

## Know the Future

### 2 Peter 3:8-12

*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. (Isa 11:6 NIV)*

*For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:22-24)*

**Main Idea: Jesus is coming soon. Stay awake for it!!! When Jesus returns He will put an end to all that is wrong with our present world and He will make all things new.**

### Reasons to believe in Jesus’ return

#### 1. The Eternal God promises it.

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God . . . For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.” (Psalm 90:1-2, 4 ESV)*

Truth: Because God is eternal, His promises never expire. We can count on Him to fulfill every promise according to His perfect schedule.

*“The LORD of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,” (Isaiah 14:24 ESV)*

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:8 ESV)*

#### 2. The Merciful God purposes it.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”” (Acts 1:8)*

Application: Let us pray that God would give us merciful hearts and open doors to share the Good News of the mercy of the LORD.

### Report about Jesus’ return

#### 1. The Day will descend like a thief.

*Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:41-44)*

*“For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 ESV)*

Application: The LORD Jesus is coming at a time and moment that we do not expect. Let us stay awake for it!

Responses to Jesus’s promise to return any time now: Believe Him!

- Let the return of Jesus be part of your daily expectation.
- Let the return of Jesus be part of your daily prayer.
- Let the return of Jesus be part of your daily conversation.
- Let the return of Jesus be part of your witness.

## **2. The Day will dissolve like a fire.**

*The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast . . . A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, . . . I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; . . . all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.” Zephaniah 1:14-18*

Application: Let us not tie our happiness or our glory to anything in this present world. All we see will be consumed by fire. Let us tie our happiness and our glory to the things that are eternal . . . the things that we cannot see.

**Responses to the certainty of Jesus’ return**

### **1. We wait for Him to come.**

*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. **See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth**, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:7-8)*

### **2. We strive to live godly lives.**

**The Real Peter Principle:** Believers tend to rise in godly living according to the degree of their hope in Jesus’ return.