



## Could Jesus Return Without You Knowing?

**Matthew 24:27: (NASB) *For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the son of man be.***



Christianity waits for the return of Jesus. Depending on your doctrinal beliefs, you may be looking for his return to bring incredible drama and life-changing moments - things like earthquakes, destruction, anarchy and a rapture. While we can see scriptural evidence to support SOME of these things, we want to be careful about just viewing the return of Jesus through dramatic and traumatic events. The Bible gives us several prophecies that indicate many details about the method of Jesus' return. These details point to his return being revealed in a much more subtle and unnoticeable way. How can Jesus return in a covert manner and yet *every eye shall see him?* Is this not a blatant contradiction? Let's look at the Scriptures and see how the harmony of these things shine through.

***One way to solve a mystery is by asking the right questions until answers start to emerge. — Brian Stelter***

This is exactly what we plan to do in this episode. We want to introduce our listeners to beliefs we hold dear, uncovering the process of the return of Jesus in a way some have most likely never heard.



**QUICK REVIEW**



**Episode 1185:  
What Are the True Reasons  
for Jesus' Return to Earth?**

Uncovering the remarkable and inspiring mission of Jesus' return

*First Advent*

- Jesus came to PAY the ransom for Adam's sin.
- Jesus came to offer Israel deliverance.
- Jesus came to call out a people for his name from Jews first AND THEN Gentiles.
- Jesus came to convict Satan and declare the end of his reign of evil.
- Jesus came to heal and teach Israel so the people would recognize him as their Savior.



*Second Advent*

- Jesus returns to APPLY the ransom for Adam's sin.
- Jesus returns to restore and deliver Israel.
- Jesus returns to bring ALL people to his name through his called-out ones.
- Jesus returns to build a new heavens and a new earth without Satan's influence.
- Jesus returns to heal and teach ALL nations so they will recognize and follow him as their Redeemer and obey God as their sovereign ruler.

By looking at the comparisons of the first and second advents, we can clearly see the **why** of Jesus' return.

He started work in the first advent and finishes it in the second advent.

Now, let's focus on the **how** and **when** of his return.

**Near the end of his ministry, Jesus told his disciples of his return and spoke of the looming destruction of the Temple as well:**

**Matthew 24:3: (NASB) *As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?***

1. *When will these things happen?*
2. *What will be the sign of your coming?*
3. *What will be the sign...of the end of the age?*

These three questions set up the detailed prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24. We will return to this verse soon.

**At the ascension of Jesus to heaven, his disciples asked him about the restoration of Israel:**

Acts 1:6-7: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they were asking him, saying, Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel? <sup>7</sup>He said to them, It is not for you to know times or epochs (seasons) which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

He was getting ready to leave them and they asked, *Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?* They knew it was coming. Jesus responded indicating there was an unknowable answer as to timing. They were not allowed to know when this would happen.

**This timing "mystery" carried through the rest of the New Testament and focused primarily on the return of Jesus:**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come (the return of Jesus) just like a thief in the night.

*Just like a thief in the night* - Jesus would return quietly and in secret. A person is not looking for or expecting a thief.

Not only was the timing of his return to be a mystery but the RECOGNITION of his return was also to be a mystery. Why?



**Jesus tells us God's plan is to remove Satan's rule by force and with the element of surprise:**

Matthew 24:42-43: (NASB) <sup>42</sup>Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

This brings up three interesting points:

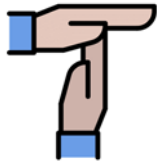
1. Not only is it strange that Jesus would be described as a thief, but now he is breaking and entering!
2. Satan is represented as the head of the house.
3. The house broken into is where the fallen angels reside. All of these steps are invisible to humans.

While it might seem odd that Jesus is shown as breaking and entering and Satan is the head of the house, this is not meant to teach morals. It is being used as an example. Satan IS the ruler of this world. Jesus must "break in" and take rulership.



**Matthew 12:28-29:** (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*But if I cast out demons by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup>Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.*

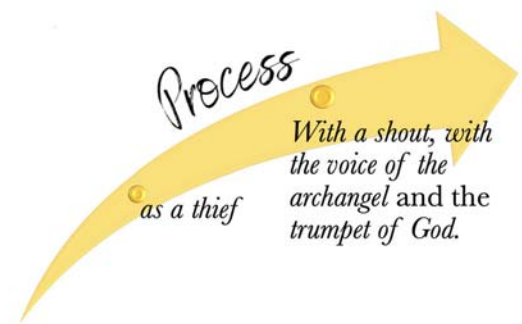
This sounds violent! Now, Jesus is binding and forcefully taking back God's property from Satan, the *strong man*. Again, it is invisible. We do not see it going on because it is happening on a spiritual level. The violence comes as a result of the fighting of Satan who was treasonous toward God Almighty.



Time out! How can he return as a *thief* AND with a *shout*, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God as it states in 1 Thessalonians 4:16?

1 Thessalonians 4:16: (NASB) *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

He cannot, not all at once anyway. And that is one of the important points of developing this subject step by-step. He cannot do both of those things at the *same time*, but he can do both of those things at *different times*. We are suggesting the series of events predicted about the return of Jesus would not all be accomplished in a moment. They are part of a long and detailed process.



It is like puzzle pieces. How they fit together is remarkable.

The many details of Jesus' return are beginning to tell a story that is not commonly heard.

**Are we saying no one would know ahead of time when Jesus would be returning, or is his actual presence a secret as well?**

This is a very important question, and the Bible gives us a well-defined answer. The challenge lies in the fact that the scriptural answer is somewhat hidden because of a translation issue. Let's first visit this translation difficulty and then go on to show how the second presence of Jesus IS defined as a process, not an event.

This is a different perspective for many Christians who look at the *coming* of Jesus and see it as a massive, earth-shattering event. The Bible is telling us it takes place over a long period of time.

Let's begin with the translation difficulty by returning to this previously-quoted scripture: Matthew 24:3: (NASB) *As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your **coming** <3952>, and of the end of the age?*



1. *When will these things happen?*
2. *What will be the sign of your coming?*
3. *What will be the sign...of the end of the age?*

Now, we want to take issue specifically with one word in that verse - *coming*. *What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?* There are some startling details here that are almost always overlooked.

**Coming:** Strongs #3952 *parousia*; a being near, i.e., advent (often, return; specifically, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect

King James Version translates this word: coming, presence

This means TO BE PRESENT, not *coming*.

More examples of Strongs #3952:

**The Apostle Paul tells us what critics said about him:**

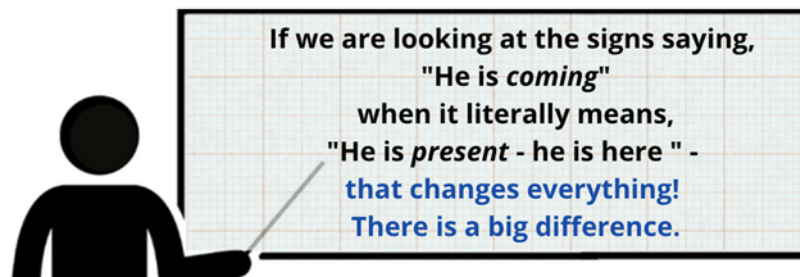
2 Corinthians 10:10: (KJV) *For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily **presence <3952>** is weak, and his speech contemptible.*

They alleged that in person, Paul was not as a strong presenter of the word.

**Paul's presence is contrasted with his absence:**

Philippians 2:12: (KJV) *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my **presence <3952>** only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

**Matthew 24:3 should read: ...What will be the sign of your presence...**



Please see the Bonus Material for an exhaustive list of the use of Strongs #3952.

**Back to our theme text:**

Matthew 24:27: (NASB) *For just as the **lightning <796>** comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the **coming <3952>** of the son of man be.*

The word for *coming* means "presence." Using presence verifies that Jesus was talking about conditions occurring AFTER his return - when he is here, NOT on his way.

We believe this verse is describing the second presence of Jesus using the analogy of the sun rising in the east and traveling through the sky. But how is the sun described in this verse when it uses the word *lightning*?

**Let's look at Luke's rendering of the same verse to verify two critical points:**

Luke 17:24: (KJV) *For as the **lightning <796>**, that **lighteneth <797>** out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the son of man be in his day.*

Two important points:



**Matthew 24:3**  
...so will the **coming (PRESENCE)** of the son of man be.

**Luke 17:24**  
...so shall also the son of man be **IN HIS DAY.**

1. In the prophecy of Jesus' return in Matthew 24, the word translated *coming* MUST mean *presence* in order to agree with Luke 17.

2. Both Matthew and Luke appear to describe the sun's movement.

This changes everything when we read Matthew and Luke together. This is why the context is so important.

**Lightning:** Strongs #796 *astrape*; lightning; by analogy, glare

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) lightning 1a) of the gleam of a lamp

**Two other examples of this word #796 in the New Testament:**

Luke 11:36: (KJV) *If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright **shining <796>** of a candle doth give thee light.*



Revelation 8:5: (KJV) *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and **lightnings <796>**, and an earthquake.*

Because it is translated to be both a "brightness" and "lightning," how can we be sure of its meaning here?

In the Revelation text, it obviously means thunderings and lightnings.

But in Luke, it is obviously the bright shining of a candle. That is not lightning. A candle does not flash and go out.

How do we know it is a shining and not this bright flashing?

Luke said, *as the **lightning <796>**, that **lighteneth <797>** out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven.*

The answer is in the second word, *lighteneth*.

**Lighteneth:** Strongs #797 *astraptō*: to lighten, flash forth

Greek English Lexicon 1) to lighten 1a) of dazzling objects

**The only other use of Strongs #797:**

Luke 24:4: (KJV) *And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in **shining <797>** garments.*



The answer: Lightning flashes; sunlight shines! The word *lighteneth* can mean either a "lightning" or a "steady glare." We see it as the steady glare because it fits the context.

**The symbolic language of Malachi verifies this understanding:**

Malachi 4:1-2: (KJV) *<sup>1</sup>For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

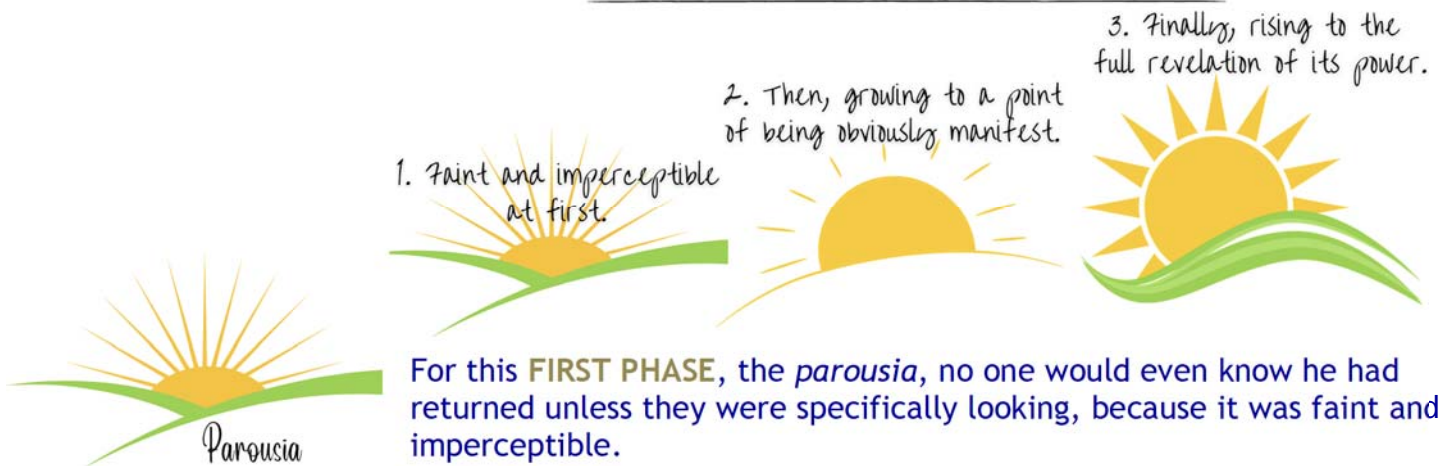
*Unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings* - the sun does not have wings. It is a picture. Jesus described his return as the rising of the sun. Perhaps Jesus took his figurative speech from this verse.

We see these verses as displaying a scripturally-verifiable process for the return of Jesus.

We need to let the Scriptures teach us, rather than put our thinking from the translators upon the Scriptures. As we concluded, Jesus described his return as the rising of the sun. We are going to suggest there are three phases or stages of the second presence of Jesus.

Jesus was describing his return as the rising of the sun.

Like the sun, the second presence of Jesus is:



For this **FIRST PHASE**, the *parousia*, no one would even know he had returned unless they were specifically looking, because it was faint and imperceptible.

**Let's look at the ascension of Jesus:**

Acts 1:9-11: (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>And after he had said these things, he was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And as they were gazing intently into the sky while he was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>They also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched him go into heaven.*

How did he go to heaven? *A cloud received him out of their sight.* Clouds often symbolize trouble.

**There are several scriptures that tell us this:**

Joel 2:2: (KJV) *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains...*



Only those who knew Jesus saw him leave, and we believe that is the same for his return. Only those who are looking and seeking (the faithful ones) will see him return. This is the meaning of *in just the same way* (manner) *in which you have watched him go*. There is a very small group seeing something miraculous. We are given a veiled picture from the angels given to those who are watching to help them understand. Therefore, it helps us to understand what the return of Jesus would look like.

Remember, the disciples asked Jesus when he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel, and Jesus told them, *it is not for you to know times or epochs* (seasons) *which the Father has fixed by His own authority*.

**We believe Michael who stands guard over Israel pictures Jesus at the time of his return:**

Daniel 12:1: (NASB) *Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise ("stand up" in King James Version). And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*



We believe the "standing up" signifies the return of Jesus.

How does this fit into the reality of Israel?



1878 was the first established "moshava" in Israel called Petah Tikva which means "door of hope."

(Source: Merriam Webster Online Dictionary) Moshava: a settlement or colony of independent farmers in Israel who own and work their own land.

Jews were able to own land in Israel for the first time in centuries. Almost no one noticed this incredible fact.

This was a sign of Jesus' return, Michael standing up for his people, that was basically imperceptible, as it was covered in darkness and would be developed under the cover of dark clouds of trouble over the next 70 years.

The return of Jesus is more complex than most ever thought. We really do need to pay attention to the details.

**The first stage or phase of the return of Jesus is nearly imperceptible. What about the next stage? Who would see it?**

It is important to realize that these stages blend into one another. The whole point is to follow the scriptural illustration of the sunrise. Most are not aware when it begins and few are paying attention to it in the wee hours of the morning. Let's look at those "wee hours" of Jesus' return and see what they look like.



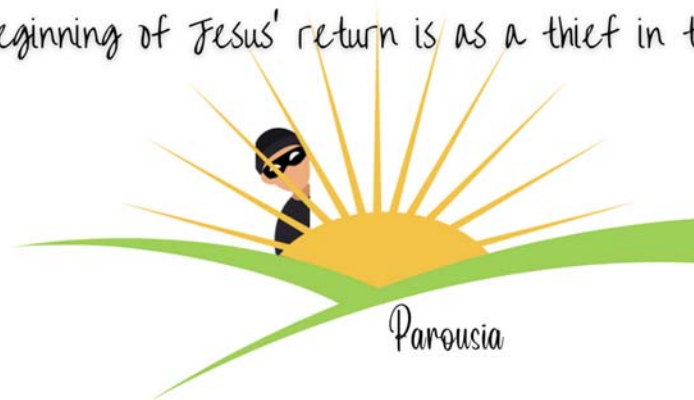
We are suggesting the return of Jesus *already* happened as *a thief in the night*. It happened quietly and imperceptibly, as we see the signs showing us this beginning work he has been doing.

**Paul gives perspective to the necessary waiting for the return of Jesus:**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, <sup>2</sup>that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

This is confirmation that the beginning of the return of Jesus is as a *thief in the night* because there is a quietness here that was confusing the disciples. Paul warned them to not listen to falsehood, be shaken or lose focus. He had already told them this event would happen quietly - no one would know - and they needed to hold onto what he had told them before. Jesus himself had said this previously.

The beginning of Jesus' return is as a thief in the night.



**Paul continues with the theme of waiting. The apostasy (falling away, defection) must come and be in place first, causing a lot of trouble:**

<sup>3</sup>Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is **revealed <601>**, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

**Revealed:** Strong's #601 *apokalupto*; to take off the cover, i.e., disclose

King James Version translates this word: reveal

Note three parts to this accusation by the Apostle Paul:

1. *the apostasy (falling away) comes first*
2. *the man of lawlessness is revealed*
3. *the son of destruction...displaying himself as being God*



We see this defection, lawlessness and destruction AS LED BY THE PAPAL SYSTEM , especially as manifested in the Dark Ages as they took the Christian faith and manipulated it into a politically and monetarily-driven CHESS PIECE OF DOMINATION.



Talk about a “thief” on an immoral level! It is no mystery why they called it the Dark Ages. Torture, burning at the stake - full-blown evil. What was done was horrific.

Christianity is supposed to follow in Christ’s footsteps. When would Christ EVER have done those things? Never! Paul knew that the return of Jesus could not happen until the apostasy was actually revealed.

**Paul was aware that time would have to go by, but he did not know how long it would be:**

**2 Thessalonians 2:7-8:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.* <sup>8</sup>*Then that lawless one will be **revealed <601>** whom the Lord will slay with the breath of his mouth and bring to an end by the **appearance <2015>** of his **coming <3952>**.*

**Revealed:** Strongs #601 *apokalupto*; to take off the cover, i.e., disclose

**Appearance:** Strongs #2015 *epiphaneia*; a manifestation, i.e. (specially) the advent of Christ (past or future)

**Coming:** Strongs #3952 *parousia*; a being near

The seeds of this lawlessness, this defection, were already at work in the early church, but there is someone in the way - *he who now restrains*.

We believe “the restrainer” to be the Roman Empire which would be replaced by the Holy Roman Empire when the papal system took over and power went to the Pope.



Paul has stressed the importance of timing, as the lawlessness and destruction done to pure Christianity would be uncovered or revealed by the manifestation of the presence of Jesus. This prophecy helps to describe the **SECOND PHASE** of the return of Jesus, the *epiphaneia*.

*Epiphaneia* is an indication something different is happening. When we see a manifestation of something invisible, we are not seeing the actual thing causing the manifestation.

For example:

- When we see the tree leaves moving, we know the unseen force we call wind is blowing.
- We may see or feel symptoms long before an illness manifests itself with a diagnosis of disease.
- Remember the illustration of a sunrise. The very first moments of a sunrise are almost undetectable as a very dim light.

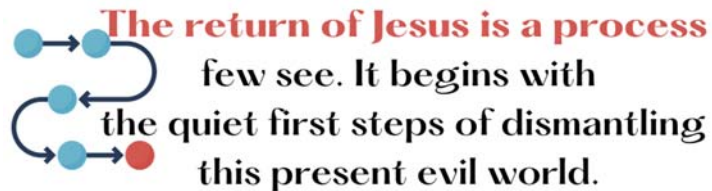


**Some uses of *epiphaneia* relating to Jesus' return:**

1 Timothy 6:13-14: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>*I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup>that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the **appearing <2015>** of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**Appearing**: Strongs #2015 *epiphaneia*; a manifestation, i.e. (specially) the advent of Christ (past or future)

Why *until his appearing* and not "until his return"? The word for *appearing* is the word for "manifestation." Not everyone sees a manifestation.



The "manifestation" phase is where his return begins to become obvious. It is obvious Jesus is back, but only if we are looking for it! A manifestation is not a clear appearance. Rather, it is an indicator that something behind the scenes is happening. If we are looking and using scriptural prophecies to compare to the reality, the prophecies will direct us to see what is happening. This is why we use so many scriptures and try to put them into the correct order.

**The manifestation process is the growing understanding, not the clear-cut recognition that Jesus has returned:**

2 Timothy 4:1-2: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his **appearing <2015>** and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

Paul is focusing Timothy on the necessity of preaching only God's truth, as opposed to being one that does not. Those who *purport* to preach God's truth but do not will be judged with severity when the return of Jesus becomes manifest. The Apostle Paul is saying to stay with the truth of Scripture in lieu of tradition or convenience.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 described the evil that comes with the corruption of pure Scripture. He says to be ready to *preach the word...in season and out of season* because the judgment begins with the manifestation, meaning, the *signs* that Jesus has returned.

**Continuing in this chapter:**

2 Timothy 4:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup>in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his **appearing <2015>**.*

We love his appearing because it means he is here, even if it means a time of trouble follows.



When we look at the manifestations of the presence of Jesus - the time of trouble, all that is going wrong in the world, the destruction of governments - we do not rejoice in the trouble. We do, however, get excited that this destruction heralds the coming of God's kingdom through the work of Jesus behind the scenes! We must take a future perspective on a present difficulty.

In Paul's farewell letter to Timothy, he is focused on the manifestation of Jesus' return, mentioning it three different times. Perhaps his focus reflects a perspective that this manifestation of Jesus' return is the pivot point in God's plan that makes the earthly kingdom of God accessible. Paul did not know when Jesus would return, but he knew there would be signs to show he was there. He was telling Timothy to look for the signs, as they will provide great hope. Even if the signs are negative or scary, they are hopeful since Jesus is behind them - they will be what signals God's coming kingdom. We see Jesus controlling the dismantling of the nations of the world. He is not *coming* but is actually *present*.

Perhaps an early and less obvious manifestation of Jesus' return is the establishment of Israel as a sovereign nation. In 1948, amidst great clouds of trouble, Israel became the Jewish homeland again.



In the prophecy of his return, Jesus taught the Parable of the Fig Tree, showing Israel again as a nation:



Matthew 24:32-33: (NASB) <sup>32</sup>Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; <sup>33</sup>so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that he is near, right at the door.

Some look at this as a prediction of his coming (because *he is near, right at the door*). If we are having company for dinner and they knock on the door, do we say, *company is coming*? No, we say, *they are here!* This is a manifestation of what had previously happened quietly.



We know that this is about the nationhood of Israel by reading the Luke rendering of the parable with a key additional piece of information:



Luke 21:29-31: (NASB) <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: Behold the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup>So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.



Discovering factual evidence of our place in biblical prophecy

In Episode 1186, we addressed how God's plan for Israel's restoration will be unmistakably recognized by those He redeemed (Psalms 107:2-3). Please listen for more details.



Luke 21 above talks about *the fig tree* (Israel) *and all the trees* (other nations) *putting forth leaves* (being established).



Over half of the nations in the world today were established in the year of, or after the year of, 1948. There are currently 196 nations. Approximately 112 came into being since 1948. Is this coincidence or providence?

We see the providence of God unfolding. This prophecy tells us that when we see this manifestation, Jesus is behind it. Understanding this rapid growth in the context of Israel, Bible prophecy and Jesus' return helps us to see marked manifestations - marked proof of his presence. How do we know Jesus returned? We see the signs caused by his presence!

We absolutely live in a time when biblical prophecies are being fulfilled all around us. Let's keep digging.

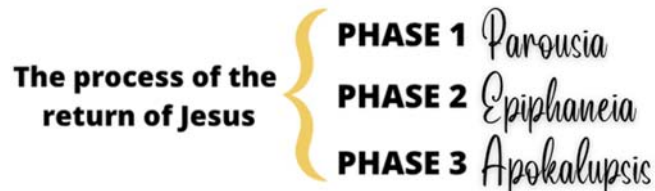
**The return of Jesus goes from secretive to being recognizable through current events. What comes next?**

As we continue unfolding the mysteries of Jesus' return, we are now getting to the part that Christians tend to focus on. As we open up this last stage, we need to remember that every part of his return has been revealed as a process. There are very few big events, but there is a lot happening. These things unfold over a long period of time. God's plans always take longer than we think, but it accomplishes far more than we can dream. It is worth the wait.



Recap of the unfolding of the phased return of Jesus:

- Jesus' presence, his *parousia*, began quietly and unannounced, like a *thief in the night*.
- Jesus' *parousia* continues by being made manifest (*epiphaneia*) over time through specific events that prophecy told us would occur. While he is being made manifest, most are not recognizing him and are not looking for these manifestations. We are instructed to pay attention to the signs.



Now we move on to the final phase of Jesus' return:

- Jesus' *epiphaneia* then rises to a full revelation. This is the *apokalupsis* phase. There will no longer be any question as to WHO Jesus is and WHAT he is doing. It will take time to get to this last phase.

Like the sun, the second presence of Jesus is:



Revealed: Strongs #601 *apokalupto*; (verb) to take off the cover, i.e., disclose

King James Version translates this word: reveal

Revealed: Strongs #602 *apokalupsis*; (noun) disclosure

King James Version translates this word: appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation

**THIRD PHASE:** It is clear - all will see him in the *apokalupsis* phase - his final revealing!

**At this point, the cover is off and all can see the whole truth:**

Luke 17:26-27, 30: (NASB) <sup>26</sup>And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the son of man: <sup>27</sup>they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup>It will be just the same on the day that the son of man is **revealed <601>**.

These scriptures are often interpreted to say that Jesus will come or return on that day. However, it actually says, *It will be just the same on the day that the son of man is revealed*. It is not just a 24-hour day. The *days of Noah* cover a long period of time. They included all that happened before the Flood, as well as the time of the Flood and all that happened after. It took 120 years just to build that boat!

*On the day that the son of man is revealed* - the day of Jesus when all will see him as he is includes the long process of his return *before* that final revelation.

The purpose of the *days of Noah* were hidden from all but Noah's family *until the flood came*. The *days of the son of man* are also hidden from the sight of many, until his full revelation. Coincidence? When we study the Scriptures, we see how they connect with one another.

What happens now when the cover is taken off (disclosure) and Jesus is revealed?

**Judgment will only be conducted in an environment where all know exactly what is happening:**

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup>and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be **revealed <602>** from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, <sup>8</sup>dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

The idea of Jesus being *revealed from heaven* is not the act of his return; it is part of the *process* of his return. We are told what will happen but without the details of how Jesus is revealed to the world or how he surprises Satan.

**True justice and accountability come from this revealing of who Jesus is and what he is doing:**

Matthew 16:27: (NASB) *For the son of man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds.*

We believe there are two aspects of salvation. First, Jesus' called-out ones are resurrected with their reward in heaven. Second, the rest of mankind will have a chance at salvation here on earth in the future.



*And will then repay every man according to his deeds* - it is important to note that mankind will be accountable for anything they have done wrong in this life or in the future. They will not "get away with" anything. All will need to be atoned for through actions and recompense to those they have wronged. Everyone will be accountable to the glorious Lord Jesus - we need to watch what we do now and in the future!

Jesus is revealed in glory, and he is *with his angels*. Who are they? *Angel* means "messenger." In this case, Jesus' messengers are his called, chosen faithful disciples, his true church.

**The true church is being developed now:**

Romans 8:18-19: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be **revealed <601>** to us.* <sup>19</sup>*For the anxious longing (an intense anticipation) of the creation waits eagerly for the **revealing <602>** of the sons of God (the footstep followers of Jesus, his true church).*

**Revealed:** Strongs #601 *apokalupto*; (verb) to take off the cover, i.e., disclose

King James Version translates this word: reveal

**Revealed:** Strongs #602 *apokalupsis*; (noun) disclosure

King James Version translates this word: appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation



We cannot fathom what this glory will be like, but we know it will involve helping reconcile the whole world back to God.

**Our lives must be conducted with patience spurred on by a great hope for us and for all mankind:**

1 Peter 1:5-7: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be **revealed <601>** in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the **revelation <602>** of Jesus Christ;

The salvation of the true church is ready to be revealed (have the cover or lid taken off) in the last days. Such revelation coincides with that of the revealing of Jesus.

**Now that we see the return of Jesus laid out in its scriptural phases, this next text makes so much more sense:**

1 Timothy 2:3-6: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge (recognition, full discernment) of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

The human race WILL be saved before they can actually grasp what Jesus did for them. The recognition - full discernment of truth - comes after the full revealing of Christ and the education of mankind. Justice is served.

The average person who does not care about Jesus will still be raised from the dead. That life comes to them because Jesus paid the ransom price and will call them out from the grave. But their continued life will be conditional. They will be held accountable and will have to comply with God's righteous rules. They will understand God's unmistakable plan and their part in it.

This is a marvelous doctrine often clouded by mistranslation (Jesus coming vs. his presence).

Revelation 1:7: (NASB) *Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. So it is to be. Amen.*

*Every eye WILL see him*, but not before he has come quietly as a thief to take this world from Satan and gathered up his true church. They will only see him after he has manifested himself in many ways, including bringing about the nationhood of Israel, the judgment upon those systems that corrupted the pure gospel and the overall time of trouble. Then ALL will see Jesus revealed as *King of kings* as he fully establishes God's kingdom on earth and abolishes sin, sickness and death.

**So, could Jesus return without you knowing?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**



Join us next week for our podcast on September 13, 2021  
Ep. 1195: Are Curses Real? Curses Series (Part I)

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.

### Bonus Material and Study Questions

1

Jesus' second presence/*parousia* - examining the word translated *coming* but meaning *presence*. Remember, his return begins quietly *as a thief in the night*.

**Coming:** Strongs #3952 *parousia*; a being near, i.e., advent (often, return; specifically, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect

King James Version translates this word: coming, presence

Philippians 2:12: (KJV) *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence <3952> only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

#### All uses of *parousia* relating to the return of Jesus:

Matthew 24:3: (KJV) *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming <3952>, and of the end of the world?*

Matthew 24:27: (KJV) *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming <3952> of the son of man be.*

Matthew 24:37: (KJV) *But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming <3952> of the son of man be.*

Matthew 24:39: (KJV) *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming <3952> of the son of man be.*

1 Corinthians 15:23: (KJV) *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming <3952>.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19: (KJV) *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming <3952>?*

1 Thessalonians 3:13: (KJV) *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming <3952> of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

1 Thessalonians 4:15: (KJV) *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming <3952> of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*





1 Thessalonians 5:23: (KJV) *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the **coming <3952>** of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1: (KJV) *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the **coming <3952>** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

2 Thessalonians 2:8: (KJV) *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his **coming <3952>**:*

2 Thessalonians 2:9: (KJV) *Even him, whose **coming <3952>** is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

James 5:7: (KJV) *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the **coming <3952>** of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

James 5:8: (KJV) *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the **coming <3952>** of the Lord draweth nigh.*

2 Peter 1:16: (KJV) *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and **coming <3952>** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

2 Peter 3:4: (KJV) *And saying, Where is the promise of his **coming <3952>**? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

2 Peter 3:12: (KJV) *Looking for and hasting unto the **coming <3952>** of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

1 John 2:28: (KJV) *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his **coming <3952>**.*

### All other uses of Strong's #3952:

1 Corinthians 16:17: (KJV) *I am glad of the **coming <3952>** of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.*

2 Corinthians 7:6: (KJV) *Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the **coming <3952>** of Titus;*

2 Corinthians 7:7: (KJV) *And not by his **coming <3952>** only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.*

2 Corinthians 10:10: (KJV) *For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily **presence <3952>** is weak, and his speech contemptible.*

Philippians 1:26: (KJV) *That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my **coming <3952>** to you again.*

Philippians 2:12: (KJV) *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my **presence <3952>** only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*



2

Jesus' return then grows to a point of being manifest through events - the *epiphaneia*.

Only use of Strong's #2016:

Acts 2:20: (KJV) *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable <2016> day of the Lord come: - yet, the Lord is already present.*

Notable: Strong's #2016 *epiphanes*; conspicuous, i.e. (figuratively) memorable

King James Version translates this word: notable

All uses of Strong's #2015:

2 Thessalonians 2:8: (KJV) *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness <2015> of his coming: (quoted above)*

Appearing: Strong's #2015 *epiphaneia*; a manifestation, i.e. (specially) the advent of Christ (past or future)

King James Version translates this word: appearing, brightness

1 Timothy 6:14: (KJV) *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing <2015> of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

2 Timothy 1:10: (KJV) *But is now made manifest by the appearing <2015> of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

2 Timothy 4:1: (KJV) *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing <2015> and his kingdom;*

2 Timothy 4:8: (KJV) *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing <2015>.*

Titus 2:13: (KJV) *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing <2015> of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; (previous verses quoted below)*

Titus 2:11-12: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared <2014>, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup>instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

3

The return of Jesus then rises to the full revelation of its power - the *apokalupsis*.

Revealed: Strong's #601 *apokalupto*; (verb) to take off the cover, i.e., disclose

King James Version translates this word: reveal

Revealed: Strong's #602 *apokalupsis*; (noun) disclosure

King James Version translates this word: appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation

Appeared: Strong's #2014 *epiphaino*; to shine upon, i.e., become (literally) visible or (figuratively) known



All uses of #602 relating to the return of Jesus:

Romans 2:5: (KJV) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation <602> of the righteous judgment of God;

1 Corinthians 1:7: (KJV) So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming <602> of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 1:7: (KJV) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed <602> from heaven with his mighty angels, (Context quoted below.)

1 Peter 1:7: (KJV) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing <602> of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:13: (KJV) Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation <602> of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 4:13: (KJV) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed <602>, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Luke 17:30: (KJV) Even thus shall it be in the day when the son of man is revealed <601>. (Parallel text)

The sons of God will also be revealed:

Romans 8:19: (KJV) For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation <602> of the sons of God.

1 Peter 1:5: (KJV) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed <601> in the last time.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10: (NASB) 6For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed <602> from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, 8dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, 10when he comes to be glorified in his saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

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# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1194: Could Jesus Return Without You Knowing?

<https://christianquestions.com/program/1194-return-of-jesus/>

See:  CQRewind  
SHOW NOTES

1. Compare the first and second advents of Jesus point by point to show why Jesus returns. Why was it necessary for there to be such a long gap between the two advents?
2. What are the three questions the disciples ask of Jesus in Matthew 24? What two things were the disciples not allowed to know? Why is this? (See Matthew 24:42-43, Acts 1:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)
3. What does Jesus have to do to return rulership of the earth to God? Will mankind be aware of this spiritual warfare? How can Jesus' return be both *as a thief* and *with the trumpet of God*? (See Matthew 12:28-29, 24:42-43, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 5:1-2)
4. What is the definition of the word translated "coming" in Matthew 24:3? How does it change the way we should be looking at Jesus' return? (See also 2 Corinthians 10:10, Philippians 2:12)
5. How is the return of Jesus similar to the rising of the sun? (See Malachi 4:1-2, Matthew 24:3,27, Luke 11:36, 17:24, 24:4, Revelation 8:5)
6. What are the signs of the first phase of Jesus' return? How have these signs been seen in history? What parallels can we draw between the small group who watched Jesus' ascension and those who "see" evidence of his return? (See Daniel 12:1, Joel 2:2, Malachi 4:1-2, Acts 1:9-11)
7. What did the Apostle Paul say would happen after Jesus' return? How has this been fulfilled? (See 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 7-8)
8. What are the signs of the second phase of Jesus' return? How have they manifested in reality? Is this frightening to you? (See Matthew 24:32-33, Luke 14:29-31, 21:29-31, 1 Timothy 6:13-14, 2 Timothy 4:1-8)
9. What will the third and final phase of Jesus' return look like? What are the conditions for judgment at this time? (See Matthew 16:27, Luke 17:26-27,30, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8)
10. What are the two aspects of salvation? How can we apply these lessons to our lives today? What will be required of the world of mankind after their resurrection? (See Romans 8:18-19, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 1 Peter 1:5-7, Revelation 1:7)
11. Have you seen the signs of Jesus' second presence? How has it changed/will it change your understanding of what's coming in the future?