

# Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 25

## Jesus' Second Coming

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NLT).

### THIS IS GONNA BE HUGE

Jesus' second coming is more exciting than Christmas, your birthday, and a trip to Disney World all at once! It's the best event of all time, because that's when Jesus rescues us from sin and all the problems it causes.

We know Jesus will come back because He promised it many times in the Bible. "I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am" (John 14:3).



### AWESOME DAY/SCARY DAY

When Jesus returns, some people will be happy to see Him, and some won't. Here's what happens to everyone on earth at that time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 19:21; 20:5).

God's people ( <i>alive</i> )	Changed so their bodies won't get old or die	<b>All go up into the air and travel to heaven with Jesus</b>
God's people ( <i>dead</i> )	Raised to life with new bodies that won't get old or die	



Evil people ( <i>alive</i> )	Die
Evil people ( <i>dead</i> )	Stay dead*

\* A few people who were responsible for Jesus' death will be resurrected to see Him return (Matthew 26:64; Revelation 1:7).

### CAN'T MISS IT

When Jesus returns, everyone on earth will:



**See It:** "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky. He will come with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

**Feel It:** "Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, thunder and a powerful earthquake... Every island ran away. The mountains could not be found" (Revelation 16:18-21).



**% OF PEOPLE LIVING ON EARTH WHO WILL SEE JESUS**

**100%**

**Revelation 1:7**

**% OF ANGELS WHO WILL RETURN WITH JESUS**

**100%**

**Matthew 25:31**

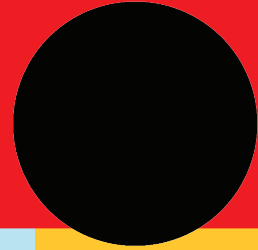
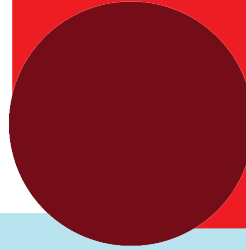


**Hear It:** "The Lord himself will come down from heaven • with a commanding shout, • with the voice of the archangel, and • with the trumpet call of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, NLT).

### WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

The Bible mentions strange events in nature before Jesus' return. "There was a powerful earthquake. The sun turned black... The whole moon turned as red as blood. The stars in the sky fell to earth" (Revelation 6:12).

In the late 1700s and early 1800s people in Europe and North America experienced a horrible earthquake, a weird "dark day" followed by a night with a blood-red moon, and an awesome meteor shower. These events prompted many people to study the prophecies about Jesus' second coming.



### ARE WE THERE YET?

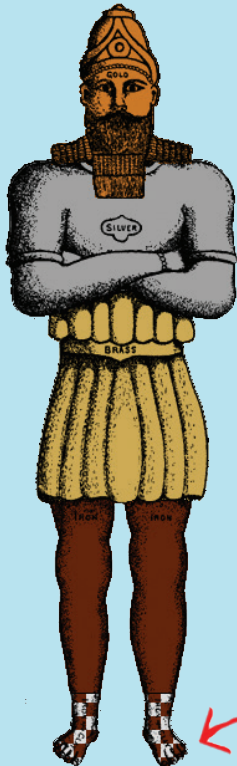
God hasn't told us exactly when Jesus will return (Matthew 24:36). But He has given us signs so we'll know when to start getting excited. "When you see these things happening, you will know that God's kingdom is near" (Luke 21:31).



Daniel's dream of the huge statue shows that we're living in the last section of earth's history before God sets up His kingdom (Daniel 2).



All the Bible's time prophecies, such as the 70 weeks, the 1,260 days, and the 2,300 days, are finished (see FUN-da-Mental #13 and #24).



God's end-time remnant people are warning the world to get ready for Jesus to return (see FUN-da-Mental #13).



Wars, famines, diseases, and natural disasters keep destroying people's lives (Matthew 24:6-8). Jesus

said these catastrophes would happen throughout history, so we shouldn't worry too much about them. But these effects of sin on our world are likely to get worse and worse as time goes on.

← YOU ARE HERE

### THIS PLACE IS A MESS

By the time Jesus returns, most people will be

- selfish
  - greedy
  - proud
  - cruel
  - ungrateful
  - unforgiving
  - out of control
- (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Like the people before the Flood, they'll be all evil all the time (Genesis 6:5).

Eventually Satan will influence earthly governments to force people to follow his false way of worship (Revelation 13:11-17). It will be a difficult time for those who stay loyal to God.



### HOW TO BE READY

Getting ready for Jesus to return doesn't mean packing your suitcase and standing by the front door. We have things to do while we wait.

The first step is to start a friendship with Jesus and choose Him as your Savior (see FUN-da-Mental #10). Then:

- Be alert. Don't get so wrapped up in everyday life that you forget Jesus' plan for the future (Matthew 24:42; Luke 21:34).
- Develop godly character traits—love, faith, self-control (1 Thessalonians 5:4-8).
- Keep doing God's work. Share His good news and help others (Matthew 24:45, 46).
- Pray that God will help you stand strong for Him even when hard times come (Luke 21:36).

### HISTORY'S BIGGEST SURPRISE

Despite all the signs, Jesus will return as unexpectedly as "a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Most people won't be ready.

But we don't need to be caught off guard. We just need to be prepared at all times (Matthew 24:44).

### COME BACK SOON!

Is there anything we can do to help Jesus return sooner? Yes!



Jesus said that before He returns, "this good news of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world. It will be a witness to all nations" (Matthew 24:14). We all have a part to play in that mission.