

# the return

## introduction

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you probably know that Jesus promised to one day come back to earth. When is He returning? What will it be like? How should someone prepare for His return? Will someone who does not know Him be left behind while Christ takes believers with Him? Today's devotional from Thessalonians will answer these questions. (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 to 5:4.)

## message

No one knows the exact time when Christ will return for His believers. Though the Bible gives hints about when He will come again, we shouldn't spend all our time trying to figure out all the details. Instead, we should concentrate on two important things: The fact that Jesus is coming and the answer to the question, "Are we ready?"

1. This passage teaches that Jesus is coming back. If Jesus were an ordinary man, that would be hard to believe. The Bible reminds us that this is the same Jesus who died and rose again (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
2. The Bible teaches that the dead who have accepted Christ as Savior meet with the Lord first. Then believers who are still alive will meet Him (verses 14-17).
3. The Rapture is the event in which believers will be "caught up" to meet Jesus (verses 16, 17).
4. Remember two final things about Christ's return:
  - a. It's good news—an event to look forward to. Encourage one another by talking about it.
  - b. Christ will come like a thief who comes in the night. So be ready. He may come tomorrow, next week or next year.

## salvation appeal

If Christ returned today and you were not a believer, you would be left behind. Why not experience God's grace and forgiveness and be prepared for Christ's return at the same time? Make a decision to follow Jesus Christ today. Then start sharing the good news with others.

## challenge

Christ will return—possibly very soon—to take His people home! No one knows the hour, but the Bible does say it will happen. How would you feel if Jesus came back and a friend of yours was left behind? Would your friend say, "No one ever told me about Jesus," or would he say, "I never knew any Christians." Let's do all we can to share Christ with our friends.

