

WHEN JESUS ... Returns – April 28th 2024 – Pastor Peter

Acts 1:9-11 "After saying this, He was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see Him. As they strained to see Him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!'"

2 Timothy 4:8 "And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing."

1. What is the Return of Jesus?

The return of Jesus is when He physically and literally returns to this earth.

John 14:3 "When everything is ready, I will come back and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

It's our powerful hope.

Titus 2:13 "We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

i. Jesus Fulfills Expectation

What Jesus does for us is amazing and He fulfills our every expectation.

His first followers don't have the benefit of our vantage point.

Their expectations start on the very first day they meet Him on the beach in Galilee and the expectations persist until this day on the hill outside Jerusalem.

1. Is Jesus promise to return literal or a metaphor?

OUESTIONS:

2. While he returns, what are we left with?

3 Why are we waiting for his return?

BETHEL LET'S GO DEEPER

Peter is ready to fight for the cause. But he gets transformed.

1 Peter 5:6,7 "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honour. Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you."

Acts 1:6 "So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, 'Lord, has the time come for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

When Jesus returns this is what He'll look like.

Revelation 19:11-16 "Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for He judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on His head were many crowns. A name was written on Him that no one understood except Himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and His title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed Him on white horses. From His mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On His robe at His thigh was written this title: King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords."

And when Jesus returns this is what He'll do.

Revelation 11:15 "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'"

2. What Happens When Jesus Returns?

I. Jesus Will Reconcile Everything

To reconcile means to restore to friendship or harmony. And that assumes the friendship or harmony that once existed is lost.

On an individual level, if we've accepted Jesus, God and us have been reconciled.

1. What will happen when he returns?

2. What would Jesus reconcile on his return?

3. Why does Jesus say God's Kingdom is already here but also on its way?

BETHEL LET'S GO DEERE

But, on a universal level, when the time is right, Jesus will also reconcile everything to Himself.

Colossians 1:19,20 "For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him God reconciles everything to Himself. He makes peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

All of creation is looking for it.

Romans 8:21,22 "Creation itself looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

II. Jesus Will Set Up His Kingdom

3. What's the Impact?

What is the impact of Jesus' return for us right now?

I. We'll Be Ready

Luke 12:40 "You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

1 Thessalonians 5:2 "For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night."

It means I live my life as if He's returning today.

ii. We'll Stay Focused

1 Peter 1:13 "Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming."

Set your hope on all that's going to happen when Jesus returns.

Stay focused. Our hope is in the Lord. Jesus is coming back.

That's what we're looking for.

QUESTIONS; 1. What do we need to do while we wait for Jesus' return?

2. Do we know the day and time he will return?

43. What is our hope of his return?

LET'S GO DEER

TAKEAWAYS:

BETHEL

1. **His return is imminent.** Jesus will return just as he promised. And it is not a symbolic or metaphorical return; it's a real physical one. He is going to return to set everything right. The is no other way to do that other than judging just and fairly. Setting everyone in their place. That means give to each one based on their own doing, hold everyone accountable. It may sound scary, but it is certainly not unfair. We should certainly expect him to be just and fair. If we know his return is imminent, shouldn't we be getting ready for it?

2. **He will reconcile all creation to himself.** All creation on this earth has been separated from God because of sin. Jesus came to open the way to reconcile it back with God. When Jesus identified himself as the way, he was not saying only as a illustration. He is literally the only way to reconcile with the Father and that includes all the creation. Because all the creation was done by him and for him. Having part of his creation separated from him is not God's will. He wants tcreation (which includes us) to return to the original plan when he created everything. Before sin ruined it. Jesus is the bridge between God's will to be one with him and our current state. He is the way and when he returns, he will finish to reconcile all creation to himself. He already started, we are just living the quick wait between the start and the conclusion of his plan to do so.

3. **Our wait is not in vain, be ready.** The worst thing that could happen is that knowing these things we do nothing about it. If we know Jesus is coming back and he even has told us how is going to do it and what he is going to do when he does (biggest promise ever!), the best thing for us is to be ready for when that happens. We cannot argue we didn't know about it when it happens. It has been announced for two centuries now. It has been announced to us today. So let us keep persevering, obedient and faithful in our faith in Jesus. Our wait is not in vain, be ready. The King is returning.

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?