

ProphCount_Guide01.indd 1 8/7/25 5:06 PM



For years, Noah warned his generation of a coming storm. When the ark was complete, he urged the people to come into the vessel of salvation. Seeing only clear skies, however, the people disregarded his persistent warnings and carelessly returned to their daily pursuits.

Is the same thing happening today?

The Bible provides an abundance of information regarding the return of Christ. Yet many Christians have come to doubt the promise of His return. Others are deeply confused regarding what the Bible teaches about the how, why, and when of His coming. Let's find out what it really says ...



When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.

How positive was Jesus that He would return?	•
John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be a	- Iso.
Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man	
in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.	
What can we know about the time of Jesus' return?	• •
Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour	
knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.	
Matthew 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is —at the doors!	



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ProphCount_Guide01.indd 2 8/7/25 5:06 PM



NOTE: Only God knows the exact time of the Second Coming. All date setting is out of harmony with the Bible. But Jesus made it clear that when we see the signs of His coming fulfilled (Matthew 24:4–51; Luke 21:8–33; 2 Timothy 3:1–5), we can know that His return is very near—even at the doors.

What signs did Jesus give to indicate His coming was near?
Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom
against kingdom. And there will be, pestilences, and
in various places.
Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be
in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and the
the end will come.
NOTE: There have always been wars, plagues, and natural disasters. However, Jesus prophecy indicates these events will increase in frequency and intensity as we near the time of His return. Jesus did not say the whole world would be converted—rather, the world would have an opportunity to hear the gospel. Today, with almost instant global communication and rapid international travel, fulfillment of this prophecy is well within reach.
What solemn warning does Jesus give about His second coming?
Matthew 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the
Christ," and will many.
Matthew 24:24, 26 For false christs and false
will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive
if possible, even the elect Therefore if they say to you, "Look, He is in

ProphCount_Guide01.indd 3 8/7/25 5:06 PM

the desert!" do not go out; or "Look, He is in the inner rooms!" do not



NOTE: As his masterpiece of deception, Satan will seek to impersonate Christ's second coming by appearing upon the earth as a glorious being, and he will trick billions. Jesus has warned us that He will not touch the earth at all at His second coming; rather, He will remain in the air. The dazzling deceptions of Satan will be so convincing that most people will be misled.

••••	• • • • • • • • • •			
What v	/ill prevent the	righteous from	being dece	ived?
Isaiah 8:20	To the law and	to the testimony	! If they do n	ot speak
according to				
NOTE: God's peopl God's Word just ho agreement with Sci "See, I have told yo	w Jesus will come ipture is a counter	(Acts 17:11). Any a feit and must be rej	appearance th	at is not in
		ly when He retu	ırns?	•••••
1 Thessalor	nians 4:16	For the Lord Hims	self will desce	nd from
heaven with a		, with the voice	of an archang	el, and with
the	of God.			
Jeremiah 2	5:30 The Lord	will	from	on high, and
utter His voice fro				
He will give a		,		
Psalm 50:3	Our God shall	come, and shall n	ot keep	
		evour before Him,		ne very
tempestuous all a	around Him.			-

NOTE: "Tempestuous" means "turbulent and stormy." The second coming of Jesus will clearly be noisy beyond description. There will be nothing secret about it!

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Who will see Jesus when He returns?

Matthew 24:30	Then the sign of th	e Son of Man will appear in
		of the earth will
mourn, and they will sed with power and great g		ning on the clouds of heaven
Revelation 1:7will see H.		with clouds, and

NOTE: This is too clear to misunderstand. Every person alive, wicked or righteous, will see Jesus return in the sky. A secret gathering, or "rapture," of God's people is not described in the Bible. Some have wondered, "How can every eye see Jesus simultaneously on a round world?" The verse does not say that it is simultaneous; rather, when He comes and sweeps around the planet, the eyes of everyone alive will see Him on that day.

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Who will be with Jesus when He returns in the clouds?

Matthew 25:31	When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all
the	with Him, then He will sit on the throne
of His glory.	

NOTE: The brightness of the Lord's return will, by comparison, make the brightness of a hydrogen bomb pale in significance. At Jesus' tomb, the brightness of one angel caused the Roman guards to fall to the ground as dead men (Matthew 28:2–4). The brightness of all heaven's angels will make Jesus' second coming too bright for anyone to miss. Added to this will be the fantastic glory of Jesus and the Father (Luke 9:26). Jesus' second coming will be like lightning flashing from one horizon to the other (Matthew 24:27).

ProphCount_Guide01.indd 5 8/7/25 5:06 PM



What will happ	en to the righteous at Jes	us' coming?
1 Thessalonians 4	:16 The dead in Christ wi	ill first.
1 Corinthians 15:	52, 53 The dead will be	raised incorruptible,
	For this corruptib	le must put on
•	tal must put on immortality.	
	:17 Then we who are aliv	
5 5	ther with them in the clouds	to meet the Lord in the
air. And thus we shall alwa	•	
will be a sky appearance, not immortality now (1 Timothy 6 righteous at Jesus' second co	the Lord in the air. (Remember, an earth appearance.) Also, no 5:15, 16). But it will be given as ming. Their bodies will be chan of Jesus' body (Philippians 3:2	one except God has a free gift to the ged into heavenly,
What other phy	sical evidence will accom	pany Jesus' return?
Revelation 16:18	And there was a great	, such a
	ke as had not occurred since	
What will the b do to the living	rightness of Jesus' comir wicked?) 1g
2 Thessalonians 1	:7, 8 When the Lord Jesu	s is revealed from
	ngels, in	
vengeance on those who c	do not know God.	

ProphCount_Guide01.indd 6 8/7/25 5:06 PM



2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be
revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and
with the brightness of His coming.
What will the angels do at Jesus' second coming?
Matthew 24:31 His angels will together His
elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
NOTE: Your guardian angel (Matthew 18:10) will probably be the first to greet you at Jesus' return. What a blessed thought! No wonder the Bible calls the Second Coming the "blessed hope"! (Titus 2:13).
Since we are living just before Jesus' second coming, how should we relate to this solemn, glorious event?
Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also, for the Son
of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
•
How will people be rewarded at Jesus' second coming?
Revelation 22:12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward
is with Me, to give to every one according to his
NOTE: People will be saved by grace but rewarded based on their conduct, not on their profession. Their conduct reveals if their profession is genuine (Matthew 7:20–23).

ProphCount_Guide01.indd 7 8/7/25 5:06 PM





Wilai Will life wicken say when Jesus Telulis?
Revelation 6:16, 17 [They] said to the mountains and rocks,
"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and
from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and
is able to?"
NOTE: During this horrendous final earthquake, the wicked—petrified with fear—will prefer for the rocks and mountains to fall on them rather than to face King Jesus unprepared.
What will the righteous say when Jesus appears?
Isaiah 25:9 Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and
will us We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.
What is the primary purpose of Jesus' second coming?

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John 14:3 | Will come again and _____

Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

NOTE: Jesus' most thrilling purpose in returning to the earth is to take His children to the glorious home He has prepared for them. The New Jerusalem is a city with no more tears, woes, heartaches, or illness—only joy and peace forever.

>> YOUR RESPONSE

Jesus is coming in the clouds very soon. Will you plan now to be ready to meet Him?

ANSWER:

8



The secret rapture theory is based on eight premises that have been so widely embraced that most people accept them as fact without investigating them. However, our only safety is to search the Scriptures daily to determine whether those things are so (Acts 17:11).

The eight points of the secret rapture theory are as follows:

- 1. The rapture is silent.
- 2. The rapture is invisible.
- 3. The rapture leaves the wicked alive.
- 4. God removes the righteous to protect them from the tribulation.
- 5. Christ's second coming will be in two stages: (1) the secret rapture and (2) the actual glorious coming.
- 6. These two stages of the Second Coming will be seven years apart.
- 7. The rapture will take place before the revelation of the Antichrist, who will then bring about the tribulation.
- 8. The wicked will have a second chance to be converted and to serve Christ.

To examine these points fully is beyond the scope of this limited supplement, but we will briefly cover each point. Prepare for some surprises!

1. The rapture is not silent but, rather, extremely noisy. The Scriptures say Jesus will descend "with a *shout*, with the *voice of the archangel*, and with the *trumpet of God*" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, emphasis added). King David says, "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; ... it shall be very tempestuous [violent, whirling] all around Him" (Psalm 50:3). And Jeremiah says, "The LORD will roar from on high. ... He will roar mightily. ... He will give a shout. ... A noise will come to the ends of the earth" (Jeremiah 25:30, 31). Nothing about it is quiet! Christ will come with a noise heard around the world. Know

this: If you are living when Jesus returns, you will hear Him come. It will be the loudest event in history!

- 2. The rapture is not invisible; it will be seen by all. All of the angels will come with Jesus (Matthew 25:31). When one lone angel appeared at Jesus' resurrection, the brightness was so overpowering that the entire Roman guard fell to the ground (Matthew 28:2–4). Consider the staggering brightness of all the angels of heaven! Added to the glory of the angels will be Jesus' own glory (Matthew 25:31) and the glory of His Father (Matthew 16:27). The brightness will be overwhelming. Jesus said, "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:27). Secret? Not by any stretch of the imagination! In fact, the Bible forever settled this by saying, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Revelation 1:7). Rest assured, if you are living at Jesus' second coming, you will see Him come!
- **3.** The rapture does not leave the wicked alive. They are slain at the Lord's coming (Isaiah 11:4; Malachi 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:8).
- **4.** God does not remove the righteous before the tribulation but, rather, protects them through it (Psalm 91:5–12).
- **5.** Christ's second coming will not be in two stages—one secret and the other seen by all. There is only one Second Coming, and it will be seen by every living person on the earth. There is no Scripture to support a two-phase Second Coming.
- **6.** The secret rapture teaching claims that there is a seven-year period between the two comings of Christ. The Bible teaches that His coming as a thief and the destruction of the world happen at the same time.
- **7.** The Antichrist does not appear three and a half years after the second coming of Jesus. He has been active for centuries (1 John 4:3) and is doing his nefarious work on the earth even now. (More on this in a future lesson!)
- **8.** The wicked will not have a second opportunity to be saved after the Second Coming. All sinners will be destroyed at Jesus' return; there is no second opportunity for them.

NOTES:



11



ProphCount_Guide01.indd 12 8/7/25 5:06 PM