

# When Will Jesus Return?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

### A. Matt. 24:36-39

1. Jesus is coming again. His return is a central truth of the Gospel, and it motivates Christians to be urgent in the work and faithful with the stewardship of it - Heb. 6:1-2; Acts 24:24-25
2. However, history is filled with pseudo prophets and religious conspiracy theorists attempting to set a date for His return. Every attempt to set a date for his return has failed.

## I. PROBLEMS WITH PREDICTING JESUS' RETURN

A. God is not bound by time or by human measurement of it - 2Peter 3:8

B. There are no inspired prophets today - Matt. 24:4-5; 1John 4:1

C. People are often unwilling to be bound by scripture contexts

1. Matt. 24:3 - The disciples asked three questions. Jesus answered them in order, beginning with the fall of the temple and Jerusalem
2. Matt. 24:14 - First, the gospel would be preached throughout all of the world - Col. 1:6, 23
3. Matt. 24:15-16 - They would see signs of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem and have time and the ability to flee. Not so for the end of the world.
4. Matt. 24:33-34 - The previously prophesied events would happen within the lifetime of that audience
5. Matt. 24:38-41 - There will be no signs preceding the end of the world.
6. Matt. 24:42-44 - As it is not possible for humans to predict the coming of Judgment Day, their only response to it is to be perpetually prepared.

D. People often make prophetic images literal, and literal Divine commands figurative in order to fit their own doctrines

1. They make the figurative 144,000 literal to support rapture theology
2. They make baptism an archaic figure of speech that becomes a subjective option to support faith only doctrines

E. Anyone who predicts a date for the return of Jesus is a false prophet

1. Deut. 18:20-22 - All of their past prophecies have failed
2. Deut. 13:1-5 - All of their prophecies of the future are in contradiction to revealed truth, and therefore false.

## II. PURE PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS' RETURN

A. He is coming again - Acts 1:11; 1Thes. 4:13-17, 5:1-6

B. The time of His return is unknown to everyone, including all of the angels, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit - Mark 13:32; 2Peter 3:10

C. There will be no signs preceding His return - Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 12:39-40

D. The entire universe will be destroyed - 2Peter 3:10-13

1. Psalm 102:25 - He brought it into being from nothing in an instant by speaking a word; He can bring it to nothingness in an instant with a word

- E. The only visible precursor to the Judgment will be a loud trumpet, the resurrection of the dead, and the transformation of the living
  - 1. John 5:28-29; 1Cor. 15:51-52

Conclusion:

- A. Might Jesus return today? Absolutely! But it won't be because of some pseudo prophet's contrived calculations, but by of God's unrevealed sovereign choice.
  - 1. If He returns today, we will have no advance notice of any kind; there will be no warning.
  - 2. There will be a great sound like a trumpet heard simultaneously around the world. In the blink of an eye, the dead will rise and the living transformed (an eye blink is less than 1/3 of a second). The Lord's appearance in the clouds will be as lightning that flashes from the east to the west (lightning can travel around the world in a quarter of a second). The world and the universe it occupies will burn in an instant like a puff of vapor (Isa. 51:6; a puff of vapor vanishes in about 1.15 seconds). Combine the great sound of a trumpet, the resurrection and transformation, the Lord's appearance in the clouds, and the destruction of the universe, the total time is 1.73 seconds from the start to finish of the return of Jesus.
  - 3. Not suggesting that Jesus will be on the clock, but that Judgment Day will not be a prolonged experience. No one will have any time to obey the Gospel or for erring Christians to repent and pray for forgiveness
- B. In view of this, how should we live? 2Peter 3:11-12
  - 1. Jesus is coming again. Remember this one thing: everything that God, Jesus, and the Spirit are going to do for salvation of humankind has been done, except for one thing... return to gather up the righteous and carry them to heaven, and to consign the unrighteous to perdition.
  - 2. Jesus is coming again. One day the sun will rise for the very last time. One day you will eat breakfast for the very last time; you will go to work for the very last day; you will go to bed for the very last night; you will kiss your mate and children for the very last time.
  - 3. Jesus is coming again. One day you will hear your very last sermon. One day you will hear the last invitation song you will ever hear, and then the end will come. Are you ready? Jesus is coming again.