

2ND COMING

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Take a minute to pray for God to guide you as you study...

I used to have a dog named Maglee. She was a Boxer and was the best dog in the world! I never once saw her sad or unhappy. She always would greet me with smiles in her eyes and a big wet lick from her giant tongue. She was AWESOME! She didn't know very many tricks, but one command she knew very well was, "Stay!" I used to take her down the hallway of my house, into a bedroom, and have her sit and stay. Then, I would walk to the other side of the house and wait... I could wait for as long as I wanted, and she wouldn't move. She KNEW that I would call her. She trusted me that I would tell her to, "Come." And as soon as I would say the word, she would bolt from her seated position and race to find me on the other side of the house. She KNEW that I would be there.

Do you ever wonder if God has left us here on earth and will never come back? Doesn't it feel like He's forgotten that we are down here? Do you trust Him to do what He says He'll do?

In **John 14:1-3**, Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in _____. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for _____? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be _____ that you also may be where I am."

Jesus gives a promise that He is going to Heaven to build mansions for all of us, and He PROMISES that He will come back and take us to live with Him there in Heaven. Do you believe that promise? Do you believe that He's getting everything prepared so that we can live with Him? How cool is that...that we get to live WITH Jesus in Heaven? I can't wait to go there. It's going to be awesome! In fact, the Bible helps us have a better picture of what to expect. Check out these descriptions.

WHAT DOES HEAVEN LOOK LIKE?

Revelation 21:18-21: "The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure _____, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone... The twelve gates were twelve _____, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of _____, as pure as transparent _____."

Whoa! Heaven sounds like an amazing place! Gates of pearls? Streets of gold? That sounds like a pretty sweet place to live. Obviously, Jesus is using only the finest materials as He builds this place. He's not cutting any corners. He's making this place AWESOME!

Isaiah 65:21: "They will build _____ and dwell in them; they will plant _____ and eat their fruit."

Not only do we get to have a mansion, but we also get to build other homes (think: vacation home) that we can use when we want to. Heaven is going to be like a life-long vacation!

WHAT DOES HEAVEN FEEL LIKE?

Isaiah 65:20 "Never again will there be in it (heaven) an infant who lives but a few _____, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a _____ will be thought a mere child."

Revelation 21:4: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more _____ or _____ or crying or _____, for the old order of things has passed away."

No more death? No more crying? No more pain? Can you imagine living somewhere that you don't feel sadness or hurt? What if you only had good feelings, like when you laugh so hard your stomach hurts? It sounds like Heaven is a place that is warm and loving and welcoming to everyone. Even the animals get along...

Isaiah 65:25: "The _____ and the _____ will feed together..."

Heaven sounds like a place where everyone and everything is happy. It sounds like a place where everybody gets along.

It sounds like a place where race wars don't happen, and where police and citizens don't constantly battle against each other. It sounds like a place that is very peaceful, and it sounds like a place that I'm ready to live in...RIGHT NOW!

WHEN WILL JESUS COME TO TAKE US TO HEAVEN?

Once I saw a billboard on the freeway in Orlando that looked like this:



As I drove by, I thought, "**How do they know that it is May 21?**" May 21 came and went, and Jesus didn't come. They were wrong, and it reminded me of a verse in the Bible that says:

Matthew 24:36: "But about that _____ or hour _____ knows, not even the angels of Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

So if **NO ONE** knows exactly when Jesus is coming, why are so many people eagerly waiting for Him to come? Will it be soon? Will it be a long time from now? How do we know when He will come? Well, the Bible gives several descriptions of things that will happen BEFORE He comes. Here are some of them as the Bible puts them.

Matthew 24:6-7: "You will hear of _____ and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the _____ is still to come. _____ will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be _____ and _____ in various places..."

2 Timothy 3:1-4: “But realize this, that in the _____ days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of _____, lovers of _____, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of _____...”

Earthquakes? Famines? Wars? Stars falling? People that are selfish and reckless? People loving pleasure rather than loving God? This all sounds like life in America right now! So why hasn't Jesus come yet?

Well, I think this is one of the most unbelievable pieces about knowing God. God is willing to wait to take us to Heaven so just one more can be saved! God wants more than anything to be with us right now, but if He came, He knows that there would be some that would be lost that haven't had a chance to get to know Him.

2 Peter 3:9: “...He (God) is patient with you, not wanting _____ to perish...”

God is unwilling to let anyone be lost that wants to be saved! He refuses! He won't do it or let it happen, and so He is willing to wait until everyone has had the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior before He comes. What an awesome God that is so patient! It may mean that we have to face more struggles as we wait for Him to come, but it is worth it if Jesus can save just one more person! He wants everyone to hear the gospel before the 2nd Coming.

BASIC POINT

God is willing to **wait** to take us to Heaven so **“just one more”** can be saved!

WHAT WILL THE 2ND COMING BE LIKE?

What will it be like when Jesus comes to take us to Heaven? That's a great question, and the Bible really gives us some good answers and descriptions.

Revelation 1:7: “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and _____ will see him...”

EVERYONE will see Him! It's not a secret where Jesus comes and snags a few people off the earth. Everybody knows when He comes!

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a _____ command, with the voice of the archangel and with the _____ call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the _____. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” “

It will be LOUD as Jesus shouts and blows a trumpet! I can't wait to hear that sound as Jesus comes to take us home! Yes, I'm tired of being in this sinful world where there is pain and hurt. Yes, I'm ready for Jesus to come and take me home. And yet, the longer I wait, the more excited I am that He is coming soon! I believe Him when Jesus says,

Revelation 22:20: “Yes, I am coming _____!”

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. What are you most excited about doing in Heaven?
2. What is the hardest part about waiting for Him to come?
3. If Jesus came right now, do you believe you are ready?

LESSON 4: 2ND COMING/HEAVEN



fundamental
learning to know God