your plan is too simple. We have planned it for You.

Jesus, the way You tell it, Your return looks like this:

1. Return - I will come back to take you to be with me. John 14:2-3
2. Removal - First collect the weeds to be burned. Matthew 13:30
3. Resurrection - The dead in Christ will rise. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
4. Rapture - We who are alive will be caught up. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
5. Renewal - A new heaven and earth. Revelation 21:1
6. Reward - Great is your reward in heaven. Matthew 5:12
7. Rejoice - encourage one another with these words. 1 Thess. 4:18

My prayer points for this week

Questions for personal reflection or discussion

1. Before today, how would you describe your understanding of Jesus' second coming?
2. What was one new thing you learned, or found surprising, from this interview with Jesus?
3. Read Mark 13:32-33. List some advantages, and disadvantages, of the date of Jesus' return being unknown.
4. Read Matthew 24:36-39. What signs show Jesus' return is imminent? In what ways do these signs help you to prepare for His arrival?
5. Read the parable in Matthew 13:24-30, especially note v29. Why do you think God does not zap everyone who rejects Him? What has that got to do with me?
6. Read Mark 13:24-26 & 2 Peter 3:10-11. What will disappear? What will you miss when it's gone? Why do you think everything must go?
7. Read John 18:36. What makes this a defining statement. How can I live its reality this week?