

him" (Revelation 1: 7) and Christ referred to the response of the reprobate: "All the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24: 30).

AN AUDIBLE RETURN

Adding to the image of a universal awareness of the return of Christ, the Bible declares that his coming will not be only visible, but also audible: "The Lord himself, on a given signal, to the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven." (1 Thessalonians 4: 16). "The sound of a trumpet" will accompany the gathering of his people. There is therefore no question of a secret coming.

A GLORIOUS RETURN

When Christ comes again, it will be as a conqueror, with power and "in the glory of his Father with his angels". (Matthew 16: 27). John describes the glory of the return of Christ more dramatically. He portrays Christ mounted on a white horse and leading the countless celestial hosts. The supernatural splendor of Christ appears in all its grandeur. (Revelation 19: 11-16).

CONCLUSION

Dear readers, while the whole earth with the works that it contains will be consumed, where will you be when Jesus appears on the clouds? The Bible tells us that today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Take the time to learn what the Lord requires in order to enter in the great city of God when He will descend with Jesus.

What God asks us to do is clearly stated in the Bible. Do you remember that Jesus said, "... if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17), and yet in John 14:15 PM, "If you love me, keep my commandments." In the book of Revelation, we also read: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."
"(Revelation 22:14). The time to decide is not tomorrow, but today.

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The second coming of Jesus, the climax of our hope!

The belief of the Seventh-day Adventists concerning this matter can be summarized as: "The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the Church, the culmination of the Gospel."

The advent of the Savior will be literal, personal, visible and global in scope. During his return, the righteous dead will be resurrected; with the living righteous, they will be glorified, and raised to heaven, while the reprobate will die. The almost complete accomplishment of most of the prophecies and the current conditions which prevail in the world indicate that the coming of Christ is imminent. The day and time of this event have not been revealed, that is why we are urged to remain ready at all times. (Matt 24; John 14: 1- 3; 1 Corinthians 15: 51- 54; Rev 1: 7)

What do you know about the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? Do you truly believe that the Lord Jesus will come down from heaven on the earth as the Bible says? There are several people who do not believe that the Lord

will return as he promised us. We will consider the subject at the light of the Bible.

HIS FIRST ADVENT IS THE GUARANTEE OF HIS RETURN

The second coming of Christ is intimately linked to that of his first. If Christ had not come the first time and if he had not won a decisive victory over sin and Satan (Colossians 2: 15), we would have had no reason to believe that he would come back at the end of time to put an end to the domination of Satan in this world and to restore the latter in its original perfection. But because we know that it "has appeared only once to abolish sin by his sacrifice", we have all the reasons to believe that "unto those who look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin, unto salvation." (Hebrews 9: 26, 28).

HOW WILL CHRIST RETURN?

Whereas Christ spoke of the signs that would precede his coming, he warned his people against the false rumors that might mislead. He told them that before his coming "For there shall arise false christs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Then if any man shall say unto you, 'Lo, here is Christ,' or 'there,' believe it not. (Matthew 24: 24, 23). Forewarned is forearmed!

To make the believers able to distinguish between the genuine event of the false appearance, several biblical passages provide some details relating to the manner in which the return of Christ will occur.

OTHER SIGNS OF THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST: THE WARS AND CATAclysms.

Jesus said that before his return "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; there will be terrible phenomena, and great signs in the sky" (Luke 21: 10, 11; cf. Marc 13: 7, 8; Matthew 24: 7). Whereas the end approaches and that the conflict between the forces of good and evil is intensified, these calamities will multiply and many people will be lost for eternity.

1. **THE WARS:** Although the wars have scarred humanity in the course of history, never even before had they reached such a violence of destruction. The two world wars have caused more deaths and suffering than all other wars combined.
2. **THE NATURAL DISASTERS:** It is significant to note that disasters are becoming more and more frequent. They affect the land and the climate, following one another, causing people to wonder if nature has gone mad, and if we are not in the presence of phenomena likely to change the climate and the environment in a short period of time.
3. **THE FAMINES:** Famines have occurred several times in the past, but never had they reached such an intensity. Yet never before has the world had known these millions of people suffering from malnutrition. The future prospects are not bright in this area. This unprecedented expansion of the famine clearly shows the proximity of the return of Christ.

A PERSONAL AND LITERAL RETURN

When Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud, two angels appeared to the disciples who continued to gaze at the sky as Jesus ascended to heaven: "'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.'" (Acts 1: 11). In other words, they claimed that the Lord who had just left them is one of flesh and blood, and not a spirit, which would come back on earth. His second coming will be as literal and personal as his departure.

A VISIBLE RETURN

The coming of Christ will not be an inner experience nor invisible, but the real encounter of a visible person. In order to leave no doubt as to the visibility of his return, Jesus warned his disciples against the idea of a secret coming by comparing his return with the light of the lightning bolt (Matthew 24: 27).

The Bible clearly affirms that the righteous and the reprobate will be witnesses at the same time of his coming. John wrote: "Behold, he cometh with the clouds, and every eye shall see

