

The Literal Return of Jesus

Nearly 2000 years ago, a small group of men and women stood on the top of the Mount of Olives, a short distance from the city of Jerusalem. (Acts 1:6-12)

Jesus Christ who had died on the cross and been raised to life about forty days earlier was with them. While he was speaking to the group, he ascended up into heaven. Then as the group continued to gaze upwards, two Angels suddenly appeared. The words they spoke to this group have rung down through the ages for the followers of Jesus: “*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 (the same way) as ye have seen him go into heaven.*” Acts 1:11. It was the angels of God who stated this to the followers of Jesus. These are God’s messengers who gave this clear unequivocal statement that he would return, in a similar manner to the way he left them.

This clear statement about the return of Jesus cannot be misunderstood. It is the hope of the followers of Jesus Christ. But this statement does not stand-alone. Here are selections of verses which teach precisely the same message that Jesus will literally return to this earth. These not only show that he will return, but that he has work to do when he returns.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;” 2 Timothy 4:1.

“He shall send Jesus Christ... whom the heaven must receive until the time of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by His Holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20-21.

“The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Some of the things Jesus will do when he returns include:

- ❖ Subdue the nations
- ❖ Raise the dead
- ❖ Judge the living and dead
- ❖ Set up the Kingdom of God.

There is one thing that believers look for: the return of Jesus Christ. The disciples of the first century believed that Jesus was their master and teacher. As such, we also believe that it is our duty to do what he wishes. One thing he requires is to watch for his return. It is a message emphasized throughout the New Testament. Jesus tells us that the timing of his return rests entirely with God and consequently, his followers need to be on their watch for his return. He gives us signs as to when he will return, but does not tell us a date.

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father [God] only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be ... Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” Mathew 24:36-37,42.

And again Jesus words in Mark 13:37: *“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*

There are many similar passages from both the Old and New Testaments which detail this truth. Take the time to look them up for yourself¹. However the Bible does give hints, which are called signs. These give us clues as to how close we are to the return of Jesus. At this time we see that there are very few signs which have not happened, so the return of Jesus is very close.

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ to Earth is the essence of the message of the Gospel and of Jesus preaching. The literal return of Jesus Christ to earth will be to fulfil his Fathers plan by setting up God’s Kingdom here on earth. With those found faithful at his return, he will rule over the earth for a thousand years, bringing all things into harmony with God.

Note: all quotes are from the King James Version of the Bible.

¹ See also Matthew 16:27; Psalm 102:16 to 21; Isaiah 25:9; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 2:28.