

Open When... Jesus Christ has returned.

If you are reading this letter, you are likely confused by the title. Or, perhaps you are opening this letter for a second time with a little more interest & urgency. Either way, I beg you to read to the end, look up the Bible passages, and please do not throw this letter away. If Christ has not yet returned & I am still a phone call away, this letter may not seem important to you. If this is the case, please continue reading, but when you are finished, please place this letter in a safe place where you can find it in time of need.

As you may know, I am a Christadelphian. In Greek this means "brothers in Christ", but more simply this means that I believe in God, the Creator of all things, & I believe that the Bible is a book written by Him for mankind to read & to live by. I believe in the man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God, who perfectly patterned his life after the Bible and was raised from the dead, made immortal, & taken to heaven. I have been baptized into his name to follow him. This means that I strive to live like he did. I try really hard to overcome the things which I would naturally like to do & I try my very best to do the things that he would do. If you know me personally, I really hope you have seen this exhibited in my lifestyle.

You may have opened the Bible before, or you may not even know what the Bible is. Either way, the message of the Bible will affect you personally. You see, there are over 100 references (directly & indirectly) in the Bible that speak of Jesus Christ returning to the earth. An example of this is in the book of Acts chapter 1 verses 6 to 11. This section is speaking about the time after Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and had been with his followers for forty days teaching them about the kingdom of God (see Acts 1:3). As the forty days came to a close, it was time that Jesus would be raised up into heaven in his entirety, and would sit at the right hand of God (see Mark 16:19) until the time would come that he would "so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven" (see Acts 1:11). In other words, he would some day return to the earth in person.

There are many religions around us who claim to be rooted in the Bible & they will tell you all sorts of diverse things concerning Jesus Christ's return. The explanations these religions give may be interesting, but the Bible's explanation will be clear & true, without any doubt. Reading

the Bible for yourself, will bring you the utmost assurance of what it is that God will do with this earth, for He Himself has written it. Let me bring your attention to a few of these Bible passages that concern the return of the Lord Jesus Christ & hopefully I can begin to help you paint a picture of where you fit into all of this.

Prior to the Lord Jesus Christ's return, the Bible describes what it will be like to live in our society. The prophet Daniel describes it as a "time of trouble, such as never was" (see Daniel 12:1). The Lord Jesus Christ likens it to "the days of Noah" (see Luke 17:26) where we find that "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... and it grieved Him at His heart" (see Genesis 6:5-6). Further on, we read that "the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" (see Genesis 6:11-12). As we continue to read the story, we find that God asks a man named Noah to build an ark for his family and for the animals that God would send to him. His role would be to keep them safe, inside of the ark, from the flood that God would send.

In the New Testament, Noah is remembered as a "preacher of righteousness" (see 2 Peter 2:5). Given this title, you would assume that he was a very persuasive man, that many followed after him, and that perhaps, he was well favoured by the people for his message of hope. Unfortunately, this was not the case. In 1 Peter 3:20, we are told that "God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water." God had given Noah 120 years to prepare the ark before He would send the flood (see Genesis 6:3), and the boat departed with only 8 people on it: Noah, his wife, Ham, Japheth, Shem, & their three wives. How could it be that no one would believe Noah's warning, save his own family? My suggestion is that it wasn't because he didn't try hard enough, speak loud enough, or reach enough people. The Lord Jesus Christ gives us further insight into what the people in Noah's day might have been focused on instead, "they were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage..." (see Luke 17:27). He concludes his remarks with, "...until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."

We look around us in the world today and we see war, terrorism, political instability, financial fear, illness, death, human trafficking, orphans, abortion, addictions, unemployment, domestic abuse, natural disasters, the list truly could fill the next three pages. In contrast, Jesus Christ said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (see Matthew 11:27-28), Yet his invitation has been dismissed in the same way in which Noah’s message of hope was. Why is it that no one wants to enter the ark? Is the Bible not persuasive enough, not loud enough, does it not reach enough people? We know that this is not the case (see John 3:16-21).

When God asks his Son Jesus Christ, to descend to earth from heaven we are told that “the dead in Christ will rise first” (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16). Again, in Daniel 12:2 we read that “many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake”. In the Bible, when faithful men and women died it was described as a “sleep”. The Lord Jesus Christ explains this in John 11:1-14, when a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ fell ill & dies of the illness. After a few days, Jesus went to bring this man back to life stating that he would “awaken him” (see John 11:11). And in doing this he proclaims that “I am the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live” (see John 11:25). Lastly, we read in the book of Revelation about, “the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great” (see Revelation 11:18).

Once Jesus Christ has returned to the earth and once the resurrection of the dead in Christ has taken place, those who are “alive & remain” (1 Thess. 4:15-17), having knowledge of the scriptures & being held accountable for using that knowledge to change their lives (Romans 14:9-12), will be called away to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the angels of God. Some will be given everlasting life and others will not. Russia & his allies will go up against Israel to take a spoil & a prey (Ezekiel 38) and they will nearly win, but at last Jesus Christ, the angels, & those given everlasting life will defeat them. Jesus will reveal himself as the Messiah to the Jews & will establish his throne in Jerusalem, the city of David. A temple will be built. Peace & righteousness will then be preached to all nations. Catholicism will claim that the

Antichrist has done all of these things and will fight against Christ & his host. They too will be defeated & Christ's kingdom will begin to cover the entire earth for a thousand years.

I pray that you might consider what I have written, & read the scriptures for yourself. In doing so, you will come to find many wonderful promises made by God concerning a kingdom on earth free of all of the sin & suffering that this current order has to offer. An earth filled with peace, truly made like unto the garden of Eden once again. Please reach out to me & ask me any questions you may have. Rest assured, if Christ has already returned, the word of God has the answers, if you pray to God for help & read it. And may it be that you are included among those who manifest the glory of the LORD which will soon fill the entire earth forevermore (Number 14:21; Habakkuk 2:14; Isa. 11:9; Psalm 72:19).

God be with you in your journey.

### **What the Bible says Jesus will do when he returns**

Jesus will return to deliver Israel when all nations come against Jerusalem

- *Ezekiel 38-39; Zechariah 14:1-9*

Jesus will promise to bring peace when the world submits to him and lays down their weapons

- *Psalm 2; Isaiah 2:4; Malachi 4:1-7*

Jesus will first turn the Jews to him and then extend his reign to the rest of the world

- *Isaiah 60; 62; Ezekiel 39:22-29; Zechariah 12*

Jesus will bring peace to Israel

- *Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezekiel 39:25-29; Zechariah 9:10; Micah 4:1-7*

Jesus will build the new temple in Jerusalem

- *Zechariah 6:12-15; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Luke 1:31-33*

Jesus will make a new covenant with the Jews

- *Romans 11:26-27; Hebrews 8:8-11; Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Jesus will do miracles

- *Isaiah 35:4-10; Joel 2:28-32*

Jesus will proclaim he is Jesus Christ (of course!)

- *Zechariah 12:10; 13:6; Psalm 2:6-7*

The world will be commanded to worship and submit to him

- *Psalm 2; Daniel 2:44; Zechariah 14:16-19; Philippians 2:10-11*