

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

## WEEK 6

### REAWAKENING TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We look to the future with the certain hope of Christ's return. He's coming again! We will see Him and be with Him to experience His glory in a way we never have before. All of the things that are wrong with this world will be righted and Jesus will reign forever!

DAY

DAY

DAY

DAY

DAY

## CHRIST IS COMING AT AN UNKNOWN DATE AND TIME MATTHEW 26:36-44

Towards the end of His ministry, Jesus began to teach His disciples about the end of the age and His second coming. At that time, the disciples did not fully understand all that He was sharing with them. In Matthew 24:3, they asked Jesus, “When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus responded, “Concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” The disciples’ question still resonates today, and Jesus’ response is just as relevant. I see three vital truths for us to consider:

- **Stay awake**—Jesus calls us to ceaseless vigilance and alertness. Our lives naturally go forward with ordinary pursuits, responsibilities, and activities. While these things are good and necessary, day-to-day life should never overshadow the expectancy of His return. Our hope is in Jesus not in the things of this world.
- **Be ready**—We must make the necessary preparations for Jesus’ return. As the Alliance family, we are called to take *All of Jesus to All the World* seriously. Let us be doing His will and building His Kingdom as we ready ourselves for His return.
- **Keep trusting**—Only the Father knows the time of Jesus’ return. Rest in the goodness of God, trusting Him for what He has chosen to keep hidden. Our Heavenly Father loves us and reveals what we need to know. Trust Him with what is unknown.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!



### PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask the Father to keep Jesus and the promise of His return preeminent in all your life.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust Him more, especially in areas and with things you have no control over.
3. Rejoice in the certain hope that Jesus will return.

## **CHRIST IS COMING AS THE REALIZATION OF OUR HOPE** **TITUS 2:13**

My family and I have lived abroad for many years, serving in places where hope is dim. Life in a secular first-world country easily brings superficial satisfaction. Culture and context have a way of indirectly invading our perspective. All too often I have described hope as being a personal yearning for a desired outcome. This definition misses the mark because the modern-day idea of hope is quite different from the biblical meaning of hope. In Scripture, the word hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised. The Blessed Hope speaks of the confidence in the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

The promise of Christ's return for His Church empowers us to be present in our current context with joy, confidence, and expectation. The Blessed Hope enables us to see God's goodness and points us to the unmerited grace of God. While we wait for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our redemption, Paul reminds us to live in the light of the return of Christ, always looking for the Blessed Hope because it challenges us to maintain integrity in character and godliness in our life, relationships, actions, and words.

The faithful waiting and anticipation of His return brings joy and hope to our hearts. His Spirit is in us. May His coming be the realization of our hope.



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- 1.** Welcome His presence into your mind and heart. Ask His Spirit to illuminate areas where you have placed your hope in other things and people.
- 2.** Pray that the Holy Spirit will restore His Blessed Hope in you.
- 3.** Embrace the promise of Christ's return with joy, confidence, and expectation.

## **CHRIST IS COMING TO BRING EVERYTHING UNDER HIS CONTROL** PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

This passage is in stark contrast to Christ's last few hours on earth. He was betrayed by His own disciple, meekly led away by Roman soldiers, received false accusations, submitted to a ruthless beating, and finally, died a criminal's death on a cross.

To glorify God and save His chosen people, He relinquished the very power that could have saved Him unfathomable agony and grief.

But in this passage, we are told that Christ will act with all the power that He relinquished at the end of His 33 years on earth.

Once, for God's glory and our salvation, Christ relinquished His power as the Son of God. But when He returns, He will act with His great power for the glory of His Father and our salvation to take us to our true heavenly home with our bodies transformed and glorified.

What a glorious Christ we serve!



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- 1.** Pray that your heart will be centered on your true home with Christ in heaven.
- 2.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you praise Him even more.
- 3.** Pray that the Lord will allow you to hold loosely to the passing concerns of your temporary home on earth.

» by Gary Friesen

## **CHRIST IS COMING AS THE JUST AND TRUE JUDGE** **REVELATION 19:2A**

Injustice is simply the absence of justice, the absence of doing what is good and right to one another. Though things like race, religion, age, gender, and economic status often play a role in our acts of injustice, they don't always. Take, for example, one of history's first acts of injustice. When Cain killed Abel out of an evil desire for prominence (to be more important) and preeminence (to be superior), none of these things seemed to be a factor. The truth is that sin has made us all practitioners of injustice (see Romans 3:10–18).

Injustice is painful. We long for sin's corruption to end in us (see Romans 8:22–23) and, with it, all the injustice we suffer. This day is coming! Our King is coming, and final justice is coming with Him (see Revelation 19:2a). One day, there will be no more oppression, no more inequality, no more wrong—sin will be no more, and Jesus will reign (see Revelation 21). Yet while we wait and hope for that day with joyful expectation, He has called and empowered us today to do justice, love with kindness, and live humbly before God (see Micah 6:8).



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- 1.** Pray for strength to take action and make Jesus known by defending and protecting the vulnerable in your community.
- 2.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you show kindness and mercy to all, even those who have been unjust.
- 3.** Pray that God will guard your heart from anger and that you will live humbly, trusting that vengeance is God's alone.

» by David Gómez

## **CHRIST IS COMING AS THE MAJESTIC KING AND LORD** **REVELATION 19:11-16**

In John's vision provided in today's text, heaven opens before him, and the center point is the returning Christ. Our Lord Jesus comes as the victorious one. All of heaven's armies follow Him, and all of earth's nations fall at His Word. Blazing eyes, multiple crowns, a blood-stained robe, and other powerful images fill the scene. In declaring numerous names of our Lord, the Spirit seems to call us to keep our attention where it must remain—on Jesus Himself.

We are apt to focus on the timing of the Lord's return, crying out with John—"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20). We anticipate the results of the Lord's return—"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain . . ." (Rev. 21:4). But may our most fundamental and enduring—our most passionate and persistent—focus be on Christ Himself.

What He does as He returns will be momentous. Yet who He is remains the primary point. Hence, as we conclude this concentrated season of prayer, we end where we started and must remain—joyfully focused on the Christ who reigns as Lord and King both now and forevermore.

We are a Jesus-loving, Jesus-worshiping, Jesus-preaching, Jesus-serving people. This is our calling. This is our privilege. Together, we will continue this quest.



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- 1.** Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart to rejoice in His coming return.
- 2.** Pray that the Lord will reveal to you ways that you can better live to prepare for His coming.
- 3.** Pray that the Lord will strengthen the Alliance family in staying steadfast and faithful to Him.

» by John Stumbo