

GLORIOUS CHRIST IS COMING SOON

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The glorious return of the Lord Jesus is the climax of His salvation. Before He was crucified, Jesus told his disciples, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify, and the third day He will rise again" (Matt. 20: 18-19). True enough, these words were later fulfilled. Then, before the Lord Jesus left His disciples, He comforted them, saying: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14: 1-3). Jesus said that He would go to the Father to prepare a place for those who believe in Him, and that He would come back to receive them into glory.

SIGNS OF THE LORD'S COMING

Concerning the signs of the Lord's coming, the Bible says: There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The fig tree branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves. (This signifies the restoration of Israel and, in a deeper spiritual sense, the rebuilding of the New Testament Church by the Holy Spirit, the true kingdom of Israel. It also refers to the restoration of the truth, testimony and faith of the pristine church). Pentecostal grace will be widespread (the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all believers who will be built up a spiritual house). False prophets (false preachers who oppose the precious blood, the truth, or the Holy Spirit) will rise up and deceive many. Many believers will be offended and turn away from the faith. The love of many will grow cold, and many will fall away. There will be false teachers who will secretly introduce destructive heresies (distorted truths), even denying the Lord who bought them. Some will give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. Scoffers will come and say,

"Where is the promise of His coming?" Lawlessness will abound. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Believers who really love the Lord will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and they will be hated by all nations. But the gospel will be preached in the world, and then will come the end. There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. People will be eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, planting and building..... These signs are being fulfilled in this generation whose wickedness, adultery and perversity have reached new heights. As these things continue to happen, we know that the Lord's coming is near. Behold, the Lord of judgment is at the door! One more step and He will come in!

THE LORD JESUS WILL COME TO RECEIVE HIS BRIDE BEFORE THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The church is not a tangible building, such as a cathedral or a chapel. Rather, it is a body built of Christians who have truly repented in Christ and who abide by the truth, having received blood, water (word), and Holy Spirit - the complete testimony of

unity. When the Lord comes down from heaven, the church will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and dwell with Him forever.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ (believers who keep the faith) will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4: 16-18). An unprecedented great tribulation, which is the last of its kind, will take place after the church is caught up. This tribulation will be hard to endure. Anti-Christ's will be revealed, and they will senselessly kill as they wish those call upon the name of the Lord. "The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition [Antichrist] who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:3-4). "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate" (Dan. 9:27). When the church is in the air, the anti-

Christ's will commit acts of destruction and lawlessness. Those who confess the name of Christ will be persecuted and killed. Because of the fear of death, many will surrender to the power of the anti-Christ's. But being aware that the overcomers have been caught up, many will know that the Lord's coming is real. They may have previously refused to obey the truth or to believe that the Lord would return to judge the world, but at that time, they will be greatly enlightened. They will start to realize the powers of the age to come and the preciousness of the salvation of the cross. They will remember the Lord's words: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10: 28). Then, they will be willing to lose their temporal physical bodies (be killed) to preserve their eternal souls (to confess the Lord's name bravely). "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24: 21-22).

HOW SHOULD YOU PREPARE TO MEET THE LORD

As the great Day draws near, believers should be alert, like the wise virgins in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25 - virgins who have their lamps (hold fast the truth) and have oil in their vessels (are filled with the Holy Spirit). In services Christians always sing and pray, "Come quickly, Lord!" But are we truly prepared? Where will you be when God's trumpet is blown? In a movie theater? In a club? In a casino? Will you be indulging in orgies and drunkenness or in other things God abhors? Will your ears be dulled by lustful, secular sounds so that you won't hear the Holy Spirit calling you? Can you be caught up when the Lord calls the roll? Will you miss the call (and be left in the terrible tribulation) because you are drowned in sinful pleasures? On that day, it will be too late to cry and regret! Now is the time for all Christians to receive the promised Spirit. The Lord Jesus commanded, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). He wants all believers to gain power to love Him, serve Him, preach the gospel, stand firm in afflictions and trials, and lead a holy and godly life, so as to

testify for Him and bring men back to Him.

When saints are caught up to meet the Lord in the air, the great tribulation will begin on earth. The work of every saint will be tested by fire at the Lord's judgment seat. Works done for one's own interests and by one's own strength are works of wood, hay and straw. They will not endure the test of fire. They will be burned, and the person himself will suffer loss. Conversely, works done by the will of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of Christ are works of gold, silver and precious stones. They will endure forever, and he who does them will be rewarded (1 Cor. 3: 12-15).

Dear brothers and sisters, which category does your work fall in? Now that the end time is near, it's God's wish that you receive the wholesome truth of blood, water and Holy Spirit, that is after His will and according to biblical principles, worship Him in spirit and in truth. It will not be in vain if we do according to God's will.

PRAYER: Loving Lord and Savior Jesus, have mercy and save a sinner like me. In my ignorance, I had followed the Devil into sinning. I had no peace and would have to suffer eternally in the lake of fire in the next world. But I thank You for shedding Your blood and dying on the cross to save my precious soul. Please forgive me. I was selfish, greedy, crafty, proud, adulterous, evil and vain. I lied and was vicious. I cursed and was unforgiving and unfilial. I stole and killed. I practiced witchcraft and worshiped idols. I loved worldly pleasures, smoking, alcohol and gambling, watching movies, dancing, reading obscene publications and listening to indecent music.... In the victorious and honorable name of the Lord Jesus and by His precious blood, I rebuke the evil spirits

and sicknesses to depart from me. Baptize me with the Holy Spirit and fire. Let me offer up completely. Grant me obedience and faith to receive the Holy Spirit, to utter forth new tongues to pray and worship God in spirit. Guide me to obey the Holy Spirit and not comply with the flesh, but be severed from the Devil, sins and world. Heal my sicknesses because You are my greatest physician. I rely on You wholeheartedly. Grant me good health to serve and glorify You. Save my whole family so that they may be baptized into Your church to walk in Your will for the rest of their lives and love You more deeply! In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray, Amen!

* Come for discussion. You are welcome. We will pray for you.

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