

# JESUS IS COMING SOON

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

THIS LESSON IS ADAPTED FROM THE BOOKLET "A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE," WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS' SECOND COMING.

### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

That question looms in the minds and hearts of people around the world. Some debate, predict, or philosophize about it. Others ponder it silently in the innermost recesses of their hearts. Still others resolutely push aside all thoughts of what the future might bring, or fail to give thought to it at all. However, the question must not be ignored, because careful comparison of Biblical prophecies and conditions in our world today indicate that the culmination of God's dealings with the people of this earth will soon occur.

The Second Coming of Christ is a future event so important that it is mentioned in almost every New Testament book, and the imminence of His return is a theme woven through the prophecies concerning this subject. Christ's Second Coming encompasses two separate events: the Rapture of the Church, when Christ comes to catch away those who have made spiritual preparation; and the Revelation of Christ, when He comes with His saints from Heaven to execute judgment upon the ungodly and set up His Kingdom on this earth. The Rapture of the

Church is the next great event in God's plan for the ages.

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He taught that He would return one day and repeatedly instructed His disciples to be prepared for His return. His assurance that He would come back again was one of the promises He comforted His disciples with prior to His death. The Early Church lived in anticipation of His soon return, and believers of every era are challenged in God's Word to live in that same continual state of readiness.

After the followers of Christ are taken from this earth in the Rapture, a terrible tide of destruction will come upon the world. That period is referred to in Scripture as the Great Tribulation—a literal seven-year period of terror and torment the likes of which have never been known. The Holy Spirit is in the world today, dwelling in the hearts of believers and holding back that time when God's wrath will be poured out upon those who have rejected Him.

These cataclysmic events are just ahead, so it is vital that we ensure we are ready for the Rapture of the Church.

### SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON

AUGUST 31, 2025

### FOCUS VERSE

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."  
(Matthew 24:44)

### FOCUS TEXT

Matthew 24:3-14

Mark 13:32-37

2 Timothy 3:1-5

### Apostolic Faith Church

World Headquarters  
5414 SE Duke Street  
Portland, Oregon, 97206 USA  
[www.ApostolicFaith.org](http://www.ApostolicFaith.org)

**2.** In God's Word, the nation of Israel often is a prophetic signpost. In Isaiah 11:12 we read, "And he [God] shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." That prophecy was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation for the first time since 597 B.C. Since then, numerous

**3.** In addition to Jesus' warning given in Matthew 24, prophets in the Old Testament and Christ's disciples in the New Testament spoke of signs that would indicate Christ's return to this earth was imminent. For example, in the Old Testament, Daniel predicted that in the last days, multitudes would travel to and fro, and knowledge would increase (Daniel 12:4). Zechariah's prophecy could apply to weapons of

[illegible]

# NOTES

mass destruction (see Zechariah 14:12). In the New Testament, Peter predicted that many false prophets would emerge, bringing in heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2). John the Revelator indicated that the Gospel would be preached as a witness to all nations (Revelation 14:6). **WHY DO YOU THINK GOD PROVIDED SO MANY AND VARIED SIGNS RELATED TO THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AT THE END OF TIME?**

**RESPONSE:** Your group should recognize that the multiplicity of signs forewarning the end times are indicative of how important it is to believe that Christ's return will occur soon. It is vital that people make the proper spiritual preparation.

Point out to your group that there is ample instruction in the Bible about what it takes to be ready. Because God has provided so many indicators of the end of time, there will be no excuse for those who fail to prepare.

4. Biblical prophecies paint a graphic picture of the human condition just prior to Christ's return. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, described to Timothy how the last days would be characterized by sinfulness. He introduced this portion of his epistle with the statement, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." The Greek word translated *perilous* means "hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous." Then Paul proceeded to describe what brought about the peril: the sinfulness of man. **WHAT DOES 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 TELL US ABOUT THE CONDITION OF MANKIND IN THE LAST DAYS?**

**RESPONSE:** Consider having a volunteer read each of these verses aloud so your group can discuss how closely Paul's descriptive list of behaviors in the last days aligns with behaviors we see in society today. You may wish to note each on a white board or flip chart for ease of reference.

To start the discussion, point out that the prediction that "men shall be lovers of their own selves" is the first negative characteristic mentioned. The Greek word used in this phrase, *philautos*, means "self-loving." Its placement as first on the

list is appropriate, because the love of self is the foundation for all the depravity that follows in Paul's description.

5. The Rapture of the Church will occur when Jesus calls His followers (both Gentile and Jewish believers in Christ) from this earth, and they are transported to meet with Him in the air. The word *rapture* does not appear in Scripture. It is derived from the Latin Vulgate translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. There the phrase "caught up" is translated into the Latin word *rapturo*, which literally means "being carried away in body or spirit." While the word itself does not appear, the Bible gives many details about what will occur at the time of the Rapture. **WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THIS EVENT FROM THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES?**

- MATTHEW 24:27
- MATTHEW 24:36
- MATTHEW 24:40-41
- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:52
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17
- JOHN 14:2-3

**RESPONSE:** Review of these Scriptures will provide these details about the Rapture of the Church.

- Matthew 24:27 — It will be an instantaneous happening.
- Matthew 24:36 — No man knows the day nor the hour of its occurrence.
- Matthew 24:40-41 — It will be a time of separation between believers and unbelievers.
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 — Our physical bodies will undergo change.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 — It will be accompanied by three sounds: a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the sound of the trumpet.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17 — Christ will meet believers in the air.
- John 14:2-3 — Believers will go to a prepared place.

To wrap up your discussion of this question, you may wish to read Revelation 19:7-9. These verses relate that the believers who go with Christ at the Rapture of the Church will take part in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, where rewards will be given for faithful service, and Christ himself will serve the saints (see Luke 12:37).

[illegible]

**RESPONSE:** After your class identifies the word “watch” in these two verses, class discussion could center around the following ways to “watch” in our daily lives.

- Your group should conclude that if we watch for God's warnings, His leadings, and His teachings, and obey them, our communication with God will be unhindered. We will be sensitive to His Spirit and alert to anything we need to do to be spiritually prepared for Christ's return.*

**RESPONSE:** You may need to preface class discussion of this question by pointing out to your group that the word *he* in the phrase “*he who now letteth will let*” refers to the Spirit, and

## 8. WHAT MIGHT YOU EXPECT TO SEE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE TRULY READY AND WATCHING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN?

*Veteran minister and missionary George Hughes preached in 1949, "The Rapture must be the thing that motivates our life, that takes charge of every ambition, as it were. God does not want us to make plans of our own without considering first the coming of the Lord. He does not want us to live as though we had three score and ten years to live on this earth. Every action, every plan, every hope of ours should be contingent on one thing: If the Lord tarries. Many times we are so busy with our own activities and things that are near to our heart that we forget the Lord is coming. Remember, He is going to appear for those who look for Him."*

# LET'S BE READY FOR THAT DAY!