

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!

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

Are you a “details” person or a “surprise me” person?

The “details” person likes to have everything in order to make informed decisions or feel good about a situation. The “surprise me” person does not want to make any decisions—they want to live in the moment. Admittedly, this is an oversimplification and perhaps you’re a mix of the two. In any case, I think both wonder about Jesus’ return. It must have been the “details” disciples who asked the question, “When will these things be, what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Matt. 24:3 ESV).

In answering, Jesus gave just enough information that would satisfy a “details” disciple and probably more information than a “surprise me” disciple would want to know. While Jesus gave them signs to look for, He specifically said that only the Father knew the day or the hour of His return. It is simply not our business to know.

But, not knowing doesn’t mean you should fret or throw caution to the wind. Please, do not follow every conspiracy or method to decipher the day or the hour of Jesus’ return; that will be a waste of time. Likewise, do not act like it doesn’t matter and engage in inconsequential living. Instead, focus on these two phrases while you wait: “Stay awake,” and “Be ready.”



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Tell Jesus, in all honesty, how you feel about His return—why it matters to you or doesn’t matter to you.
2. If you agree with this statement, speak this over your life: *By the grace of Jesus and through the Holy Spirit, I am a faithful and wise servant of Jesus. I am set apart to do the will of the Father on this earth. Today, and until Jesus returns, I seek to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in truth and righteousness.*
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill you, to draw you closer to Him, and to bring you peace.

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

A life with Jesus means living a life of hope even when things look dim. Recently, world events have shown us that our hope is not found in this world but in Jesus Christ. As we wait for His return, we can abide with Him now and experience that hope in our daily lives.

As you pray today, take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you what you are putting your hope in. Are you hoping in Him or in relationships, education, money, or other idols?

As we wait for Christ's return, we have the privilege of living out what Jesus called "the greatest commandments"—to love God and love our neighbor. By doing both of these well, we can bring people into the Kingdom to experience this abundant life with Jesus. This week, as we talk about Christ's return, many people still haven't heard of His first arrival to earth to die, rise again to save us from our sin, and restore our relationship with God our Father.

No matter what the future holds, we don't have to fear because as Hebrews 6:19 says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." In these storms of life, we have our anchor, Jesus. Because of Him, we don't need to fear the future.



PRAYER POINTS:

1. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to bring some names of people to mind who need the hope of Jesus and to feel His love through your actions as you love your neighbor.
2. What fears are you holding onto today? Jesus can handle your fears, and He won't be offended by them. Take a few moments to name your fears and take them to Jesus to allow Him to replace them with His hope.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in trusting Him instead of yourself for all things. Pray that He will reveal Himself to you today.

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

Have you ever sat back and wondered what life will be like when Jesus comes again? If not, I totally understand. As a high school student, I was too busy trying to find a healthy rhythm of schoolwork, sports, and juggling a social life. I was so focused on the “right now” that I didn’t ever think about “what’s coming,” or more specifically, “who’s coming.”

I want to validate where you might be in life. My story might be your story, or maybe your story has different activities; but nonetheless, you are also trying to find a healthy rhythm of your life—I get that. But allow me to encourage you to pause for a moment and shift your focus on one of the greatest truths that’s still to come—Christ’s Second Coming.

A few things to note: First, Jesus is coming back, and His coming is soon! How soon? Well, sooner than yesterday! Second, when He comes, He will place everything under His control. He has the power to redeem everything, to make everything right, even our earthly bodies. Now that’s some serious power! Christ’s rule will alleviate this world’s sin and brokenness all to establish a new world, which is His Kingdom.



PRAYER POINTS:

- 1.** Pray about the realness of the Lord’s coming promise. Ask Him to reveal to you more of who He is.
- 2.** I believe that as you engage God about His promises, because of His love for you, He will make these things evident. Ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and transform your thinking.
- 3.** Pray that the Father will show you more about Himself and His ways. Thank Him that He is so willing to reveal even more of who He is to you.

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

Have you ever had someone truly wrong you or someone you love? It is so hard to let go of what you think they deserve for what they have done. It can eat away at you, your happiness, and your joy, and it can overcome your every thought. It has the potential to make you miserable.

In Revelation, we read the praises of John. He writes that all power and glory belong to God—not anyone else. He will be the one who brings justice to every circumstance because He alone is the one true judge—not you, and not me. You can trust that God knows, sees, and hears everything. He is not fooled by things that fool us; He is not resentful, and He is not vengeful.

We can praise right alongside John because we know that God is coming back! We can let go, we can release what has been hurting us, and we can trust that God knows what is best for every single situation. We do not need to worry about the people who have wronged us; it is not our job. Our job is to love one another like Jesus loves us!



PRAYER POINTS:

- 1.** Do you truly trust that God is coming back and that His judgements are true and righteous? Ask Him to help you in any areas of unbelief.
- 2.** Ask God to reveal to you what you have been holding onto—intentionally or not—and what needs to be released back to Him.
- 3.** Take time and listen to what God is saying back to you. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be present.

» by Christy Hilderbrand

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

How much time have you spent praising Jesus today? I don't just mean singing your favorite worship song, reading a passage of Scripture, or peppering Him with requests; I mean, as Francis Chan has put it, "How much time have you spent staring at Jesus and telling Him how amazing He is?"

Have you ever felt terrified at the thought of standing in His holy, radiating presence? Do you see how evil you are in the light of His goodness? Have you fallen on your face before Him out of recognition of your unworthiness and His righteousness? Have you felt the comfort of His touch as He gently places His hand on your shoulder and says, "Get up child, your debt has been paid?" When we truly understand who Jesus is, our souls respond with songs of praise, we are drawn to His majesty, and the concerns of this world fade away in His glory.

Read Revelation 19:11–16.

Do you understand what I mean now? Here John describes Jesus as the majestic King and Lord who has come to subject everyone and everything to Himself. This may sound tyrannical, and for non-believers, it will be terrifying; but for those who know Jesus as the compassionate and just King that He is, this is the inevitable outcome. No other king can stand against Him—no evil dictator, oppressive tyrant, self-serving ruler, beast, false prophet, dragon, and no evil—not even the devil. For Jesus' name is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



PRAYER POINTS:

- 1.** Spend some time praising Jesus. Read the passage again and marvel at Him.
- 2.** What have you not surrendered to Jesus? What is keeping you from doing that? Ask the Father to reveal these things to you.
- 3.** Who do you know who doesn't recognize Jesus? Ask Jesus what you should do to help them surrender to Him.