

CHRIST'S RETURN AND THE END OF THE WORLD (PART 2)

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We are warned in 2 Peter 3:3-4 of “scoffers, walking after their own lusts,” who do not believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will one day return, that this world will come to an end, and that there will be Judgment Day. These scoffers are confident, they are bold, and they are wrong! Christ stated in Matthew 24:35 that “heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” This physical heaven and earth *will* pass away. According to 2 Peter 3:10-12, on that day “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up,” and “all these things shall be dissolved,” and “the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.”

We do not know when, but we are assured the end will come

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise” to send his Son and bring this world to an end, and that “day of the Lord *will* come as a thief in the night” (2 Pet 3:9-10). We do not know when that day will come (Matt 24:36), but God has given his assurance that it will happen by raising Jesus Christ from the dead (Acts 17:30-31). The scriptures also teach that several specific things will happen on that day, and there is a particular order to those events. Here is a list with Bible references of what will happen when Christ comes and this world ends.

On the day of the Lord...

Jesus will come in his own glory, in the glory of his Father and in the glory of his angels (Matt 16:27; 24:30; 25:31; Mark 8:38; 13:26; Luke 9:26, 21:27, Titus 2:13).

He will come in the clouds (Matt 24:30, 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; Acts 1:9-11; Rev 1:7).

The coming of Christ will be like lightning (Matt 24:27; Luke 17:24).

He will come like a thief in the night. The day and hour is unknown except to the Father (Matt 24:36-25:14; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:26-30; 21:34-36; 1 Thes 5:14; 2 Pet 3: 10; Rev 3:3; 16:15).

Christ's coming will be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot, when the people continued to do their regular deeds up to the moment of destruction (Matt 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-30).

Jesus will come with great power (Matt 24:30; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27).

Christ will come with all the holy angels (Matt 16:26-27; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thes 1:7).

The angels will be sent to separate the wicked from the righteous (Matt

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13:47-49; 24:31; Mark 13:27).

The angels will gather the tares out of the kingdom (Matt 13:36-43).

When Christ comes, the earth will quake: the sun will be darkened; the moon will be like blood and stars will fail; the mountains and islands will be moved (Matt 24:29; Mark 13:24-25; Luke 21:25; Rev 6:12-13).

When Christ comes, the heavens will depart like a scroll (Rev 6:14).

There will be a great sound of a trumpet (Mt 24:31; 1 Thes 4:16).

There will be a shout, with the voice of the archangel (1 Thes 4:16).

Jesus will come with all the saints whose spirits will return to their bodies to be resurrected (1 Thes 3:13; 4:14; Jude 14-15).

Hades will give up all its dead (Rev 20:23).

The spirits of the wicked will also return to their bodies to be resurrected (Rev 20:13).

Christ will speak and all will hear his voice and then the resurrection will occur (John 5:21,25,28-29; 1 Cor 15:12-58).

All eyes will see Jesus, including the soldiers who pierced him (Matt 24:30; Mark 13:26; 1 John 3:2; Rev 1:7).

The dead in Christ will rise first (John 5:25,28; 6:39-40,44,54; 1 Thes 4:14-17).

The saved will be resurrected with glorious, spiritual bodies (1 Cor 15:20-23,42-54).

The angels will separate the living righteous from the wicked (Matt 13:36-43,47-49; 24:31; Mark 13:27).

The living faithful Christians will be transformed (Luke 21:28; 1 Cor 15:51-54, 1 Thes 4: 15-17).

The living wicked will run and try to hide (Rev 6:15-17).

The wicked will mourn (Matt 24:30) and wail (Rev 1:7) and be ashamed (1 John 2:28).

All the saints will be caught up to meet Christ in the air (Matt 24:40-41; 1 Thes 4:17).

The dead who are lost will be resurrected in preparation of their damnation (John 5:25-29).

Then the world will be destroyed by fire with great noise (2 Pet 3:7,10-12).

After this, all men will go before Christ's throne to be judged by him (Matt 25:31-46; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27; Rev 20:11-15).