## By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #212 ~



Jesus Christ is coming again – He's coming back to this earth. That's the truth, and it's going to happen very soon – and He needs to, for its obvious that this world is becoming more and more of a sinful mess. And when Christ comes, everything will dramatically change, and every person on this planet will be greatly affected. *"They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."* Luke 21:27

How do we know? Because God told us so - "... that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things." (Acts 3:20). Jesus Christ, the Creator, the Son of God, and Lord of lords, first came to this world about 2000 years ago. When He was here, Jesus Himself told us that He was coming again. "Behold, I am coming soon." Rev. 22:12

Do we know when Christ will return? We do not know the exact time, but we will know the general time, and that's because God told us many clear, visible signs and events that will be occurring before His Son returns to earth. *"When you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door."* Matt. 24:32-34 \* The Jewish people will miraculously return to their land and become a nation, which has already taken place. Ezekiel 36-37, Matt. 24:15-20

\* Most people will hear about, and some will experience "birth pains" happening around the world – earthquakes, wars, plagues, famines, and economic distress. Matt. 24:4-8, Rev. 6:1-8

\* There will be an extremely evil man, the Antichrist, who will rule the world for a short time, who will force people to worship him and take his mark, the *"mark of the beast"*. Rev. 13

\* Both Christians and Jews will be greatly persecuted all over the world. Matt. 24:9, 21-22

\* The Jews will be offering sacrifices in a newly built temple in Jerusalem. 2 Thess. 2:3-4

\* There will be increasing lawlessness and evil, which is now quite evident in every country. Matt. 24:12

\* The gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached in all the nations in the world. Matt. 24:14

\* God has given us these signs to alert us, to warn us, to wake us up to the fact that His Son is coming back soon. And He does not want us to be surprised!

What will happen when Christ comes back to earth? Five major, global events will occur:

1. The first thing to happen when Christ returns is the *rapture*, when He suddenly, powerfully, and lovingly takes all the Christians from this earth to be with Himself. At that time, all believers who have ever lived, those from earth and those already in heaven, will be glorified, be given brand-new, immortal bodies, and be gathered to Christ. Matt. 24:30-31, 1 Cor. 15:42-44

2. The *wrath* of God will be poured out upon this earth. This is the Day of the

Lord, a most dreadful time when billions of people will be punished and die, and deservedly so, for sinning, for rebelling against God. You do not want to be here when this happens! Revelation 8-9, 16

3. The *redemption,* the salvation of a large remnant of Jews will take place at the very end of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, a seven-year period of time. Daniel 9:24, Romans 11:25-26

4. The Antichrist and the devil will be soundly defeated. 2 Thess. 2:8-9, Rev. 20:1-3

5. Christ's *reign* on earth will begin. His glorious rule will last exactly 1000 years, during which time the earth will be repopulated. *"God is the King of all the earth... God reigns over the nations"* (Psalm 47:7-8). People will be saying, *"Peace on earth,"* and there will be love, justice, and harmony like never before.

How about you? What will happen to you when Christ comes back? Will you experience God's mercy and be raptured, or be left behind and experience God's wrath? *"It's a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God"* (Heb. 10:31). You do not want to ignore, dismiss, or forget what God is telling you about His Son's return to this planet. With respect to our future, Jesus declared, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away"* (Matt. 24:35). If you happen to be living on earth when Christ comes back, your life will be greatly changed, one way or another. Which way will it be?

The only answer to all your problems is Jesus Christ. And your biggest problem is sin. It's rejecting and disobeying God. It's not loving Him but instead loving yourself and other things, being an idolater (Psalm 115:4-8, Col. 3:5-6). About 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ came to this world to take care of our sin problem. He lived a perfect life, and then died on a cross, being punished by His Father for peoples' sins, taking the wrath they deserved.

To get right with God, to receive God's mercy and be forgiven, to go to heaven, you must tell God that you are sorry you sinned against Him, and believe that Christ died for you, was punished for your sins and paid the penalty you should have paid. *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were* 

yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

It's not going to be long before Christ returns to earth and changes everything! "For yet in a very little while, He who is coming, will come, and will not delay" (Heb. 10:37). Again, don't be left behind! "You will see the Son of Man... coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64). "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. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

P.S. Next to the gospel of Jesus Christ, how you can be forgiven of your sins and receive eternal life, the coming of Christ back to this earth is the most important subject there is. I have written a number of posts on this subject. Here are a few more I encourage you to read: *"Christ is Coming Again, and He's Coming Soon", "Jesus Christ, the Savior, Judge, Redeemer, and King",* and *"Everything on This Earth Is Going to Change."* 

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