

WHEN IS JESUS COMING BACK?

Hebrews 9:28

Introduction: Every generation has had people who thought they could tell the future. Some have had crystal balls, some look at cards, some look at the stars, some throw sticks on the ground, but in reality, nobody has ever been accurate and have just guessed with enough "personality" to actually persuade some people that what they said would actually happen. There is somebody who does know the future though and that somebody is God. He has revealed much through His prophets but of a lot He revealed, He never said "when" it would take place. The return of Jesus is something God said would happen but He never said exactly when but did give signs for His children to watch for.

I. SOME CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF TODAY THINK JESUS IS COMING SOON

1. One said, "...the Lord's return is near, don't make any long range plans..."
2. Another one said, "...in a not too distant future the King will come..."
3. An older leader said, "...the sounds of insecurity today are perhaps the death rattle of an end to an era of civilization..."
4. Someone else said, "...we need to get ready, the Lord is going to return..."
5. A television preacher said, "...the hour hand on God's clock is wound up and spinning..."
6. Christian pastors, teachers, evangelists, theologians all over the world are saying it is soon.

II. GOD'S WORD SPEAKS OF THE RETURN OF JESUS

1. One out of ever 30 verses in the Bible says something about the return of Jesus Christ.
2. Within the 216 chapters in the New Testament there are over 300 references to Christ's return.
3. Of the 27 books of the New Testament, 23 speak of the return of Jesus Christ.
4. Many Old Testament prophets, such as Job, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and some of the "minor" prophets also spoke of the return of Jesus Christ.
5. From His own lips, Jesus spoke of His departure and of His return.
6. The first church believed that Jesus would return at any time and taught this truth.

III. ALL THROUGH THE AGES IT HAS BEEN TAUGHT THAT JESUS WOULD RETURN

1. The church creeds, statements of doctrinal beliefs, public declarations by churches through the centuries have all emphasized and taught that Jesus would return.
2. Jesus did say He would return and the disciples believed it. The first church taught it and every church through the ages has believed and taught it as well. Christian leaders of today are saying that the return of Jesus seems to be at hand. What should one do?

IV. SILENCE CAUSES INDIFFERENCE

1. Every generation has it's skeptics about the return of Jesus.
 - Over 2,000 years have come and gone and He hasn't come yet, what makes you think He's ever going to return?
 - Every generation has looked for signs and thought they have seen some, as now.

2. Jesus' coming again has been preached for generations and Christians have become so familiar with the scriptures and sermons that it is hard to grasp that that Great Day could be here.
3. The bible warns (2 Peter 3:3,4,9,10) that there will always be those who will cast doubt that Jesus is going to return, so don't be surprised at their disbelief and talk.

V. SATAN DOESN'T WANT JESUS TO RETURN

1. Satan's message to all who would hear is that "Yes, Jesus will probably come back someday, but don't be concerned about it cause it isn't going to be today.."
2. Satan knows that whenever a Christian really believes that Jesus is coming back soon, it bothers him because that Christian will be hard to get back into sin and away from God.
3. Satan works gradually in hardening hearts and has people looking every direction except forward.

VI. THE SCRIPTURES INDICATE TWO SEPARATE RETURNS OF JESUS

1. In the upper room with His disciples, Jesus told them of going away but coming again. (John 14:1-3)
2. Jesus compared His return as a groom going to his wedding.
 - The bride to be waited while the groom to be went away to make things ready and the grooms' father was in charge of setting the wedding date.
3. Jesus will return the first time for His Bride, the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
 - Only Christians, the Church, the Bride of Christ will be taken away.
 - His return will be sudden and only the Father knows the exact time, not even Jesus.
 - The world will neither hear nor see Jesus' return for His bride but only His bride will know.
4. Jesus will return the second time after seven years of great tribulation on earth has occurred as described in Matthew and Revelation. (Zechariah 14:4-5; Revelation 19:11-14)
 - Jesus' second return will follow exactly seven years of the worst times in world history.
 - Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives from which He ascended as His disciples watched.
 - The entire world will see and hear as Jesus comes the second time.

CONCLUSION:

1. The generation of today is closer than man has ever been to the return of Jesus.
2. The closer the return of Jesus gets, the more frequent the signs that God said to watch for.
3. This present generation has experienced more signs of varying degree than any other generation.
4. Notice the news: fires, floods, winds, disease, volcano eruptions, wars, murders, violence, hate, nation turned against nation.
5. Those who are looking for the imminent return of Jesus might wonder of the news agencies reporting all the violence within nature and mankind realize that what they are reporting seem to be the very signs God said to watch for that will usher in the return of Jesus.
6. If Jesus came tonight, would you be ready? He is coming for His Bride, the Church, His Saints, His Believers, are you going to be included?