

SO WHAT

- How do you feel about Christ's imminent return? Do you look forward to it with fear or excitement?
- How can we be ready for Christ's return?
- Why do you think some believers focus on when Christ will return? What does the Bible say about this?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He will do what He has said He will do? Have you put your faith in Christ alone for your salvation? If not, would you like to do so today?
- How should the promise of Christ's return affect how you live every day? How can you prepare for His return?
- Among your friends and family, who needs to hear the gospel? How can you tell them about what God has done for you this coming week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for what He has done and what He will do for you. Thank Him for His imminent, glorious return.
- Pray that you will be watchful, prepared, and ready for Christ's return. Pray that you will serve God and walk with Him all the days of your life.
- Pray for your friends and family to know God. Believe God for opportunities to share the gospel and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a witness.



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WEEK 3

The Returning King



NOTES

CONNECT

- What's your favorite movie sequel or TV series? Why do you like it so much?
- Tell us about one thing you hope to accomplish in the next five or ten years.
- Are you a patient person? Recall a specific instance explaining this.

WORD

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." ACTS 1:11

WHAT

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He was taken up to heaven and He left with a promise—He will come back one day. We can hold on to His promise, just as His disciples did. He is our returning King and we can wait for His return with anticipation, faith, and hope. In this lesson, we will look at three truths about the return of King Jesus.

1 Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead . . . 2 TIMOTHY 4:1

³¹*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."* MATTHEW 25:31,32

Jesus, our King, came two thousand years ago to save us from our sin. And one day, He will return to judge the living and the dead. One day, we will give an account for how we lived. Though this may be a scary thought, as believers, we can rest on Christ's finished work on the cross. What is Christ's judgment for believers? How about for unbelievers?

2 Jesus is coming back when we do not expect it.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. . . 2 PETER 3:10

³⁶*"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. . .* ⁴⁴*So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."* MATTHEW 24:36,44

We do not know when Jesus will return—but He told us that this is not our concern. The Bible assures us that we cannot expect the day or hour. But what does matter is what we do while we are waiting for our King to return. Why do you think the Bible refers to the day of Jesus' return "like a thief"? What does it mean to "be ready"?

3 Jesus is coming back in glory.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory." MATTHEW 25:31

Jesus' return will be glorious because He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Son of God—victorious, triumphant—and He is seated at the right hand of the Father. He reigns and will reign in glory forever and ever. As believers, we can look forward to Christ's return with excitement and joy. Why will Christ's return be better than anything we've ever imagined?
