When will Christ return? Could he come back tonight?



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: Christ's return, the Beast and false prophet, Moses and Elijah, the two witnesses, 7 Seals of Revelation, 7 Trumpets, 7 Last plagues, Man of Sin, heavenly signs, time cut short, time delayed, Lazarus, spirit in man, Wedding Supper, Sea of Glass, Ellen G. White, William Miller. Could Christ return soon — as within the next decade? Or later?

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Summary: The burning question for many Christians – when will our Savior return? Could Christ return tonight? DO certain events have to happen first before He returns, or could he just come back at any moment? How "bad" will the world be before Christ returns? Are we there yet? Find out in this fast-moving message that explores Matthew 24, Revelation 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and more! Some great graphics in this sermon. ***

The burning question for many Christians is when will our Savior return? Could Christ return tonight? Or do certain events have to happen first before He returns, or could he just come back at any moment? Or can we know for sure if he's possibly coming back tonight – or not? Yes, we can.

Who absolutely knows when Christ will return? Two thousand years ago, Yeshua said **only his father knows for sure when HE would send Yeshua back to rule the earth**. Maybe by now Yeshua knows too, but definitely Father knows. Listen to Christ after his resurrection as he spoke to his disciples:

Acts 1:6-7

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."

Mark 13:32

"But of that <u>day</u> and <u>hour</u> **no one knows**, <u>not even the angels in</u> <u>heaven, nor the Son,</u> but **only the Father**."

Christ in Acts 1:7 said back then that we can't know the "times or seasons". **But, as we get ever closer to his return, the signs of his return will be as clear** as leaves budding on a fig tree showing summer is nigh, and by then we should have a clearer picture of when the Return will occur. That's why we must stay close to God and be alert as to what's going on in the world around us as well.

Mark 13:28-29

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 So YOU ALSO, when you see these things happening, know that it is near — at the doors!"

So at some point, I'm pretty sure those who are close to God will be able to say—"we've got to be within 5 years now, because this prophecy and that sign are happening before our very eyes and the books of Daniel and Revelation show us these happen at the very, very end time".

So greetings again, I'm Philip Shields, and welcome to our website. I recommend you have the NOTES up on your screen as you listen, so you get all the main points and scriptures. <u>Much</u> more is said on the video than in the notes (I just can't do every word for word), so do both. Please tell others about our website — where it's free, we preach God's word, and I'm not bound by some corporate rule or other.

So back to my questions: when is Christ returning? Can it be tonight or even the next few months? We've had so many religious leaders flop when they set definite dates — like 1914 Jehovah's Witnesses, Ellen G. White's prediction of 1844, plus **William Miller did same for October 22, 1844**. But Christ did not return. Herbert Armstrong felt it would happen in 1975, but it didn't.

Then add the hundreds who have preached, "Christ could come tonight! Are you right with the Lord?" But Christ didn't come any of those nights. So can Christ really return tonight? Is that true?

The only ones for whom it could seem Christ indeed came tonight — are those who have recently died, or who die tonight — as scripture calls death just a temporary sleep. Here are other verses that call death — a "SLEEP"- in God's

eyes. <u>Daniel 12:2; Matthew 9:24; Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 15:51; 1</u> Thessalonians 4:15.

<u>Their</u> next conscious moment would be the resurrection and seeing their Savior waiting for them in the clouds (**1 Thess. 4:16-17**). And so <u>for them</u>, it would feel like "Christ came tonight". But not for the rest of us, as you'll see.

Yes, death — in God's view — is just a sleep. Do you remember the story of Lazarus' resurrection? He had been ill, and then Yeshua — who was waiting around for a while, said this:

John 11:11-14

These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend **Lazarus** *sleeps*, but I go that *I may wake him up*."

12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get well." 13 However, **Jesus spoke of his death,** but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is **dead**."

Notice something else, by the way. Jesus was not afraid to speak bluntly and plainly. He said, "Lazarus is DEAD". We seem to steer away from the "D word" – like saying "he died". We prefer euphemisms like "he passed on" or "She passed away".

Scripture does speak of "giving up the spirit" — as our spirit-in-man goes back to God who gave it to us (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). Be sure to hear my sermon **on The Spirit in Man**, which makes us different from the animals and makes us have a mind, makes us human, with a spirit interface that could receive and use and interface with God's Holy Spirit.

Here's the link to the Spirit in Man sermon: Here is part 1 to the 2-part series: https://lightontherock.org/message/who-and-what-are-we-really-spirit-in-man-part-1-of

2?highlight=WyJzcGlyaXQiLCInc3Bpcml0Iiwic3Bpcml0J3MiLCJzcGlyaXQn LiIsImluIiwiJ2luIiwibWFuIiwibWFuJ3MiLCInbWFuIiwic3Bpcml0IGluIiwic3 Bpcml0IGluIG1hbiIsImluIG1hbiJd

But other than those who may die "today", and their next waking moment is with Christ returning in the clouds -- I'm going to show you that Christ is not coming back tonight or even in the next few months. Not even in the next 3 years, as of end of July 2021 at least.

HOW can I be so sure? Because Scripture tells us clearly there are certain things which must happen first, before Jesus/Yeshua returns. In some scriptures, entire multiple YEARS -- like 3-1/2 years – are assigned to certain events *prior* to Christ's return.

So – WHEN <u>WILL</u> Messiah return? Paul faced the same rumors or teachings that Christ had already returned or would soon return -- 2,000 years ago. Let's read what HE told the Thessalonians – and tells us:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 NKJV

"Now, brethren, <u>concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ</u> <u>and our gathering together to Him</u>, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will NOT COME UNLESS the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

Now let me read the same passage, but this time from the Complete Jewish Bible.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 CJB

"But **in connection with the coming of our Lord Yeshua** the Messiah and our gathering together to meet him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be easily shaken in your thinking or anxious because of a spirit or a spoken message or a letter supposedly from us claiming that the Day of the Lord has already come.

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will NOT come UNTIL after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.

4 He will oppose himself to everything that people call a god or make an object of worship; he will put himself above them all, so that **he will sit** in **the Temple of God** and **proclaim that he himself is God.**"

Paul says a lot here. Don't think Christ is coming right away, Paul says, because we still need to see the Man of Sin show up first — the False Prophet - - who'll demand to reign in a future TEMPLE of God as though he is GOD.

This "temple of God" refers to a real building that someone can sit in. It's not referring to us believers who are spiritually God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16).

If you think no human-built temple today could be called "the Temple of God" – as Paul calls it in **2 Thes 2:4** – think again. Yeshua himself called the temple of evil HEROD – "My Father's house".

John 2:14-16

And He found in **the temple** those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, <u>He drove them all out of the temple</u>, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! **Do not make** *My Father's house* a house of merchandise!"

So it seems to indicate **that there will be a temple built, and at some point, someone will sit in that "temple of God" as GOD**, demanding WORSHIP. **Daniel 9:27** seems to tell us that animal sacrifices will be reinstituted at this temple initially, and then stopped. Whether that happens just like that or not – my point is: Christ is not returning, according to Paul's inspired teaching, <u>until after</u> there's first a Man of Sin who sits in a future temple of God proclaiming himself to be God **(2 Thess. 2:1-4).**

Has any of that happened yet? Do we even see a temple yet? Do we see such a man of Sin yet? NO, no, no. At some point we WILL see it, and we will know time is very short. I suspect strongly that this Man of Sin already is alive and well somewhere on the earth. Some like to dogmatically say this man of Sin is the Pope. Time will tell. We need to ride loose in the saddle until we know for sure on things of prophecy.

Remember, when Messiah *does* return, final events will all happen SUDDENLY — like the springing of a trap — but only after certain things happen first. Noah got one week's warning (see my blog on Noah's ark). LOT got a few minutes, maybe an hour or so warning, and that was it. Angels had to pull him out of Sodom! I have a recent sermon on a primary lesson of "as in the time of Noah" or in the time of Lot ...(Matthew 24:36-44).

On your own, read Matthew 24:45-51, where Yeshua warns us all to be diligently working his work, to be seeking God's will and to be busy while we wait. I'll write a blog on this soon. We must not just wait around.

When I say Christ is not coming tonight, do not infer from that I'm saying he's not coming soon. He's definitely not coming tonight, but I do expect him to be here certainly with 20 years, and I personally believe within 10 years. We'll see.

Here are some basic points then as we ponder if Christ could come back tonight:

- The Man of Sin sits in God's temple as GOD himself -- 2 Thess 2:1-4. This has to happen first. Paul says so clearly.
- **God is incredibly patient**. Time and again, God took longer than people expected or wanted, to make certain things happen, but then when it happened, it was sudden, like a trap springing shut.

<u>COMING REAL SOON – or will God take many more years yet?</u>

For example, we know "in the last days, perilous times will come" (2 **Timothy 3:1).** Many of you have decided for God that "it can't get any more evil or perilous than we are seeing now" – and conclude, "therefore Christ must return real, real soon."

But as bad as you think this present world IS, I submit that it could still get a whole lot worse. And when Paul wrote "For in the last days perilous times shall come" (**2 Timothy 3:1**), remember HE thought <u>he was writing about HIS own time</u>, because HE believed THEY <u>were</u> in "the last days". Remember? "We who are alive and remain in the Lord, shall not precede those ...who are asleep" (**1 Thess 4:15-17**).

Apostle John said he and his fellow believers were living "in the last HOUR". It certainly looked that way.

<u>1 John 2:18</u>

"Little children, **it is the last hour**; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that **it is the last hour**."

Apostle **James** – the brother of Jesus – said "...the coming of the Lord \underline{is} at \underline{hand} " (**James 5:8**).

In the apostles' day, it was hard to see the world getting any more evil. Christians and thousands of others were being killed for sport in the Coliseum in Rome. Torture was common. Crucifixions were common. The sacrifices in the temple had stopped, and God's temple itself was burned to the ground!

Other examples: **Genesis 6:3** – God gave mankind 120 more years after he decided if there was not massive change, he would let a flood destroy all living things on the land.

And **God told Abraham** that his future descendants could not inherit the land for a long time yet. You know why? Let's read it as Abraham was in a deep sleep this is what God said to him in a dream/vision:

Genesis 15:15-16

"Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

16 But <u>in the fourth generation</u> they shall return here, **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete**."

So God is SO patient and may let things go on longer than we'd want. But if God sends Yeshua within 5-10 years, hallelujah. I think closer to 10. But if He decides on 20-30+ more years, so be it. It's his choice. Father knows best. Frankly if Christ took another 50-100 more years — I don't expect that — but IF he did, we should be so submitted to his will that even that is OK with us.

The more important point is that we BE ready, we be working for God while we wait. And realize – the sooner it all starts winding down – the better!

Also be sure to keep your oil lamps full of oil (God's spirit) and the wicks trimmed and ready to light — so when we see he IS coming, we're READY. (Remember the Parable of the 10 virgins — **Matt. 25:1-10**). SO God could take more time than we prefer. So be it.

• But neither do we want the other ditch that proclaims, "The Lord delays his coming".

Woe to those who preach that. So I'm not. I'm just saying God may decide to take more time than we first thought. <u>Whenever</u> God decides to send Jesus back should be OK with us who seek HIS will and HIS timing on everything.

2 Peter 3:3-4

"knowing this first: that **scoffers will come in the last days,** walking according to their own lusts, 4 **and saying,** "**Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Scripture does seem to give us both possibilities – time remaining will be cut short – and the 2^{nd} option - time is delayed. Let me show you.

• Some scriptures indicate his coming will catch many off guard in its suddenness as in the days of Lot and Noah. There certainly are scriptures stating "time" may be cut short!

Mark 13:19-20

"For in those days there **will be tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 **And unless the Lord <u>had SHORTENED those days</u>**, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, **He shortened the days.**"

In context though, it does appear the quickening pace happens after the Great Tribulation gets started. The years ahead are going to get a whole lot worse first.

• <u>DELAY? But there ARE also scriptures that seem to tell us</u> there IS a perceived DELAY, that throws people off, and many fall spiritually asleep. Remember the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25, waiting for the Groom who would take them to the Marriage Supper? Read it again if you're not familiar with it.

But Matthew 25 says the Lord DOES delay. These are Yeshua's own words. **Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and **went out to meet the bridegroom**. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

- 5 **But while the bridegroom was DELAYED,** they all slumbered and slept.
- 6 "And **at midnight** a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "WATCH therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

There's Bible language that says there is coming a time <u>when he will delay no longer</u> – <u>implying there IS some delay</u>. I believe that perhaps the delaying time has come and gone already, personally. '

Revelation 10:5-7

"The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be **DELAY no longer**,

7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."

So again, the important thing is BE ready (**Matthew 24:44**). You and I don't know when our last day will be. Be busy doing God's work, helping others, doing deeds of kindness.

So, we have seen that ...

- it's up to the Father to determine when Christ returns;
- **Paul said certain things have to happen first**, such as the Man of Sin sitting in God's temple, proclaiming he is God, has to happen first 2 Thess 2:1-4
- **God is patient** and may have a longer time in mind but neither should we ever conclude "The Lord delays his coming", though there are hints that he does do that.
- <u>Whenever</u> God decides to send Christ, <u>we</u> must BE ready, since we don't know for sure when he's coming. We must remain busy, doing God's work and doing good works when Christ returns. Blog coming...

NOW – moving on – Yeshua himself said, as did the prophets –that there are a HOST of things that happen BEFORE Messiah comes back. In Matthew 24,

for example, Yeshua himself listed the things that must happen before He would set up the Messianic rule in the Millennium.

WHAT Christ SAID would have to happen first

What Jesus says in Matthew 24 parallel the 7 Seals of Revelation 6-7. The seven "seals" refer to the old scrolls that were rolled up. But within the rolled-up sections, were some seals – like with melted wax that would keep the reader from going forward unless and until Someone broke open the seals. That Someone is Yeshua. Please carefully read Revelation 5.

Yeshua warned of not being deceived, as many will come deceiving others. Seal #1 -- The **FALSE PROPHETS** and false religion -- **(Matthew 24:4-5)** – Seal 1, white horse. **Rev. 6:1-2**

Wars and rumors of wars – **Matt. 24:6-7**, "but the end is not yet." 2^{nd} **Seal** of Rev 6:3-4, the red horse.

Famines– Matt. 24:7b; **3rd Seal** of Rev. 6:5-6 – famines;

4th **seal** – **Pestilences** (ever hear of pandemics?); Matt. 24:7b widespread death over the earth (pale horse) Rev. 6:7-8; plus **earthquakes**

But these are just the beginning of sorrows (v.8).

Of course **God's true Gospel has to be preached in all the world** first before the end can come (**Matthew 24:14**). This includes to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists, nominal Christians, pagans, -- to EVERYONE!

Then **the great Tribulation (time of trouble) comes, such** as the world has never seen (**Matt. 24:15-22**), and unless those days are shortened, no flesh would be saved alive, but those days shall be shortened. (**5**th **Seal** of Rev. 6:9-11)

<u>Matthew 24:15-22</u> -- Someone called "abomination of desolation" stands in the holy place (Could this be what Paul referred to in **2 Thess 2:1-4?)** – then those in Judea should flee to the mountains.

2 Witnesses: It is probably at this same time that the TWO WITNESSES have started preaching and warning in Jerusalem — **Rev. 11:1-14**. They preach for 3.5 years — Rev. 11:3. Many teach these 2 will be the returning Moses and Elijah. I reject that. They are dead and buried and have not ascended to heaven.

These 2 preceding Christ will be a TYPE of Moses and Elijah, just as John the Baptizer was a type of Elijah but was not Elijah. There is still a coming type of "Elijah" — who will be one of the 2 witnesses — just as John the Baptizer was a type of Elijah.

Matthew 17:10-13

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, <u>Elijah IS coming first</u> [future tense] and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that <u>Elijah has come</u> already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that **He spoke to them of John the Baptist**."

We are warned not to believe anyone who is saying He has already come — "he's in the desert or hills" — for when he comes, everyone in the world will see him., as lightning, (**Matt. 24:26-28**), so don't be fooled by these false messages. You've gotta know God's Word on these things.

<u>After</u> the 5th Seal's Great Tribulation, **NEXT will be the 6th Seal of Rev 6**, **when we see terrifying <u>heavenly signs</u>** --the moon and sun giving no light, stars falling from heaven, near misses by asteroids, and the "powers of the heavens will be shaken" (**Matt 24: 29**). **6th Seal** of **Rev. 6:12-17**. Once we see all that happening, we know Christ will be back very, very soon.

<u>Matthew 24:29-35 Heavenly signs, just before return of</u> Christ.

"Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and **the powers of the heavens will be shaken**.

30 **Then** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Then – **jumping to Rev 7** – **the 7**th **seal** is the sealing of God's remaining children, who've gone through hell frankly but have not given in to the Beast and his mark. So God spares them from the fearsome events yet to come.

Also in Revelation, many other things are listed as having to happen BEFORE Christ returns. These next 3 points could be

simultaneously happening as the Great Tribulation, most likely – but all these happen BEFORE Christ will return, whether simultaneous or not:

- There have to be 2 Witnesses, typed by Moses and Elijah who have great power to shut heaven's rain, turn waters to blood, and strike the earth with all kinds of plagues (Revelation 11). They preach for 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3) --- 3.5 years in Biblical 360-day years. This is before Christ's return. Where are the 2 witnesses? Who are they? So we KNOW we have at least 3.5 more years, minimum, before our Messiah returns. Once they're on the scene though we're really close to the end.
- **Rev. 12 the Church the Woman is taken to her place in God, where she is safe for 3-1/2 years,** to a wilderness, to her place. Folks, heaven is not a wilderness. This is not the rapture. There is also a remnant of true believes who were NOT counted worthy to escape these things (**Luke 21:36**) and Satan comes after them (**Rev. 12:17**). They are described as those *who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ* (**Rev 12:17**).
- Revelation 13 the BEAST and the False Prophet are clearly on the scene at the same time. This all happens before Christ returns. Read and re-read this chapter 13 yourself. Great powerful signs and wonders are done by Satan's power and convince the world to follow these 2 evil humans. The Mark of the Beast, the 666 is all mentioned here, and all this has to happen before Christ returns.

Are you getting the picture? A LOT has to happen FIRST, before God says he'll send Jesus back to earth. I hope you'll go back and slowly, carefully read all the references I'm giving.

After the 7 Seals of Revelation are opened, there are 7 Trumpets, which in turn are followed by 7 last Plagues on mankind. At the Last Trump, the 7th trump/shofar ram's horn -- the dead in Christ are resurrected and we who remain are changed to spirit **1 Thess 4:16-18**; **1 Cor. 15:40-57**.

The Son of Man comes at the last trump, coming in the clouds with power and glory to collect his bride, the Elect. God's holy angels will bring the resurrected Bride of Christ, the church of the new covenant, up to Christ. This Bride is called **the Israel of God** — from all nations but are considered spiritual Israel (Galatians 6:16). Those of the faith in Christ are children of God and of Abraham (Gal. 3:7-9, 26-29).

Matthew 24:30-31

"Then the **sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other".

What happens NEXT? The resurrected Bride (Elect of God) are presented to the King, to our Father who is in heaven, who has put on a wedding for his Son in heaven (Matthew 22:1-10; Rev. 19).

And in heaven, the victorious **children of God** — **probably same as the Bride** — **are seen on the sea of Glass (Rev. 15:1-28)** and they sing the Song of Moses in heaven (Rev. 15:4-8). Remember the King — God the Father — is in HEAVEN. See the 144,000 also shown as being in heaven.

• In the meantime, WHILE that Wedding Supper is going on in heaven, SEVEN LAST DEADLY plagues are being poured out on the evil world, in God's fury (Rev. 15, 16) — after the 7th trumpet. The 7th Trump has 7 plagues, called bowl plagues. But the Elect Bride are now in heaven during this time having the Wedding Supper and waiting for the 7 bowl plagues (Rev. 16) to be finished being unleashed on earth. Please read Revelation 16.

Revelation 16:12-15 — the 6th plague — was the drying up of the Euphrates to allow the kings of the world to bring their armies to Megiddo—to fight against Christ. This one plague by itself could take up 2-3 months or more.

• **NEXT** — **Rev. 17-18** — There will be a QUICK, **SUDDEN destruction of the end-time BABYLON the Great**. **More on this Babylon, the great whore, in an upcoming sermon.** Ancient Babylon fell in one night. This end time Babylon also falls quickly — it speaks of it falling in one hour (**Revelation 18:10, 17, 19**). "Babylon is fallen, is fallen" (Rev. 18:2) — depicting the 2 falls of ancient and modern Babylon.

Babylon is called the great whore who rides the Beast system ruling the earth — until the Beast system with its 10 horns (10 kings) turns on Babylon as they end up hating her. They "make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire" (Rev. 17:15-18) for God has put that into their hearts.



Who is this Babylon – the great whore who rides the Beast? **Rev. 17:18** says it is a "woman, **a great CITY** which reigns over the kings of the earth" and by whom the world's merchants are enriched. Study Revelation 17 and 18. Some equate it with Israel, or America, or New York City, or the Vatican, or.... We'll know for sure soon enough.

• By now the Wedding of the Lamb and his Bride up in heaven is wrapping up now, and finally, MESSIAH and his saints return on powerful white angelic steeds along with his millions of angels. And now we – his Bride – are married to him. Revelation 19:11-21.

Revelation 17:14 says he comes back with his "called, chosen and faithful" as well as millions of his holy angels (**Jude 14** – "saints" – holy ones – can refer to the holy angels or to the saints of God.) **See 1 Thess 3:13 "...coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints".**

The whole world saw Yeshua return to collect his Bride some months earlier. So they gather together into the Valley of Megiddo (Rev. 16:16) all the way down to Jerusalem, all going on during the Wedding Supper happening in heaven. There will be millions and millions of rebellious humanity – and this is what Christ and his angels deal with when he returns. Their utter destruction by Christ is assured.

Blood will flow to the height of horses' bridles in places (**Rev. 14:19-20**). Christ, who holds the universe together by his power (**Col 1:17**), destroys those armies by dissolving their flesh. Read it yourself in **Zechariah 14:12**.

Zechariah 14:12

"And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,

Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,

And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."

Are you getting the picture? Christ will not be returning tonight. There's just much, much too much yet that has to happen before he returns. It's going to be a very exciting time — and scary time — especially if you are not as one with your God and Messiah RIGHT NOW as you should be.

We MUST be spending more time in the Word of God and in prayer.

I retired from my paid job so I can focus on this Light on the Rock work I've been given and on getting my spiritual and physical health back in shape. I need and want the time to focus on prayer, study, preparing these sermons for you, and helping to wake up the church, God's sleepy children right now.

Some of my sequencing that I've just given may be different from what actually happens. But the point is, a lot has yet to happen. Christ is not returning tonight — but he IS returning soon, and we must not be caught unprepared or spiritually asleep!

<u>Prayer</u>: COME, king Yeshua. Father in heaven, please send your Son — the Lion of Judah, Our beloved, our King and Master, Our husband-to-be, Our Brother and our friend. Send him, Father, please send him soon. The world needs him here so badly. Thank you, Father. Help us be ready and we pray we be counted worthy of this high calling to which you've called us and to escape the horrific things about to land on the earth.

And Yeshua, live in me, live in each of us guiding us by your holy spirit. We ask your blessing and protection on all of your children during these perilous times and look forward to telling you face-to-face how much you mean to us. We love you Yeshua, we love you Father. In Yeshua's name, Amen.

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If you have found this message to be helpful and inspiring, please tell others about our website. Thank you.