

Why Is Jesus Christ Coming Back to Earth?

Intro: We conclude our question: *Why is Jesus coming back?*

1. I believe he is coming back to **complete the saints**, to **conquer the devil**; to **command the world**, and finally, to:

IV. CONDEMN THE UNGODLY

1. Why should history conclude with a day of judgment?

a. The injustice of life demands it

Romans 12:19 *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.*

b. The justice of God demands it

Galatians 6:7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

c. Jesus Christ must be publicly vindicated

Philippians 2:9-11 *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

d. The Lord's people must be publicly vindicated

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

2. The Bible anticipates the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Revelation 20:11-15 *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

a. See also: Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

3. There will be two resurrection days separated by the millennium.

Revelation 20:4-6 *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

4. God has delegated judgment to Jesus Christ.

Acts 17:30-31 *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.*

5. Jesus will sit upon the throne with authority to judge the human race.

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

a. During his life on earth, Jesus claimed to have authority to decide the destiny of nations and individuals. (See Matt. 7:21-23; 13:41-43)

6. The Bible makes it clear that we shall be judged according to the light we have received—whether the full light of the gospel, the half light of the ten commandments, or the lessor light shining through creation.

Romans 2:12-16 *All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.*

7. But what human could possibly qualify for any verdict but "guilty"? Who always done what they know to be right? Even if only judged in the light of their own conscience—who could be justified? God's word speaks truly in **Romans 3:23**, *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

Revelation 20:12-15 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. NIV*

8. The sentence for the ungodly we see in Rev. 20:14-15 is being cast into the "lake of fire." The condemned will be separated from God.
9. So what hope does anyone have? We see in this passage there is another book, "The Book of Life" (v.12, 15). Everyone listed in the book of life will be acquitted and set free from the verdict of guilty. So how does a person qualify for inclusion in the "Book of Life?" It only happens through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:21-26 *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished- 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. NIV*

10. True faith is not a single step but a committed journey. Saving faith is *believing obedience*.

Romans 1:17 *For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live." TEV*

Habakkuk 2:4 *And this is the message: "Those who are evil will not survive, but those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God." TEV*