

## **Great Expectations**

### **Anticipating the Return of Jesus**

Selected Scriptures

1. **An Ancient Anticipation: The Day of the Lord**

God is righteous, and He has shown that He is willing to act with severe justice towards those who transgress His commands (cf. Gen. 2:16-17; 6:5-7). He had revealed a coming day when He would, with finality, judge the wicked (Mal. 4:1ff) and bless the righteous (Joel 2:21ff; 3:16-21).

2. **A Continuing Anticipation: The Teachings of Christ**

Jesus did not intend to bring about the climactic day of judgment during His ministry or prior to the cross (Luke 4:15-19; cf. Isa. 61:1-2). He will ultimately judge all people according to how they treat Him (Matt 25:31-46). Jesus will come suddenly and surprise everyone (Matt. 24:37-41; cf. 2 Pet. 3:10), and His judgment will be ultimate and final (Rev. 19:11-21).

3. **A Focused Anticipation: The Clarity from Christ**

Jesus made it clear that He will return and fulfill the anticipated Day of the Lord. We do not have nearly as much clarity on all of the details concerning His second coming as we do concerning His first coming, but there is a lot which we know for certain.

A. His Return is Immanent

The exact timing of His return in Judgment has not been disclosed to anyone (Matt 24:36), but we are to expect that His return will be soon (Rev. 22:12; cf. Mark 13:33-37).

B. His Return will be Physical

Jesus will descend upon the mount of olives (Lk. 24:50-53; Acts. 1:9-12).

C. His Return will bring Blessings

Jesus promised that He would receive us into an inheritance which He has prepared for us (John 14:1-6).

D. His Return will bring Judgment

Jesus will bring ultimate judgment to bear upon all men when He returns (Matt 7:21-23; Luke 10:10-16). All people, from all time, whose names are not written in the book of life will be forever condemned to torment (Rev. 20:12-15).

4. **A Motivating Anticipation: The Required Response**

One of the follies of waiting for the fulfillment of prophecy is that you can become complacent (Matt. 25:1-13). Christians ought to joyfully long for Jesus to return and be found living faithfully when he does (1 John 2:28-29).