

The Return of the King

Method of Presentation: This message is heavy in details along a timeline outlined in the Scripture. A white board illustration is highly recommended. Mark in the events as they occur on this timeline. This message is intense for children younger than 8. In fact, this material is rarely presented to adults in this short essay fashion. The intent here is to familiarize the student with the truth, the facts, that Jesus is returning as King. Apology is not necessary for the Word of God. Presentation of the facts in a Christ-like heart is imperative, however. Remember your audience; define “saved” and “lost” as you go through the message. The object is to familiarize, then offer salvation to those that are ready to receive Him.



Introduction:

Read *1 Corinthians 15: 51-53 Behold I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed., In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Everyone is curious about the future. We all want a window that looks into the future. There are commercials about psychic hotlines. Daytime talk shows regularly have a psychic on the show. Nearly every newspaper has the horoscope. When I was a kid, I had a little black ball that you ask questions to and shook, then an answer would come up to a window. Francine’s great grandma used to read tea leaves and told people’s fortunes or future. The little black “8” ball, the horoscope, and the tea leaves don’t really tell us anything: They are only a waste of time. However, what if I told you that I can tell the future?

What if I told you that when we are taken up into Heaven, we will not stay there very long! What if I told you Jesus is actually coming back twice! Would you wonder if I was crazy, or would you agree with me? If you agree with me, then you would know that I am not psychic: You would know that I have been reading my Bible.

Message Points:

1. **Rapture:**

The Lord told us that an event will come at the end of the Church age that we call the RAPTURE. In the same manner as the foretelling of Jesus’ birth, we have scriptures that tell us when we are getting close to that trumpet sound from Heaven. When we are taken into Heaven we will be judged at the “Bema” or judgment seat and then have a great feast. However, we will be in Heaven with Jesus for only 7 years before He returns and brings us with Him. In *1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17* the Lord says that we will “*ever be with the Lord*”. That means that when He comes back at that great battle, we will come back with Him and reign with Him 1000 years here on earth.

2. *Jesus saddles a White Horse*

While we are with Jesus for 7 years, the un-saved are down here on earth going through an awful time of disaster, famine, fighting, and plagues from God. At the end of the 7 years, Jesus saddles up a white horse and puts on His battle clothes. He comes back to this earth and this time He comes all the way down and puts His feet on the ground and battles the people that hate God and hate Jesus the Savior. It won't be much of a battle though: Jesus will not have any trouble defeating his enemy. We will be with Him, but we will not have to fight this battle.

3. *Millennial Reign:*

Jesus sets up his kingdom on earth for 1000 years and binds Satan and throws him in the pit. Why is He going to do this, you ask? This is a bit involved, but it is about some promises that God made to the Hebrew people a long time ago. You see, we sometimes feel like God does not keep his word, but we have to understand that He always keeps his word: Just not within the time line that we want. During this time the saved people from Heaven will reign and rule with the Lord on earth. At the end of the 1000 years the Devil is loosed for a short time. This will show us that a perfect environment will not make us right with the Lord; we must fall in love with Him. When the Devil is loosed, he will deceive people that have not really received Jesus, that is, the pretenders.

4. *Eternity Future Begins:*

Following the 1000 years on earth, the Lord will judge the lost at the "great White Throne Judgment", cast the lost into the "Lake of Fire", and burn this planet up. But we have nothing to fear if we are saved. We will spend all eternity with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. *II Timothy 4:8*

In Conclusion:

Jesus is waiting to give us a judgment that is more like rewards at a fair or the Olympics. Our wasteful things will be burned up, but the things we have done here for Him will be rewarded. [*James 1:12 and I Peter 5:4*] We will not be rejected from Heaven. However, the lost will not see this judgment. They will see a righteous God that will judge them for rejecting the Son and will cast them into that Lake of Fire with the Devil himself.

In *I Corinthians 15:58* God's Word is so clear. It says: *"...be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* Do you want to be so short sighted that you seek the pleasures of this temporary place that will burn up at the judgment? Or do you want to do things here on this earth that will bring you and the Lord happiness for all eternity?