

What Will Jesus Do When He Comes Back?

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[0 : 00] All right, you heard it in my prayer. We are living between the Advents. We're living between the first coming of Jesus, baby, God incarnate, laid in a manger, and the second Advent of Jesus, God incarnate on a throne.

And in between the Advents, life is both good and hard. But the Advent season is filled with good things. I don't know about you, but we've got family gatherings coming up. I love buying gifts for people I love. In fact, two weeks ago, we had our first grandchild born. Hudson came into the world. And so Hudson is coming for our Christmas this week. His parents are coming too, but Hudson's coming. So we are thrilled by that. You know, life is good. There's richness.

There's beauty in creation. There's richness in relationships with one another. We delight in our God. So there's goodness in between the Advents.

[1 : 12] But we also know that things are hard. Sin hard. We live in a sin-hardened world.

Just think about your relationship with God. There was a time, if you're a Christian, you were outside of a relationship with Him, under His wrath. Sin wreaks havoc.

Think about your relationship with yourself. Sin will distort the way you view yourself. Either you think of yourself more highly or you think of yourself too lowly.

That's sin hardness. Think of relationship with other people. One of the difficulties about the holiday season is it's front and center.

It exposes strains in relationships with people we love. Some of our own making, some of somebody else's, some of it's shared. We remember those people that we love who have died.

[2 : 13] There are moments of grief. Sin hard. And then, of course, there's our relationship with creation. Back in Genesis 1 and 2, creation was a blessing.

And now it's a threat. And now we work the land with sweat. Christ's first advent.

God became a man and dwelt among us. And He walked on this sin-hardened world. And He died on a cross and He was raised from the dead to start a radical gospel change.

And we know what happened after His first advent. He lived a perfect life. He died a substitutionary death. He was raised victorious over sin, death, and the devil. He ascended to the right hand of God where He is right now.

And He is upholding His creation. He's expanding His kingdom. He is receiving His praise. He's awaiting His return.

[3 : 24] So we know what happened after the first advent. Do you know what's going to happen after His second advent? Do you know what your Bible says will happen when Jesus comes back a second time?

It's promised. It's unexpected. He's going to come back visibly and bodily and gloriously and provocatively. Do you know what's going to happen? Well, this morning, I want to answer that question of what will Jesus do when He comes back?

And there are four things that He will do. You ready? I'm going to sing the last one. So just warning you now. When He comes back. When He comes back, He will gather all.

When He comes back, He will judge all. When He comes back, He will restore all. And fourth, He will reign forever and ever.

Did I get it? More is coming. Yeah, I'll keep my day job. I get it. Martin Luther is known for this quote.

[4 : 43] He's got two days marked on his calendar. Today and that day. Are you ready? One day closer.

Come, Lord Jesus. Let's talk about this first thing He will do upon His return. He will gather all.

We're going to be spending time in our Bibles in Matthew 24 and 25. In Revelation chapter 20, 21 and 22 this morning. Just to let you know, you're going to be going back and forth. We're going to make a couple other stops along the way. But in Matthew chapter 24 verse 30.

We looked at this last week. We read this. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man. And then all the tribes of the earth will mourn. And they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And then verse 31 says. And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call. And they will gather. Gather. His elect. All of His blood bought.

[5 : 45] All of those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. From the four winds. From one end of heaven to the other. So He's going to gather everyone who's been saved by God's grace. When He comes back.

But is it limited to everyone who's been saved by His grace? Would you look at Matthew 25 verse 31? When the Son of Man comes in His glory.

And all the angels with Him. Then He will sit on His glorious throne. Mark that. Before Him will be gathered.

All the nations. What will He do when He comes back? He will gather all. All of His elect. All of those people from all nations will be gathered unto Him.

And now we've got to ask the question. Is He just talking about all the people on the earth at that time when He comes back? Is it those eight? Kind of like if it's now eight plus billion people.

[6 : 51] Is that who He's talking about? Flip back in your Bible now to Revelation chapter 20. Verse 11. This is a vision of John.

John was given this vision. And he says, Then I saw a great white throne. And Him who is seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away.

And no place was found for them. And I saw the dead. Great and small. Standing before the throne. And books were opened. Then another book was opened. Which is the book of life.

And the dead were judged by what was written in the books. According to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them.

And they were judged. So this gathering when Jesus comes back.

I just want to be clear with you. It's the elect. It's all those people. All the nations. All those who don't believe in Jesus. Living on that day when He comes back.

[7 : 52] But it is all people for all time that have ever walked the planet. It is the great resurrection of the last day.

Are we talking 15 billion people? Jesus actually spoke a parable about this.

In Matthew 13. It was the parable of the weeds. And He shares this parable. And this is one of those parables that I love.

Because Jesus then explains it. So let me just read you the explanation of the parable. This is Matthew 13 verses 36 forward. Then He left the crowds and went into the house.

And His disciples came to Him saying. Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field. And He answered. The one who sows the good seed is the son of man. The field is the world. And the good seed is the sons of the kingdom.

[8 : 51] The weeds are the sons of the evil one. And the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest. The harvest is the end of the age. And the reapers are angels. Angels just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire.

So will it be at the end of the age. The son of man will send His angels. And they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin. And all lawbreakers. And throw them into the fiery furnace.

And that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their father. He who has ears. Let him hear. At the end of the age.

When Jesus comes back. What will He do? He will gather all. All. Who have ever walked this planet.

They will be raised from the dead and gathered by angels. All before His glorious throne. And you know what's going to happen at that moment? There will be no question of who's in charge.

[9 : 53] Are you ready? One day closer. One day closer. Come Lord Jesus. Okay.

So then what happens after He gathers all? Well according to His Bible. Our Bibles. He will judge all. Back to the vision in Revelation 20.

Verses 11. Through 15. Then I saw a great white throne. And Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away. And no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead. Great and small. Standing before the throne. And books were opened. And another book was opened. Which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books. According to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it.

The death and the Hades gave up the dead who were in them. And they were judged. Each one of them. According to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

[10:54] This is the second death. The lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life. He was thrown into the lake of fire. At the great resurrection on the last day.

Martha. That's how Martha describes it. In John 11. She knew it was coming. On that great resurrection. The great final harvest of all time.

All will stand before His throne. To be judged. Verse 11. Great white throne.

One seated on it. Verse 12. All the dead are raised of all time. We see that in verse 13 as well.

Verse 12. These books are opened up. This is God's accounting of your life.

Those are the works. What you've done. What you've thought. Your attitudes. Your actions. Your inactions.

[11:59] In the books. Opened up. Standing before the throne. There's this mention in verse 12 of the book of life. Tell me about the book of life.

In chapter 21 verse 27. We find out that that's the Lamb's book of life. And everyone whose name is in the Lamb's book of life.

Is one of the Lamb's blood bought. One who has been delivered from the domain of darkness.

Transferred into the kingdom of the beloved Lamb. And if your name is in the book of life.

And if your name is not in the book of life. Then you will be cast into the lake of fire. The book of life

are the elect of God. The book of life are all those who've been saved by God's grace for all time.

And so if your name's not in it. You will be cast into the second death. The lake of fire. But if your name's in it. Do you know where you go? Chapter 21.1.

[13:05] All the way through 22.5. There's this city. The new Jerusalem. Where we will dwell with our God. Face to face.

He will judge all. What will He do? After He gathers all. He will judge all. According to Revelation 20. It's a sorting. It's a separating.

And then there is this separating unto eternity. Eternal consequences. Like a fire. Or the new Jerusalem.

In Matthew 25. If you want to turn back in your Bible to that real quick. Just to help you see some connections. In Matthew 25. In verse 31.

This is Jesus speaking. This is Jesus describing what will happen when He returns. 31. There is a glorious throne. With one sitting on it. The Son of Man. In verse 32.

[14:02] We see all the nations gathered before Him. The great resurrection. All standing before Him. Verse 33. There is this sorting. This separating.

But Jesus uses different language than books. See. He's talking about what a shepherd does.

Sorting the sheep from the goats. Sheep on His right. Goats on His left. And then He says to those on His right.

Verse 34. Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you. From the foundation of the world. world. And then He describes the basis of His judgment.

For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. And those sheep on His right.

Be like what? Like hold on a second. Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you drink? Like when did that happen? We don't remember seeing you. And then Jesus says.

[15:09] Verse 38. Verse 40. Truly I say to you. As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers. My brothers. One of these blood bought ones.

The least in the kingdom. As you did to them. So you did to me. This is what this is getting at. Jesus bases His judgment. On whether you're in the kingdom or not.

Based upon whether you love like Him or not. Whether you care for the least of these or not. Jesus takes it personally. And then what we see in verse 41.

Is what He says to those on His left. Depart from me you cursed. Into the eternal fire. Prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food.

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. And then in verse 45. The ones on His left will say. Truly I say to you. As you did not. Oh excuse me. They will say. Lord when did we see you hungry?

[16:08] Verse 44. Or a stranger or naked or sick person. In prison and did not minister to you. And He says. Truly I say to you. As you did not do the least of these. You did not do to me. This is. This is the love test applied.

At the judgment. Before the throne. By the way. If you don't know. Our namesake as a church. Christ the King.

Comes from this passage. The King. Here we are. In both of these passages. There's a throne. There's one seated on it. And there's this great sorting. And sifting. Unto eternal consequence. Look at verse 48. And these will go away.

Into eternal punishment. The goats on the left. But the righteous. The sheep on his right. Into eternal life. What I just want to help you to see. Is after Jesus gathers all.

[17:07] He judges all. Are you ready? One day closer. Come Lord Jesus.

And maybe you're like. Well. Maybe I don't want Jesus to come. Good news. Is coming. What will happen after the judgment?

Well. He will gather. After he returns. He will judge. And. Place people. Into eternities. And then. What happens. After that. He.

Will. Restore. All. Things. Flip in your Bibles. To Revelation. Chapter 21. Verses.

We'll read. One through five. Then I saw a new heaven. And a new earth. For the first heaven. And the first earth. The old heaven. And the old earth.

[18:13] Had passed. Away. Gone. And the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city. New Jerusalem. Coming down out of heaven. From God. Prepared as a bride.

Adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice. From the throne. Saying. Behold. The dwelling place of God. Is with men. Emmanuel. Ultimate.

Emmanuel. He will dwell with them. And they will be his people. And God himself. Will be with them. As their God. He will wipe away. Every tear. From their eyes.

And death. Shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning. Nor crying. Nor pain. Anymore. For the former. Things have passed away. Verse 5.

And he was seated on the throne. Said. Behold. I am making all things new. The old is gone. The new has come. Think of creation.

[19:16] Think of the creator. The creator. The creator we live in. Subjected to frustration. In bondage to decay. Famines. Earthquakes.

Tsunamis. United States and Canada. Has their share. Of forest fires. Floods. Hurricanes. Tornadoes.

At the time of his return. After his judgment. All these. Former things. Pass away. Creation is no longer. A threat.

Because behold. I am making. All things. New. You see. This. Final restoration. Of all things. Is the ultimate.

Fixer. Upper. Not with. Chip and Joanna. But with. Jesus. He recreates. The new heavens. And the new earth.

[20:13] And there is a demolition day. And there is a making new day. I am going to read you something. From 2nd Peter chapter 3. I want you to know. What your Bible says.

About the demolition day. This is 2nd Peter 3. 10 through. 13. But the day of the Lord.

Will come like a thief. It's been promised. But it's unexpected. And then the heavens. Will pass away. With a roar.

And the heavenly bodies. Will be burned up. And dissolved. And the earth. And the works. That are done. On it. Will be exposed. Since all these things. Are thus to be dissolved. What sort of people. Ought you to be. In lives of holiness. And godliness. Waiting for. And hastening. The coming of the day. Of God. Because of which. The heavens. Will be set on fire. And dissolved.

[21:08] And the heavenly bodies. Will melt. As they burn. But according to his promise. We are awaiting. For new heavens. And a new earth. Which righteousness.

Dwells. Demolition day. When Jesus comes back. He is going to bring. Fire. Onto the heavens.

And the earth. The old heavens. And the old earth. Burned up. Dissolved. They will melt away. Literally. Have you ever heard. This expression. Hey. Don't put your heart on that. It's going to burn. That's what we get this from.

It's going to burn. You might say. Hey. What is this? What is this? Fiery. Burning stuff. Think of it. As a holy. Purifying fire.

From God. Who brings. The earth. Down to its. Studs. To recreate. Eradicating.

[22 : 07] All sin. And the. Effect. Of sin. Far. As. The. Curse. Is. Found. So. In order.

To make. All things. New. He's. Got. To. Do. A demolition day. So that the new heavens.

And the new earth. That there will be righteousness. And fullness. Fullness thereof. He will restore all things. Now you may ask.

What does that look like? Full. Final. And forever.

Peace. Is not just what it will look like. But what you will experience. Do you know what? When you live between the advents. And when life is good.

[23 : 05] And life is so sin hard. You. You will experience this longing. In your heart. For full. Final. Forever.

Peace. That is normal. In between the advents. Peace. So when we have these kinds of pictures. At the end of our Bibles. In Revelation. It should make your hearts.

Rise. Full. Final. Forever. Peace. With a new creation. Creation is no longer a threat. No longer work the ground.

And sweat. It gives. It's going to be wonderful. The earth is no longer a threat. Full.

Final. And forever. Peace. With all. Whose names are written. In the Lamb's book of life. All of those. Who are in the new Jerusalem. We have peace.

[23 : 59] With one another. Because we. No longer have sin. In us. We've been given resurrection bodies. It's going to be weird. Just think about yourself.

How you view yourself. Full. Full. Final. Forever. Peace. With yourself. No more carnival mirror. Of self-perception. No more pride. No more anxiety. That keeps you up at night. No more shame. Afraid to say things to people. No more guilt. No more fear. No more tears. They're all wiped away. Full. Final.

And forever. Peace. With yourself. And of course. There's full. Final. Forever. Peace. With God. In 21. Revelation 21.

[24 : 58] 3 and 4. And I heard a loud voice. From the throne. Saying. The great white throne. The lambs on the throne. Behold. The dwelling place of God.

Is with man. He will. Dwell with them. And they will be his people. And God himself. Will be with them. As their God. This is the ultimate. Ultimate. Emmanuel experience. God with us.

He will wipe away. Every tear. From their eyes. And death. Shall be no more. Neither shall there be. Mourning. Nor crying. Nor pain anymore. For the former things. Have passed away. You will feel.

His holy hand. On your face. Brother. Sister. And then when you get down.

Into chapter 22. Verse 4. We will see his face. We will see him face. To face.

[25 : 59] One of my favorite. Christmas carols. Joy to the world. The Lord. Will come. Let earth.

On that day. Receive her king. He will come. To make his blessings flow. For as the curse. Is found. Fully. Finally. Forever. At the second advent. After. He gathers all. After. He judges all.

When he. Restores all. Does this not make your heart long? Are you ready? One day closer.

Come Lord Jesus. I'm going to sing something. Either plug your ears. Or sing along. You may want to.

[26 : 57] Plug your ears. By singing along. What's the fourth way? What will happen? He will reign. Forever. And ever.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. King of kings. Lord of lords. King of kings. Lord of lords. He will reign forever. And ever. With us.

In Revelation. Chapter 21. 9. Through 22.

5. We have this vision. Of the new Jerusalem. I'm just going to point some things out. Because. I want you. On. Three days before.

We celebrate the first advent. I want you. Longing for the second. Right. In chapter 21. Verses. Chapter 21. Verses 9. Through 14.

[27 : 54] What we see. Is coming down. From heaven. Is the new Jerusalem. The holy city. We see that in verse 10.

The bride. It's radiating. God's. Glory. Verse 11. It has got walls. And gates. And foundations. 12 foundations. The 12 apostles. Of the lamb. This. Is. Is. Our. Final. Dwelling place. And in verses 15.

Through 17. We get some measurements. And one who spoke with me.

Had a measuring rod of gold. Verse 15. To measure the city. And its gates. The city lies four square. It's. It's got a square footprint. And he measured the city.

[28 : 49] With his rod. 12,000 stadia. Now I know. In your mind. I'm like. You're like. Well I don't know what a stadia is. What's a stadia? Well. 12,000 stadia. Equals.

1,400 miles. So. Let me just help you. Imagine. The footprint. Of this city. Coming down from heaven. By relationship.

To the continental United States. Now. I'm not saying. The new Jerusalem. Is going to come. And land. In the middle. Of the continental United States. I just want to help you. Get a sense.

Of proportion. Green Bay. Wisconsin. To Helena. Montana. 1,400 miles. Helena. Montana. Down to El Paso.

Texas. 1,400 miles. El Paso. Texas. East. To Mobile. Mobile. Mobile. Alabama. 1,400 miles. And then up from Mobile.

[29 : 42] Alabama. All the way back up to Green Bay. There you got it. There's the footprint. Of the new Jerusalem. It's huge. All.

Whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Will wonderfully fit. Within the new Jerusalem. It's massive. And those who dwell in it.

Their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. In verses 18 through 21. We are given a material list of what comprises this city.

And in verses 18 through 21. it starts and ends with pure gold. It's a pure gold. The city is made of pure gold. It's got all these jewels and gems and incredible kind of volume and size.

There is nothing. There's no impurities in this city. That's why it's pure gold. There's nothing impure in it. Here's why that is.

[30 : 53] The city is made out of stuff that corresponds to the people who will be dwelling in it without impurity.

Incredibly valued. In verses 22 through 27, we're told about the lighting system of the New Jerusalem, and it runs on a kind of light that we're not familiar with.

It's called lamb light. Let me read it to you. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of a sun or a moon to shine in it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the lamp is the Lamb. Lamb light. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

And its gates will never be shut by day, and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations, but nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

[32 : 03] This is center city in the New Jerusalem. In 22.5, we read again, they will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light.

The New Jerusalem runs on lamplight. It's glorious. It blows our categories. And when we get into 22.1-5, it's spectacular.

22.1, Then the angel showed me the river of water of life. What? Where's that coming from?

Flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb? Two. Two. Through the middle of the street of the city.

Also on either side of the river, the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. So check it out. In the New Jerusalem, in the middle of it is a throne.

Flowing from the throne is a river of life, and straddling the river of life. In the middle of the city is the tree of life. The river of life, the tree of life. Go back to Genesis chapter 2. In the garden, God dwelling with His people.

[33 : 16] Two people with God. And now, fast forward to the book of Revelation. We're no longer in a garden. We're in a city with a throne and the river and the tree. And we together with God, face to face, in His place, forever.

He will reign forever and ever. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Man.

God and His brilliance is the center of this city. What will happen when Jesus returns? He will gather all.

He will judge all. He will restore all. And He will reign forever and ever with us. Did you see 22.5? And they will reign forever and ever.

They being all of those who are in the Lamb's book of life with the Lamb. Why does this all matter? We're living in between the Advents and living between the Advents can both be good and hard, right?

[34 : 28] You know what I'm concerned about? I'm concerned about where you're going to be come January and February. after Christmas and we hit the doldrums, right? We're bummed out. You need not be bummed out.

Are you ready? This Christmas time, are you on Christ time? We live in between the Advents, good and hard.

We are awaiting His promised, unexpected return, at which time we will all stand before the judgment seat, the throne of Christ.

Now, some of you in the room may be saying something like this. Salvati. How can you take this all seriously? Because this sounds like a bunch of religious mumbo-jumbo to scare people.

Let me just remind you of something. The same Jesus who spoke the words in Matthew 24 and 25 about His coming and about His judgment of the great white throne and the sorting and the separating, this same Jesus spoke at least three times in the Gospel of Matthew that He would one day be killed, crucified, and raised from the dead and it happened.

[35 : 58] The same Jesus. And if that happened, we can bank on it that what He's saying in 24 and 25 is going to happen too.

And just to make sure you understand, when you hear about this judgment day and if you're a non-Christian in the room and you're getting scared about that or you want to dismiss that, His death and resurrection is your only hope on that day.

For you to be in the Lamb's book of life would mean that you would have come to believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, died for your sins, raised from the dead and now you live for Him.

On this day, you can cry out to the Lamb who was slain and has been raised for deliverance on that day.

Merry Christmas. Are you ready? One day closer. Martin Luther, remember that quote?

[37 : 12] Two days on his calendar, today and that day. Because we're one day closer to that day. Are you living this day in light of that day? Our lives are a 70 to 80 year dot on the line of eternity.

Are you living for the dot or the line? How are you using your time, talent, treasure?

Are you using it for storing up treasures on earth or are you investing in treasures in heaven? We're one day closer.

It's all going to burn. Are you ready?

One day closer. Come, Lord, Jesus. In light of this sin-hardened life we live between the Advents, it's good and yet so hard.

[38 : 21] when our hearts get weighed down, do you know what we get to say to each other? Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus. God bless. Because when He comes on that judgment day, He makes all wrongs right. Justice.

Period. And on that day when He comes back, He's going to, after the judgment, restore all things. His blessings will flow as far as the curse is found and there will be full, final, forever, comprehensive peace.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come. So when we get out of the sweetness of this season into the dark days in Wisconsin of January, February, March, and we're pining for things to find hope in, come, Lord Jesus.

Are you ready? One day closer. Come, Lord Jesus. What will He do when He comes back?

[39 : 42] He will gather all, He will judge all, He will restore all, and He will reign forever and ever with us all. So this happened.

Let's celebrate the coming of this God who became a man who has started this radical gospel shift in this world and He will come causing His blessings to flow fully, finally, and forever as far as the curse is found.

Will you pray with me? Amen. Lord Jesus, we are so grateful that You're all grown up.

You're at the right hand of God the Father and You are one day closer to coming back and doing all that we just looked at. And so our response to You is not just come, Lord Jesus, but it is to orient ourselves around You as the controlling center of our lives because You are worthy of that today. all praise and glory to Your name. All majesty and honor, power and might be unto Your name, King of kings and Lord of lords.

[41 : 13] Amen.