

## WHAT IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW

### 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

**Introduction:** Looking back through the centuries many outstanding things can be noted: the creation, the fall of man into sin, the flood, the release of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Today, in our time there are still great events taking place: space travel is about to happen as men and women have been put into space and space crafts have taken men to the moon and have gone to far, distant planets. There have been some wonderful medicinal advancements made and cures for many diseases have been found, yet the greatest event of all has not happened yet. It is yet to happen, perhaps it will occur in our generation. Jesus is going to return to this earth. THAT will be the greatest event of this world. When will this happen? Perhaps very soon as prophecies about the return of Jesus and the end of the world as we know it have been fulfilled. The Jews are back in their own land, a recognized nation once again. The only thing that stands between us and the return of Jesus is when God says it's time. What if God says Jesus can come back tomorrow? What would be the results?

#### I. OBVIOUSLY MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE GREATLY SURPRISED

There are thousands of Christians looking for the return of Christ and they would be overjoyed, but the majority of the population of the world would be greatly surprised. They have neglected the Bible, countless don't believe in the return of Jesus and of course there will be scoffers. People laugh today at the thought of Jesus returning. Perhaps the most surprised people of all will be sinners who knew about Jesus' coming return but thought they had plenty of time. Jesus will come suddenly and there will be surprised sinners - will you be one of them?

Not long ago, a soldier who had been in Iraq for over a year was allowed to come home for a short furlough but only his wife knew about it. The mother took their little girl to the airport but never told the little girl who was coming in. Upon seeing her daddy come through the gate she began to jump and cry "it's daddy, it's daddy." America was surprised with the attack on Pearl Harbor many years ago and Japan was surprised with the dropping of two atomic bombs, again America was surprised when the two air liners were crashed into twin towers and the Pentagon. All around the world things have taken people and their nations by surprise but the greatest surprise this world will ever witness will be when Jesus comes back.

#### II. IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW, HE WOULD FIND A GREAT FALLING AWAY FROM THEIR FAITH

Once nearly all mankind believed in God, in the Bible, in the divinity of Jesus Christ, in heaven in hell and in the judgment. Within the last 50 years things have crept into the Christian faith and changed things. The Bible is no longer relied upon for it's truths, man trusts in his own wisdom, relies on his own opinions and there are countless doctrines and religions. Preachers of the Gospel have been led astray from the Biblical truths and in turn lead their church members away also. There are church members who are very vocal about the evils of sin but who eventually yield to the very things they spoke against. When Jesus returns one needs to be found living as close to Christ as possible and being true to His teachings.

### **III. IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW. THE DEAD IN CHRIST WOULD RISE FIRST**

All of us are familiar with death. We have all lost someone close to us and have been to a cemetery at one time or another and have seen our loved ones lowered into the earthly grave enclosed in their casket. It is always a sad time. When Jesus returns the Bible tells us that these very bodies will rise to meet Him if they were Christians. When a Christian dies, that body is buried but the soul goes to be with God. When Jesus returns, that body and soul will be reunited and then everything will be complete. However the bodies of the unsaved will continue to remain in the grave.

### **IV. IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW. ALL LIVING CHRISTIANS WOULD BE CHANGED AND CAUGHT UP TO MEET HIM IN THE AIR**

Since the dead in Christ will meet Him first, the living Christians bodies will then be changed into the likeness of Jesus in an instant, rise up into the air to meet Him and with those who had just been resurrected and changed, ascend to the place Jesus has prepared for Christians. Many stories have been written and films made about what it might be like when Jesus returns. Planes left without pilots and passengers, families left without a mother or dad, hospital beds emptied and other situations where Christians might be. Nobody really know what it will be like but the Bible does say it will happen suddenly, without notice. Will you be left behind?

### **V. IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW, ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE WOULD BE OVER**

Most people put things off until later, or perhaps indefinitely, even Christian duties. Sadly, some will put serving Jesus off too long for Jesus will come suddenly, without warning and countless people will wish they had not put off their Christian duties. So often a Christian will say "no, not right now" or "find somebody else" or "I can't do that." There will come a time when there will be no more opportunity to do things for the Lord and it will come suddenly and then comes accounting time before the very one the Christian was supposed to be serving but didn't.

### **VI. IF JESUS CAME BACK TOMORROW, ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO BE SAVED WOULD BE OVER**

Every day, every minute, the Holy Spirit invites sinners to turn to Jesus in belief. There will be no more chance to turn to Jesus when He returns suddenly. A preacher in a tent revival meeting asked for everyone who was saved to come to the front of the tent. When all the Christians had come to the front he then asked those who were stayed in their seats to look around and said, "this is how it will look when Jesus comes back. You will be left all alone."

### **CONCLUSION:**

It is a fact. Jesus is coming back some day. The dead believers' bodies will be brought out of their graves and joined back with their souls and then the living believers will be changed and caught up with the others to be with the Lord forever.

Now is the time to get things right with God, not later.