

## VISIBLE

**“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”**

Matthew 24:27.

He will not come in secret, it will be as lightning; not secretive, hidden, or invisible. Every person within its field of influence hears the thunder. So it will be when Christ returns.

## EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM

**“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him...”** Revelation 1:7. It will not be in a place where a few will see Him. He will come in the clouds and **everyone will see Him**, even those who will not wish to see Him; those who haven’t given their lives to Jesus. **“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”** Revelation 6:15, 16.

## HE WILL COME ACCOMPANIED AND IN GLORY

**“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”** Matthew 16:27. **“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.”** Matthew 25:31. **“And Enoch also... prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.”** Jude 14.

Imagine this scene for a moment. What a sight! The heavens filled with millions upon millions of angels of light flying in the sky. Jesus described this moment to the High Priest that was judging Him. **“Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”** Matthew 26:64.

## AS A PERSON

**“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”** Acts 1:11. He will come as He left, in the same state that He was resurrected in; yet clad in glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords.

A question remains unanswered:

## WHY WILL HE COME?

What will be the consequences of His coming? They exist for those who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior and for those who have rejected the love of God. For now, we’ll only refer to what the second coming of Christ will bring to the believers in Christ. We will speak in later topics about evildoers.

**“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”** Revelation 22:12.

**“... We shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump... the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”** 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.

**“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day...”** 2 Timothy 4:8.

**“Then shall the King say... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”** Matthew 25:34.

**“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”** 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Many things will happen during His return, but the most beautiful of all will be: **“we which... remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”**

1 Thessalonians 4:17. Death and pain will be no more. The sufferings that made us cry will not exist. On that day, we’ll exclaim with joy, **“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is**

**our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”** Isaiah 25:9. We will embrace the loved ones from which we were separated by death; we will see those whose company we were deprived of due to distance or difficulties of life. God will be our meditation and happiness. From century to century we will see in each flower and in each atom yellow ribbons that will tell us: **“Welcome home, my child!”**

Do you want to prepare for the coming of Jesus? Give Him your heart today and live with Christ every day through faith. Study His word and join those who cherish that glorious hope. God bless you!



## THIRD MILLENNIUM BIBLE COURSE

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International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement

## RETURN HOME!

**C**Train was en route to the approaching stations. Amid the ruckus in the hallway, no one noticed a young man sitting in a compartment with his face buried in his hand. When he lifted his face, his countenance displayed traces of sadness, disappointment, and worry. Several train stations later, an elderly gentleman who was seated in front of him decided to ask about the cause of his troubles.

“You see,” said the young man, “as a teenager, I was very rebellious and I did not listen to my mother, who told me to keep away from bad company. In one of my escapades, I killed a person in a fight. I was tried, sentenced to ten years’ imprisonment, and had to serve my sentence far from home. No one wrote to me during that time, and all the letters I sent went unanswered.”

“Some months ago,” he continued, “I wrote my mother a letter when I found out my release date. In it, I wrote: ‘Dear Mom, I know you’ve suffered a lot these past ten years because of me. I know I’ve been a bad son and I understand your silence by not wanting to communicate with me. I will be freed in a couple of months and would like to return home. I don’t know if you’ll be waiting for me, so I ask you to show me a sign letting me know if you’ll accept me. Do you remember the pear tree near the train station? I’m going to purchase a ticket that’ll take me to a place farther than our town. If you have forgiven me and accept my return, I ask that you tie a yellow ribbon around that pear tree, and when I see it, I will get off the train. If you don’t accept my return, when I don’t see the yellow ribbon around the tree, I’ll continue on my journey and will never bother you again.’”

“This is my story, sir. I’d like to ask you a favor.

Could you take a look outside at the next station and tell me if you see a yellow ribbon? I’m so scared, I don’t dare look.”



Silently, interrupted only by the sobs of the young man, the train moved forward, closer and closer to its destination. Suddenly, the man in front of him shouted with joy: "Young man, young man, look!" Lifting his eyes furrowed by tears, the young man watched the most beautiful spectacle that his eyes could see. The pear tree did not have only one yellow ribbon, instead, it was full of yellow ribbons; not only that tree but all the trees in the village were filled with yellow ribbons.

## POSTPONED REUNIONS

Yes, my dear friend. Throughout the past three topics, we've spoken about God, Christ, and the fact that you are part of the heavenly family. In the previous one, we concluded with redemption and spoke about a homeland that Christ has prepared for us; we'd like to remember the words He said: **"And if I go... I will come again, and receive you unto myself..."** John 14:3.

These words filled the disciples with hope when they heard them. Their beloved Master would return; He would not abandon them. Now that we've come to the beginning of the third millennium, we'd like to once again emphasize the words of Christ: **"I will come again."**

Let's consider why Christ's return is so important.

- 1. To end pain:** **"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."** Isaiah 35:4-6.
- 2. To end evil:** Because the current state of the world is not the home God created. **"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."** Genesis 6:5 (see verses 11, 12).
- 3. He wants you and me to be with Him.** **"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me..."** John 17:24.
- 4. So this world returns to God's fold, to communion with Him and His holy angels,** as the Apostle Paul wrote, **"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ..."** Philippians 3:20.

## HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S NEAR?

As yellow leaves indicate that autumn is here, as well as heat signals the beginning of summer, so Christ has left clues for us to meditate upon as signs of His return. Countless prophecies indicate His second coming, but we'd like to group them together so we have a brief idea of the things that indicate that Christ is soon returning.



### SIGNS IN THE POLITICAL WORLD:

- 1. Violence, insecurity, wars, and revolutions:** Matthew 24:38, 39 shows that it will be just like before the flood. **"... And the earth was filled with violence."** Genesis 6:11. **"Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... and upon the earth distress of nations."** Luke 21:10, 25.
- 2. A desperate search for peace:** **"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."** 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.
- 3. Unity of nations and opposition to Christ:** **"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings... These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb..."** Revelation 17:12-14.
- 4. Financial embargos** to those that oppose current world politics: **"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."** Revelation 13:17.

### SIGNS IN THE WORLD:

- 1. Increased diseases** with alarming death rates, such as AIDS, cancer, tuberculosis, etc. **"... And there shall be... pestilences... in divers places."** Matthew 24:7.
- 2. Climatic instability:** **"... And fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."** Luke 21:11. **"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and... smoke."** Acts 2:19.

- 3. Increased science,** as seen in the last fifty years. **"... Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."** Daniel 12:4.

### SIGNS IN SOCIETY:

- 1. Blatant manifestations of homosexual inclinations:** These sins spread in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:4, 5). **"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot... Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."** Luke 17:28, 30.
- 2. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer:** **"Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers... which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them... are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."** James 5:3, 4.
- 3. Increased corruption and evil:** **"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."** 1 Timothy 3:13. See 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

### SIGNS IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD:

- 1. Indifference and unbelief:** **"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold..."** **"... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"** Matthew 24:12; Luke 18:8.
- 2. Religious frivolity:** **"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..."** 2 Timothy 3:5.
- 3. The proliferation of false prophets and false Christs:** **"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders... [to] deceive..."** Matthew 24:24.

Dear Friend, these are some of the signs that the Bible shows regarding the coming of Christ. Some of the signs will be studied in greater detail in upcoming subjects, but there are still more studies concerning our encounter with Him.

## HOW WILL HE COME?

The Messiah was eagerly awaited for 4,000 years. 333 prophecies announced, **"He is coming."** Angels announced His birth and God even used non-Israelites to draw attention to the coming of the Redeemer to this earth. Do you think the exoneration of humanity will be less visible? For 2,000 years the message has been, **"He will return."** It will not be in secret-like His first coming to Bethlehem-nor will it be in a hidden chamber, as when He officiated the Lord's Supper. Christ Himself made these things clear: **"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not... Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."** Matthew 24:23, 25, 26.

Let's take a look at some of the things the Bible tells us concerning His coming.