

HE IS COMING AGAIN!

John 14:1-6

2 Peter 3:1-13

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



The Times We Live In (Luke 21:34-36)

Christmas vs. Feast of Tabernacles

God's Eternal Purpose: The Father's Business

- God's will, plan, purpose.
- "I will put enmity . . ." (Genesis 3:15)
- "The LORD Himself will give you a sign . . ." (Isaiah 7:14)
- "The zeal of the LORD will perform this!" (Isaiah 9:7)
- "God so loved the world that HE GAVE His Son." (John 3:16)

Prophecy = Promises

In the Fulness of Time (Galatians 4:4)

God Planned; God Does (Isaiah 46:10)

He Came to Do the Father's Will (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)

He Came to Die for His Brethren (Hebrews 2:11-14)

- (Matthew 1:22) To save HIS people from their sin.
- He came as His brethren's Kinsman-Redeemer.
- Who are Christ's brethren? Am I one of whom Christ came to die for and save?
 - Am I DOING the Father's will? (Matthew 12:49-50; 1 John 2:17)
- ★ REMEMBER: All of this was OF GOD! (Isaiah 9:7; 53:6, 10; Romans 4:25)

Promise: He Is Coming Again for His Own (John 14:1-3)

- (v. 2) "My Father's House"
 - Heaven is HOME for God's Children. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - A city, kingdom, country, Paradise
- (v. 2) Many Mansions - rooms in the Temple prepared for priests.

- (v. 2) **“I Go to Prepare a Place for You”**
 - How long? Consider 2 Peter 3:8-9 - **NOTE: Repentance NOT Faith.**
 - (John 6:38-40) **ALL** that the Father has given to Me will come to Me.
- (vv. 3-4) **“I Will Come Again”** – It was a PROMISE.
- Christ will **not** send for us, but will come Himself to escort us to the place He has been preparing (Matthew 16:18 - His Church) in His Father’s home. (1 Thess 4:16-17)
- Christ’s desire (as with any good bridegroom) is to be *with* His bride.
- *“Where I am, there you may also be”*
 - **Promised:** John 12:26
 - **Declared:** John 14:3
 - **Prayed for:** John 17:24
- ★ Understanding the Jewish Marriage -
 - ① **The Espousal Ceremony**
 - The gift - the dowry - price. The price for Christ’s bride was His blood/life and nothing less - see Ephesians 5:25.
 - Returns to the father’s home.
 - Legally bound together.
 - ② **After the Espousal**
 - Normally a long time.
 - The groom prepares a suitable home for his bride.
 - He is not allowed to marry the bride until the home is complete.
 - **Only the father** (who has chosen a bride for his son and has accepted this daughter into his family) has the right to say that the home is ready.
 - The bride prepares her trousseau so that her husband will be pleased.
 - Both husband and bride send gifts to each other to remind each other of their mutual love!
 - ③ **The Bridegroom’s Return**
 - **At the father’s word** - see Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32.
 - He comes and takes his bride to the home he has prepared for both of them.
 - They live happily ever after!
- (vv. 4-5) **The question**, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”
 - Jesus *states*: “You, now, know where I am going and you know the way.”
 - “We do not know where you are going?”
 - “How can we know the way?”
 - Jesus is speaking spiritually. Thomas (as well as the others) are thinking earthly.
 - Consider 1 Corinthians 2:14 carefully.
 - Before we point our finger at Thomas let’s remember that the disciples had not yet received the Spirit of truth. (John 16:13)
 - **Yet, Thomas brought his questions to Christ – so that we might know!!!!!!**

THE ANSWER: The **ONLY** Way (John 14:4-6)

★ NOTE: the **definite article** before way, truth, life.

★ **"I am the WAY"**

- "way" – that which lies between **two** points.
 - ★ How does **sinful man** get to a **holy, holy, holy GOD**?
- Christ is the **only Mediator** between GOD and man. (1 Timothy 2:5; Acts 4:12)
- Christ is **the only way** to the Father, **the only way** to Heaven, **the only way** to eternal happiness.
- Man's way will never work. (Proverbs 14:12)
- All men are *out of the way*. (Isaiah 53:6)
- All men are *lost*. (Matthew 18:12-14)

★ **"I am the TRUTH"**

- Christ is the full and final revelation of GOD.
- GOD IS the GOD of TRUTH! (Isaiah 65:16; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5)
- Christ came into the world full of TRUTH and GRACE. (John 1:14)
- 26x in John's Gospel Christ says, "Most assuredly, I say to you . . ."
 - THIS IS THE TRUTH!
- When Christ speaks He speaks TRUTH.
 - According to Christ, "DOING" (obedience) is the measure of our belief in the TRUTH! (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-29)
- We will be judged by GOD's truth. (Psalm 96:13)
- Christ will judge us all - believers and unbelievers! (2 Cor 5:9-10; Rev 20:11-15; Heb 4:13; Eccl 12:13-14; Acts 17:30-31)
- Do you LIVE the TRUTH or are you comfortable ignoring the TRUTH?
- Ignoring the **written** Word (TRUTH) of God is ignoring Christ!

☛ **"I am the LIFE"**

- Dead men *need* life. (Ephesians 2:1-5)
- Consider the prodigal son — Luke 15:24
- Those who believe (and do) in Christ *have already passed out of death into life*. (John 5:24)
- Believers *have* eternal life. (John 3:36)
- Believers who do the will of God have eternal life. (John 10:27-28; 1 John 2:17)
- Christ came that men might have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)
- WARNING: Read Romans 2:6-11; John 5:24-29

"No one comes unto the Father but by Me!" (John 14:6)

- Coming to Christ is not something we do in our own power.
- We are *drawn* to Christ by the Father unto the Father. (John 6:37, 44-45, 65)
- REMEMBER: **"The zeal of the LORD of host will perform this!"**

The Promise Fulfilled: The LORD, A Shout, A Trumpet (1Thess 4:13-16)

- (v. 13) Two groups of people: ① Believers and ② Unbelievers
 - **Those with HOPE and those without HOPE.** (Romans ; Eph 2:12)
- “the Lord Himself will descend” – He comes again to FULFILL the promise.
 - He comes for His own!! – NOT ALL – **only HIS BRIDE.**
 - Unbelievers will not be raised from the dead until AFTER His 1000 year reign at the White Throne judgment. (Revelation 20:11-15)
- He comes with a **SHOUT!** κέλευσμα
 - Definition: an order; a command; a stimulating command!
 - **Consider John 11:43 and John 5:28.**
- “with the trumpet of God” – trumpets were used to GATHER people together for movement! (Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; Isaiah 27:13; Numbers 10)
- **WARNING: ONLY those who are doing the will of God and seriously watching for His return will be taken.** (Matt 7:21; 1 John 2:17; Heb 9:28)

To Him . . . (Romans 11:33-36)

- (Isaiah 48:9-11) FOR HIS OWN SAKE . . .
- BE READY - PREPARATION (Luke 12:35-36)
 - Ready and prepared for judgment (Hebrews 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 2 Peter 3:14; Acts 17:30-31)
- WATCHING/WAITING CAREFULLY/EAGERLY (Luke 12:37; Hebrews 9:28)
- CONSTANT PRAYER (Luke 21:34-36)
- OBEDIENCE/FOLLOWING (John 10:27-29; Luke 6:46; 1 John 2:3-4)
- GATHER TOGETHER MORE in 2025 (Hebrews 10:25)
 - Christ is coming for HIS CHURCH - **MEDITATE!**

WAIT, WATCH, PRAY