

THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S RETURN
ACTS 1:9-11

Introduction

In reality, none of us has the ability to carry out our own will. That is why *James 4:15* says ***“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”***

GOD and GOD alone has the ability to carry out HIS OWN WILL!

There are many different times in **SCRIPTURE** when our **SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** said ***“I WILL”*** and then carried out **HIS WILL!**

John 2:19–***“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”***
(And HE did raise it up!)

John 14:16–***“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”***
(And HE did pray that and in Acts 2, the HOLY SPIRIT was given to BELIEVERS!)

Revelation 3:20–***“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*** **(And HE will come in and have fellowship with you!)**

Matthew 11:28–***“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*** **(And if you come unto HIM, HE will give you rest!)**

Hebrews 13:5–***“. . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”***
(And HE never has and never will leave us nor forsake us!)

JESUS also gave **HIS DISCIPLES** a promise that relates to us and relates to our passage of **SCRIPTURE** today:

John 14:3–***“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”***

I'm seeing some folks questioning **HIS PROMISE** because of what they see happening in the world. It reminds me of **JOHN THE BAPTIST** being imprisoned by **HEROD** and sending two of his disciples to ask **JESUS** in *Matthew 11:3*– ***“...Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”***

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But what we see happening in this world should solidify **HIS PROMISE** and cause us to **LOOK** and **LIVE for HIS COMING** because **HE** and others **PROPHESED** of times such as these prior to **HIS COMING AGAIN!**

I want us to see from SCRIPTURE and understand this morning THE REALITY OF CHRIST'S RETURN! I want you to know that IT IS AN ABSOLUTE REALITY! Let's look at our text this morning!
(READ SCRIPTURE)

I. CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSON! *Acts 1:11*–***“...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...”***

1 Thess 4:15– ***“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven. . .”***

Who is this JESUS? HE is the JESUS of the BIBLE!
HE is JESUS CHRIST our LORD!
HE is the EMMANUEL...GOD with us!

A. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Existed In Eternity Past!
The **PROPHET MICAH** wrote of the **MESSIAH** that would come and described **HIM** as the **ONE...**
Micah 5:2–***“...whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”***

John 1:1-2–***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”***

Colossians 1:17–***“And He is before all things and by Him all things consist.”***

B. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Created The Universe!
Genesis 1:1–***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”***

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John 1:3—“**All things were made by Him [i.e. the WORD]; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.**”

Colossians 1:16—“**For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**”

- C. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Was Born Of A Virgin!**
Luke 1:35—“...**The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**” (Thus fulfilling Isaiah 7:14!)

Matthew 1:18—“...**before (Joseph and Mary) came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**”

Matthew 1:20-21—“...**that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**”

- D. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Lived A Sinless Life On Earth!**
1 Peter 2:22—“**Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.**”
- E. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Performed Miracles On Earth!**
John 20:30—“**And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**”
- F. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Taught With Authority!**
Luke 2:47—“**And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.**”

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Luke 4:22—“**And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.**”

Luke 4:32—“**And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.**”

- G. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Died For Our Sins On The Cross Of Calvary!**
Romans 5:8—“**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**”
- H. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Was Buried In A Borrowed Tomb! (Matthew 27:57-60)**
- I. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Arose From That Tomb Three Days Later!**
Matthew 28:6—“**He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.**”
- J. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Appeared To BELIEVERS After HIS RESURRECTION!**
Acts 1:3—“**To whom he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days...**”
- In *1 Corinthians 15:5-8*, **the APOSTLE PAUL mentions his appearances to the disciples, other brethren, and himself. (Over 500 brethren at one time!)**
- K. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Ascended To HEAVEN!**
Acts 1:11—“**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.**”
- L. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Is At The Right Hand Of GOD Making Intercession For Us!**
Hebrews 1:3—“...**when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.**”

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1 John 2:1—“...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Romans 8:34—“...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

M. HE Is The SAME JESUS WHO Came To Seek And To Save The Lost! (*Luke 19:10*)

N. HE Is The SAME JESUS To WHOM GOD THE FATHER Has Given The Power of Judgment!

John 5:22—“The Father...hath committed all judgment to the Son:”

Matthew 28:18—“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSON!

II. CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS WORD!

1 Thess. 4:15—“For this we say unto you **by the Word of the Lord...**”

A. HE Told HIS DISCIPLES HE Would Come Again!

John 14:3—“...I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

B. HE Revealed It By HIS Messengers At HIS Ascension!

Acts 1:9-11—“...while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight...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.”

C. HE Revealed It To John The Revelator!

Revelation 22:20—“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

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*CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS PERSON!
CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS WORD!*

III. CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS TIMETABLE! 1 Thessalonians 4:15 “...we which are alive...”

That tells us that **PAUL** was looking for the possibility of **CHRIST'S RETURN** in his day!

A. The Time Is Not For Us To Know!

Matthew 24:36—“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

Matthew 24:42—“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

Matthew 24:44—“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

B. But He Will Come Back!

2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

IV. CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS POWER AND GLORY! (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

A. There Will Be Sounds Associated With CHRIST'S Return!

1. The SHOUT Of The SAVIOUR!

“Shout” means “a call; a summons; a shout of command”

The same **ONE WHO** said “**Let there be...**” in **CREATION** and it was exactly according to **HIS WORD** is going to **SHOUT** a **COMMAND!**

2. The VOICE Of The ARCHANGEL! (MICHAEL)

Again, we're not told what his voice will say!

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3. The TRUMP Of GOD!

1 Corinthians 15:52—“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.**”

This is “*the last trump*” for the Church because it is a call for the whole Church (asleep and alive) to assemble in Heaven forevermore to be with the **LORD!**

There are some other trumpets of judgment that will be sounded out afterward according to the Book of the Revelation, but this is “*the last trump*” for the Church!

**B. There Will Be A Change That Will Take Place To All Who Are In CHRIST! (*1 Corinthians 15:50-54*)
It has to be so!**

1 John 3:2—“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

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- b. *Matthew 24:21*—“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

CONCLUSION

CHRIST'S return is certain! **JESUS** is coming again! We can count on it!
It is an absolute reality!

HE is returning according to **HIS WORD!**

HE is returning according to **HIS PERSON!**

HE is returning according to **HIS TIMETABLE!**

HE is returning according to **HIS POWER and GLORY!**

HE is returning according to **HIS SALVATION!**

Are you ready for **CHRIST'S RETURN?**

Are you saved? If not, “...*NOW is the ACCEPTED TIME; NOW is the day of SALVATION!*” (*2 Corinthians 6:2*)

If you are saved...Are you right with **GOD?** Are you ready to stand before **CHRIST** to give an account of your walk since you've been **SAVED?**

V. CHRIST'S RETURN WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS SALVATION! (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*—“...the dead in Christ...”

“...*we which are alive...*” He was addressing **BELIEVERS!**)

A. Those Who Have Trusted Christ Will Be Caught Up!

1. Dead. (“*Dead in Christ...*” “*Sleep in Jesus*”)

2. Alive. (“*We which are alive..*”)

B. Those Who Have Not Trusted Christ Will Stay.

1. Dead—Will stay where they are until the final judgment.

2. Alive—Will Go Through The Tribulation Period.

a. *2 Thessalonians 2:7-12*