

***The State Of Our Church!  
Certain Of Christ's Coming!  
Revelation 1:7-8***

**Introduction:**

1. General Douglas MacArthur Is One Of The Most Well-Known & Decorated American Soldiers In Our History!
  - Some Of His Most Famous Sayings:
    - "In War, There Is No Substitute For Victory!"
    - "Old Soldiers Never Die, They Just Fade Away!"
    - And, Referring To The Invasion Of The Philippines By Japan In World War 2 – "I Shall Return!"
2. Why Did General MacArthur Want To Return To The Philippines?
  - Because He Was Very Close To & Cared For The People!
  - General MacArthur's Connection To The Philippines Began Early On In His Military Career:
    - After Serving As Superintendent At The Military Academy At West Point, He Spent 8 Years In The Philippines – Becoming Very Close To The People!
    - His Father Also Served As The Governor General Of The Philippines For A Time, And Through This General MacArthur Made Many Friends – Including The Future President Of The Country!
    - Before WW2, The President Of The Philippines – Now A Close, Personal Friend – Asked Him To Serve As The Field Marshal Of The Philippine Army – To Create & Built It – And He Did!
  - So, It Was A Great Concern For Him When WW2 Began & The Japanese Threatened & Began Invading The Philippines!
    - And He Could Do Very Little To Stop Them!
    - The Japanese Bombed His Fortress – Invaded Manila, Forcing MacArthur & The Americans & Filipino Armies To Flee To Bataan – And Then Captured Over 100,000 Troops At Bataan & Started The "Bataan Death March" - In Which From 25% - 50% Killed!
    - MacArthur Even Considered For A Time Resigning From The US Army, And Fighting As A Private Soldier In The Philippine Resistance!
  - But, Instead, With Great Heaviness Of Heart, He Retreated To Australia – Where He Said: "I Came Out Of Bataan & I Shall Return!"
    - What Great Hope This Must Have Given To The Soldiers & The People Of The Philippines!
3. Of Course, John Has A Much Greater Return In View When He Writes Revelation 1:7-8! (Read Passage)
  - But It Ought To Give Us Great Hope As Christians – More Hope, Even, Than The Hope The Filipinos Had From General MacArthur's Promise To Return!
    - And If The State Of Our Church Is Going To Be Strong – We Must Be Certain Of Christ's Coming!
    - As Peter Put It In 2 Peter 3:12 - "Looking For And Hasting (Or Earnestly Desiring – A Longing) Unto The Coming Of The Day Of God!"
4. As Christians & As A Church: We Need To Be Looking For & Longing For The Lord's Return!
  - It Is His Great Promise! John 14:3 - "I Will Come Again!"
  - It Is Based On His Great Love For Us!
    - Greater Than The Love / Connection / Interest That General MacArthur Had For The Philippines!
  - And Through All The Battles & Hardships – Dangers & Doubts & Discouragements – Through It All – Are You "Looking For & Longing For The Lord's Return?"
    - We Must! Because Of:
      1. ***The Nature Of The Coming Of Christ! (1:7)***
        - 1:7 - "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen!"
          - "Behold" – John Is Trying To Get Your Attention! Look For & Long For The Lord's Return! Keep Your Eye On The One Who Has Delivered To You The Gifts Of His Grace & Peace!
        - His Coming Will Be Soon! Look For It! Long For It!
          - "He Cometh!" - "He Is Coming!" - Present Tense - Pictures Him Already On His Way - And He

- Will Some-Day Finally Arrive!
- His Coming Will Be Glorious! Look For It! Long For It!
    - “With Clouds!”
    - Clouds Often Reveal To Us God’s Glory! And Throughout The Bible, The Return Of The Lord Has Been Promised To Be One Of Great Glory!
    - Daniel - Daniel 7:13 - “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven!”
    - Jesus - Matthew 24:30 - “They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory!”
    - Angels - Acts 1:9-11 - “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. / And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; / Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven!”
  - His Coming Will Be Visible! Look For It! Long For It!
    - “Every Eye Shall See Him!”
    - Not Something Hidden / Secret! The Return Of Jesus Christ Will Be An Actual Event In World History! There Will Be A Date / A Place / A Time When He Arrives!
      - Believers Will See Him First! And Be Filled With Great Joy, Grace & Peace!
      - Un-Believers, However, Will See Him Next! But Be Filled With Fear & Grief!
    - Imagine What His Coming Will Look Like For These Groups!
      - Just As Every Knee Shall Bow & Every Tongue Confess (Romans 14:11) – Every Eye Will See!
  - His Coming Will Be Personal!
    - “They Also Which Pierced Him!” (From Zechariah 12:10)
    - He Will Look Eye-To-Eye With Those Who Crucified Him – And They Will Know Who He Is! No Doubt!
    - Applies Literally – The Roman Soldiers Will Certainly See Him Face To Face!
    - Applies Spiritually – Throughout The New Testament, It Wasn’t Just The Roman Soldiers Who “Pierced” Jesus!
      - Psalm 22:16 - “For dogs have compassed me: *the assembly of the wicked* have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet!”
      - Acts 2:36 - “Whom Ye Have Crucified!”
      - All Sinners! Song: “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? Were You There When They Nailed Him To The Tree? Were You There When They Pierced Him In The Side? Oh – Sometimes It Causes Me To Tremble, Tremble, Tremble!”
      - You Were There! You Pierced Him! And You Ought To Tremble, If You Have Not Received Forgiveness From Him!

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