

**DID YOU NOTICE,,, THAT AS OUR SECOND READING,,, IN THE NEW TESTAMENT,,, WAS BEING READ,,, THE WORDS *COMING* & *COME* WERE MENTIONED 6 TIMES?**

**AS I CONDUCTED MY RESEARCH FOR THIS WEEKS HOMILY,,, I DISCOVERED,,, THAT THE WORD *COME* APPEARS 1193 TIMES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT,,, 538 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT,,, AND 43 TIMES IN REVELATION.**

**ALL TOGETHER,,, THE WORD *COME* IS MENTIONED 1731 TIMES.**

**THAT'S A LOT OF TIMES,,, TO MENTION,,, THIS WORD! IN THE OLD TESTAMENT,,, THE WORD *COME* IS OFTEN USED,,, AS AN ENCOURAGEING WORD,,, URGING GOD'S PEOPLE,,, TO**

***COME WORSHIP AND SERVE THE LORD.***

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT,,, THE WORD *COME*,,, IS ALSO OFTEN USED,,, AS A FORM OF PRAYER,,, DESIRING JESUS TO COME AGAIN.**

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 50 PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE,,, THAT TELL US,,, JESUS IS GOING TO RETURN!**

***HE'S COMING BACK,,, AND HE'S COMING QUICKLY!***

**IN (*1 CORINTHIANS 16:22*),,, THE APOSTLE PAUL MENTIONS THE EARLIEST FORM OF THIS PRAYER,,, BY SAYING: "COME O LORD".**

**THIS PRAYER IS AN INTERESTING ONE,,, BECAUSE JESUS HAD ALREADY *COME AS THE INCARNATE ONE*,,, BEING BORN AS A HUMAN BEING,,, LIVING,,, LIKE ONE OF US,,, AND DYING,,, FOR US.**

**SO,,, IN ESSENCE,,, JESUS HAD ALREADY *COME* AND HE HIMSELF TOLD OF HIS COMING AGAIN,,, AFTER HIS CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH.**

**THIS IS THE REVELATION PASSAGE,,, WHERE JESUS SPEAKS OF HIS IMMINENT COMING AGAIN.**

**IN (*VS 12*),,, JESUS SAYS: *SEE,,, I AM COMING SOON* AND IN (*VS 20*),,, JESUS SAYS: *SURELY,,, I AM COMING SOON.***

THAT'S THE PROMISE THAT JESUS MADE,,, TO THE EARLY CHURCH,,, AND ALONG WITH THAT PROMISE,,, THE EARLY CHRISTIANS HAD THE EXPECTATION THAT JESUS WOULD COME *SOON*,,, & MANY THOUGHT THAT JESUS WOULD COME AGAIN,,, DURING THEIR LIFETIME.

THE FACT THAT JESUS DID COME,,, CREATES THE EXPECTATION THAT HE WILL COME AGAIN,,, AND IT'S LIKE THAT,,, WITH EVERY KIND OF WAITING.

EXPECTANCY,,, IS PREDICATED ON EXPERIENCE! WITHOUT EXPERIENCE,,, WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT,,, OR WHY TO EXPECT IT!

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT,,, YOU'RE WAITING,,, DAY AFTER DAY,,, FOR A SPECIAL PACKAGE TO COME AND YOU FIND YOURSELF SAYING:

*"I WISH IT WOULD COME,,, SOON!"*

YOU CAN ONLY EXPECT IT,,, BECAUSE,,, YOU HAVE SOME IDEA,,, WHO'S SENDING IT,,, WHAT'S IN IT,,, AND,,, WHY IT'LL BE COMING,,, AT SOME TIME SOON. AND THAT IDEA IS FORMED,,, BY WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE SENDER,,, THE CONTENT,,, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES,,, BECAUSE OTHERWISE,,, YOU COULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING!

SO IT IS,,, WITH THE COMING OF CHRIST. THE EXPECTANCY,,, WE PRAY FOR,,, SPRINGS FROM JESUS' HAVING ALREADY BEEN THERE.

THE EXPECTATION OF JESUS COMING AGAIN,,, HAS PROVEN TO BE PROBLEMATIC,,, BECAUSE IT'S LED PEOPLE TO TRY TO PREDICT THE END-TIMES.

DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES,,, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CHRISTIAN'S,,, WHO'VE EXPECTED CHRIST TO COME,,, *IN THEIR LIFETIME*,,, SO,,, THEY CHOSE TO PREDICT,,, WHEN JESUS WOULD COME! ALSO,,, THEY EVEN PREDICTED THE EVENTS THAT WOULD USHER IN,,, HIS COMING.

AND UP TO TODAY,,, THERE HAVE BEEN,,, AND STILL

ARE,,, PEOPLE WHO HAVE TWISTED,,, PERVERTED,,, AND MISINTERPRETED,,, THE BIBLE,,, SO MUCH SO,,, THAT *SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE AND EXPECT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING WHENEVER:*

*A COMET APPEARS,,, A WAR BEGINS,,, AN EARTHQUAKE STRIKES,,, A VOLCANO ERUPTS,,, WHEN THE STOCK MARKET DROPS,,, OR,,, EVEN WHEN A BUSINESSMAN GETS ELECTED TO A NATIONAL POLITICAL OFFICE.*

*GET MY POINT?*

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, ALL THESE THINGS,,, *HAVE HAPPENED,,, AND CONTINUE TO HAPPEN;* YET,,, JESUS HASN'T COME AGAIN!

*MANY OF YOU,,, CAN PROBABLY RECALL WHAT HAPPENED,,, IN 2000,,, WITH THE Y2K SCARE! REMEMBER THAT?*

EVERYTHING WAS SUPPOSED TO QUIT WORKING AND MANY FOLKS PREDICTED,,, THAT JESUS' SECOND COMING,,, WOULD ALSO HAPPEN AND THESE TYPES OF PREDICTIONS CONTINUE,,, EVEN TO THIS DAY.

THOSE WHO MAKE THOSE KINDS OF PREDICTIONS,,, SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT JESUS SAID;  
*NOT EVEN HE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR,,, WHEN THE END WILL COME—ONLY GOD THE FATHER KNOWS!*

SO,,, WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF JESUS' WORDS,,, IN TODAY'S REVELATION PASSAGE,,, WHEN JESUS SAYS;  
*BEHOLD,,, I AM COMING SOON!*

IT'S BEEN OVER 2000 YRS,,, SINCE JESUS SPOKE THOSE WORDS,,, SO I BELIEVE,,, THAT WE CAN APPLY JESUS' WORDS BEST,,, TO OUR EVERYDAY LIFE,,, IF WE TAKE THEM,,, "*METAPHORICALLY*"!

FOR EXAMPLE; IN (2 *PETER 3:8*),,, SCRIPTURE SAYS;  
*"WITH THE LORD,,, ONE DAY IS LIKE A 1000 YEARS,,, AND A 1000 YEARS,,, IS LIKE ONE DAY.*

IN THAT SENSE,,, *THOSE 2000 YEARS,,, WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF TIME,,, IN RELATION TO GOD'S TIME,,, IT'S BEEN ONLY 2 DAYS,,, SINCE JESUS SPOKE THOSE WORDS.*

IN ADDITION,,, (2 PETER 3:9) COMFORTS US,,, BY SAYING: “*THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE,,, AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. HE IS PATIENT,,, WITH YOU,,, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH,,, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTENCE*”.

SO WE CAN APPLY THE MEANING OF,,, *JESUS IS COMING SOON*,,, TO OUR EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE AND WORSHIP.

FOR EXAMPLE; JESUS COMES *SOON*,,, *WHENEVER TWO OR MORE,,, GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP,,, IN HIS NAME,,, AS HE PROMISED*,,,OR,,, *WHEN WE CALL UPON HIM,,, TO BE NEAR US,,, WHILE PRAYING*.

JESUS COMES *SOON*,,, WHEN WE CALL UPON HIM THROUGH THE SPOKEN WORD,,, AT MASS.

JESUS COMES *SOON*,,, WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM,,, AND JESUS CLAIMS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED PERSON,,, AS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD,,, THROUGH WATER,,, WORD,,, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

JESUS COMES *SOON*,,, AS WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER,,, THROUGH THE WORD,,, AND BY THE BREAD AND WINE.

IF WE UNDERSTAND,,, AND INTERPRET,,, *CHRIST’S COMING SOON*,,, IN THIS WAY,,, WE DON’T NEED TO LIVE IN FEAR,,, OR TO BE AFRAID,,, ANY MORE!

IT’S NOT FOR US,,, TO KNOW THE DAY,,, THE HOUR,,, OR,,, THE CIRCUMSTANCES,,, OF THE END-TIMES.

OUR PASSAGE REMINDS US,,, THAT; *JESUS,,, IS THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,,, THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND THE LAST,,, THE BEGINNING AND THE END!*

SINCE THAT’S THE CASE,,, ***WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS JESUS,,, WHO IS IN CONTROL,,, OF OUR PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE***.

JESUS WILL *SOON* BRING ALL OF HISTORY,,, INTO COMPLETION,,, AT THE TIME OF *HIS SECOND COMING*.

**JESUS IS COMING SOON AND WE MUST BE PREPARED BECAUSE,,, IF WE'RE NOT PROPERLY PREPARED,,, WHEN HE DOES RETURN,,, IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR US TO ENTER THE CITY,,, THROUGH THE GATES!**

**SCRIPTURE TELLS US,,, THAT THEY'LL BE NO TIME FOR REPENTENCE,,, ONCE THE TRUMPET SOUNDS!**

**WE NEED TO TAKE HEED,,, TO WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS IN;**

***(1 CORINTHIANS 15:52)***

***“IN A MOMENT,,, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE,,, AT THE LAST TRUMP,,, FOR THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND,,, AND THE DEAD SHALL BE RISED,,, INCORRUPTIBLE,,, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED”.***

**NOW,,, A TWINKLING OF THE EYE,,, IS ABOUT 1/6,,, OF A MILLIONTH OF A SECOND.**

**YOU SEE,,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, THERE WON'T BE TIME,,, TO HESITATE! WE NEED TO LIVE EACH DAY,,, LIKE,,, IT MAY BE THE DAY,,, THAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST RETURNS.**

**SO,,, DON'T DELAY! SEE THAT YOU ARE PROPERLY PREPARED FOR CHRISTS RETURN,,, AND HAVE YOUR SPIRIT AND ROBES WASHED CLEAN,,, BY ACCEPTING JESUS,,, INTO YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH,,,**

**BECAUSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,,**

**JESUS IS SAYING; *BEHOLD,,, I AM COMING SOON!***

**SO,,, LET OUR RESPONSE,,, TO JESUS BE THIS:**

***YES,,, COME LORD JESUS,,, COME SOON!***

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,,, AND OF THE SON,,, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

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*1,206 Wds, 5 Pgs*