



Renewed Perspective: Jesus is Coming Again

[Matthew 24-25](#)

First in a 4-part series titled: *Renewed*

Pastor Matt Friend – February 21, 2021

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– OUTLINE –

What's today's big idea?

Jesus could return at any time, so let's be ready all the time.

In Matthew 24, Jesus tells us the following about the years leading up to His second coming:

- We will be tempted to love and follow popular leaders instead of Jesus. ([vv. 4-5](#))
- Wars, rumors of wars, and racial tension will pervade the earth. ([vv. 6-7a](#))
- Famines, earthquakes, and pandemics will become common. ([v. 7b](#); cf. [Luke 21:11](#))
- These signs will intensify like a woman's labor pains. ([v. 8](#); cf. [Luke 21:28](#))
- Genuine Christians will be increasingly persecuted. ([v. 9](#))
- The world will grow apathetic toward God and all that is right. ([vv. 10-12](#); cf. [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#))
- The gospel will be broadcast to every corner of the globe. ([v. 14](#))

Today's Take-Aways...

1. Let's watch for the Lord ([Matthew 24:36-44](#))
2. Let's work for the Lord ([Matthew 24:45-25:46](#))

Resource Recommendation



[When Christ Comes: The Beginning of the Very Best](#)

by Max Lucado



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– NOTES –

Introduction

Have you ever noticed how life can change in just one day? Contemplate how specific days have changed your life for the good or the bad.

Today I want to describe a day in the future—I believe in the very near future—when life and eternity will change for billions of people. It will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. It’s the greatest day human history will ever experience. This day is God’s goal for the universe, resulting in final reward for some and final judgment for others.

This day is the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth. He came the first time at what we now know as Christmas, but He promises to come again. ([Acts 1:11](#); [Matthew 24:36-44](#))

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How does the Bible describe the second coming of Jesus?

See [Job 19:25-26](#); [Psalm 2](#); [Daniel 7:9-14](#); [Matthew 24-25](#); [Mark 13](#); [Luke 21:5-38](#); [John 5:28-29](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Corinthians 15](#); [Philippians 2:9-11](#); [3:20-21](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:13](#); [4:13-18](#); [2 Timothy 4:8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27-28](#); [James 5:7-9](#); [2 Peter 3:10](#); [1 John 2:18](#); [Revelation 1:7](#); [Revelation 19:11-16](#); [22:20](#).

The Old Testament contains over 300 distinct promises about the coming of Christ to earth. About 100 of them were fulfilled in the first coming, and 200 refer to second coming. Christmas in Bethlehem literally happened. Jesus upbringing in Nazareth literally happened. His perfect life literally happened. His dying on the cross for our sins literally happened. His resurrection literally happened. His ascension literally happened. Therefore, we can be confident: His second coming will literally happen.

Today's Takeaways...

1. Let's watch for the Lord ([Matthew 24:36-44](#))

When it comes to the intricate details of Bible prophecy, it's more important to be ready for the second coming than it is to be right about the second coming. (See Appendix below)

Ask yourself:

- Am I more consumed about being right or being ready?
- Do I love God and others?
- Do I regularly confess my sins?
- Do I make godly choices in private?
- Do I promote the unity of Jesus' Church with my actions and attitudes?

2. Let's work for the Lord ([Matthew 24:45-25:46](#))

In the remainder of His sermon (through chapter 25), Jesus tells several stories urging us to work for Him until He returns. Some of the strongest words He ever spoke are recorded in [Matthew 25:31-46](#).

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Consider the following thoughts from conservative evangelical ministries, both from the past and the present...

John MacArthur, *The Second Coming* (Introduction)

“While the fact of the Second Coming is certainly a cardinal doctrine of Christianity, many of the specifics regarding how and when it will occur are, by the testimony of Scripture itself, set in the midst of incomprehensible mystery. And we must never lose sight of that. Detailed prophetic schemes and speculative eschatological timetables should never be treated as incontrovertible or fundamental dogma, nor made a principal test of orthodoxy and fellowship. Unfortunately, this happens all the time.

I know people who want to make eschatology the primary litmus test of all theology. Many of them are novices in the faith. They would not be prepared to give a coherent account of the doctrine of justification by faith. They may be ill-equipped to defend any of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. But they consider themselves experts on the timing of the Rapture or the meaning of the seven seals in [Revelation 5-7](#). Such people, it seems, are constantly spoiling for a debate on eschatological fine points.

Others who fall in this trap are by no means novices. They may be Christian leaders or theology professors, but they become imbalanced in their passion for a particular eschatological perspective, and they allow their zeal for those doctrines to become a barrier to fellowship with brethren who may disagree...

These are not matters on which we should be quarrelsome and quickly contentious. Our detailed prophetic diagrams should not be made tests of orthodoxy or grounds for separation from other believers. Aside from the aspects of Bible prophecy that are essential to the Christian message—such as the fact of Christ's bodily return, the resurrection of the dead, and the final triumph of Christ over all His enemies—these are not issues that should divide us from other Christians with whom we disagree.

Too many people are pugnacious about their views on the mysteries of biblical eschatology. Detailed prophetic calendars, dispensational charts, and debates about the order and arrangement of all the prophetic events simply do not warrant the amount of attention, the intensity of debate, or the level of intramural rancor they often generate between Christian brethren.”

Justyn Martyr (born A.D. 100 in Israel, died A.D. 165 in Rome)

“I and others who are right-minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned, and enlarged. But many who belong to the pure and pious faith and are true Christians think otherwise.”

Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention*

“God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth.”

**This is also the adopted statement of faith for our local Southern Baptist churches.*

The National Association of Evangelicals

“We believe in Jesus’ personal return in power and glory.”

The Lausanne Covenant*

“We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate His salvation and His judgment. This promise of His coming is a further spur to our evangelism, for we remember His words that the gospel must first be preached to all nations. We believe that the interim period between Christ’s ascension and return is to be filled with the mission of the people of God, who have no liberty to stop before the end. We also remember His warning that false Christs and false prophets will arise as precursors of the final Antichrist. We therefore reject as a proud, self-confident dream the notion that people can ever build a utopia on earth. Our Christian confidence is that God will perfect His kingdom, and we look forward with eager anticipation to that day, and to the new heaven and earth in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever. Meanwhile, we re-dedicate ourselves to the service of Christ and of people in joyful submission to His authority over the whole of our lives.”

**The Lausanne Covenant is a religious confession written in 1974 promoting active worldwide Christian evangelism. It was written at the First International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, led by Evangelist Billy Graham, and was adopted by 2,300 evangelicals in attendance. The drafting committee was chaired by John Stott of the United Kingdom. Still today, it is used widely across the world, including by 85% of Latin American mission organizations as their statement of faith on the second coming.*

The Village Church – Member Statement of Faith (Matt Chandler)

Doctrine of Resurrection and Consummation of the Kingdom of God: We believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world in the future to judge the living and the dead.

Calvary Community Church – Member Statement of Faith (Shawn Thornton)

We believe in the blessed hope of the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His church. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust for final judgment—the everlasting joy of the just, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. We believe in the final and full consummation of the Kingdom of God in the New Creation—the New Heavens and New Earth, the home of righteousness where all sin and its effects are forever removed. We believe that God will make all things new again.

The Gospel Coalition – Member Statement of Faith (D. A. Carson, Tim Keller)

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels, when He will exercise his role as final Judge, and His kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord Himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all and His people will be enthralled by the immediacy of His ineffable holiness, and everything will be to the praise of His glorious grace.

Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) – Statement of Faith

Jesus Christ will come again to the earth – personally, visibly and bodily – to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.

InterVarsity – Statement of Faith

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

Dallas Theological Seminary – Doctrinal Statement for Students

The physical return of Christ.

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Bethlehem Baptist Church – Member Statement of Faith (John Piper)

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgement, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked.