

event. Not only will it be visible all across the sky; it will also be announced with a trumpet blast that is far louder and more beautiful than anything human ears have ever heard. And all those who died believing in Jesus will be raised to life again.⁹

So, here are some identifying marks of Jesus' return: His coming in clouds, a loud trumpet blast from heaven, and the resurrection of God's people of all ages. Any purported "second coming" that doesn't have these marks is a counterfeit.

The hope of Jesus' coming

Is it really important that we know that Jesus is coming again?

Absolutely. Are you getting tired of pain and suffering and sickness and death? God promises that in the new home Jesus is preparing for us "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things" will have passed away.¹⁰

When Jesus comes, those of your friends and loved ones who were believers and have

since died will be raised to life. They will join with God's people who are still alive on earth, "and so we will be with the Lord forever."¹¹ No wonder the Bible invites us to "encourage each other with these words."¹²

Wouldn't you like to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes? All you have to do is give yourself to Him. You can do it right now!

¹John 14:3. ²Matthew 24:36. ³Matthew 24:14.

⁴2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10; Revelation 16:12-14. ⁵Matthew 24:30, 31. ⁶Acts 1:9-11. ⁷Revelation 1:7. ⁸Matthew 24:23, 26, 27. ⁹1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52.

¹⁰Revelation 21:4. ¹¹1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

¹²1 Thessalonians 4:18.

About This Pocket Signs

We hope you enjoyed reading this Pocket Signs article, which is adapted from *Signs of the Times*[®], a 32-page monthly journal published by Seventh-day Adventists. Article topics include salvation, prophecy, biblical teachings, and Christian lifestyle. Each issue also includes several inspirational stories.

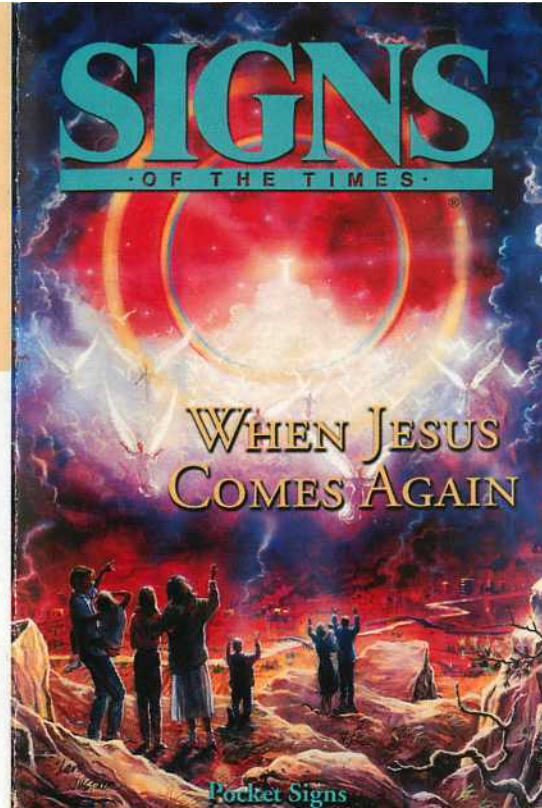
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When Jesus Comes Again

The evening before a man was to leave on a long trip, he went into his five-year-old son's room to tell him good night and remind him that he wouldn't be there in the morning when the boy woke up. The little fellow was concerned. He asked, "Daddy, how can I know when you're coming back?"

The father thought a minute, and then he said, "When you see the leaves on the trees fall to the ground, you can know that I'll be coming very soon."

In the weeks that followed, the first thing the boy did every morning when he went out to play was to look up at the trees. Finally, one fall night there was a strong wind storm, and the next morning when the lad went outside, the ground was covered with leaves. Ecstatic, he ran through the fallen leaves, shouting, "Daddy's coming back! Daddy's coming back!"

Shortly before Jesus left this earth, He assured His disciples, "I will come back and take you to be with me."¹ For two thousand years Christians have treasured this promise.

When Jesus will come

Like the little boy in the story, many Christians wonder, When will Jesus come? Some expected Him to come at the time the calendar rolled over from the 1900s to the year 2000. You know, of course, that He didn't. In fact, Jesus said that no one but God knows that day or hour.²

However, Jesus gave us several signs by which we can know that His coming is near. Here's one: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."³

Of course, we humans will never know when every person on earth has had a chance to hear the good news about Jesus and His offer of eternal life to all who believe in Him. But one point is very evident—it's easier today than it has been at any other time in human history to share the good news with every human being. Think of it: TV, radio, books, magazines, and newspapers—and now the Internet and the World Wide Web! Given the right circumstances, the whole world could hear the gospel overnight!

The Bible also says that shortly before Jesus

returns the world will be very fascinated with spiritualism and communication with demonic spirits.⁴ And today we see a rapid build-up in New-Age channeling and other forms of so-called communication with the dead. This also is a sign of Jesus' soon coming.

How Jesus will come

So how will Jesus come? He Himself told us that He will come with clouds and His angels will come with Him.⁵ When Jesus returned to heaven in a cloud, two angels told His disciples that He would come back the same way He had gone.⁶ And in Revelation John wrote, "Look, he is coming with the clouds."⁷

Knowing the manner of Jesus' coming is important because He said that impostors will appear at various places on earth, claiming to be Him. He warned, "If anyone says to you, 'Look, . . . he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."⁸

Jesus' second coming won't be a secret

HOW YOU CAN BE READY

Jesus once said "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven."⁹ So what must we do to be ready for Jesus to come? Two things.

First, we must recognize the wrong things in our lives and make them right. If we've harmed someone, we should make amends. And while God doesn't require us to overcome all of our bad habits before He will accept us, He does want us to acknowledge them and put ourselves on the side of overcoming them. The Bible calls this "repentance" and "confession."

Second, we must accept Christ's death on the cross for our sins and ask Him to forgive those sins.

When we have met these conditions, God does two things for us. First, He forgives us, and second, He transforms our minds and emotions so that the evil things we once loved we now hate and the good things we hated we now love. Christians call this the "new birth."

Now we are ready for Jesus to come!