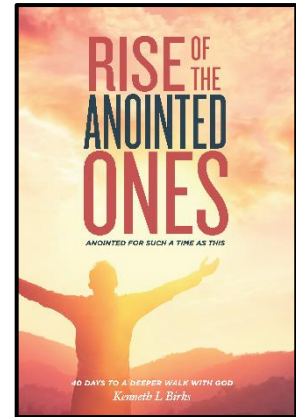


The Second Coming of Christ

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Church's great hope. We, as Christians, all look forward to this event with great anticipation. The Second Coming gives us a striking expectation of the great and glorious things that will take place at His appearance. It also provides us with a faith picture of how we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye to be wholly conformed into Christ's image.¹ We will be delivered and freed from the bondage of this flesh, as the passage below details.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*



There are many views amongst Christians as to when Jesus will return. The objective here is not to lift one view above another, but to simply look at the fact that Jesus will return in the near future and how we must prepare ourselves for this momentous event the Church has been anticipating since the ascension of Jesus to the Father following His resurrection from the dead. Almost every generation since Jesus ascended into heaven has expected His return. No one knows when He will return. However, Jesus and other writers of the Scriptures have given us signs that point towards the season of His coming.

Acts 1:9-11 *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**"*

Let's keep in mind that no one knows the day nor the hour, but that doesn't mean we should be ignorant of the season as Jesus reminded us, when He said, "*But of that day and **hour**, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*"²

Even though we won't know the day or the hour of His return, God expects us to be aware of our seasons. We see where Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and the Sadducees for not being able to discern the signs of the times.

Matthew 16:2-3 *He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; ³ "and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! **You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.***

Jesus wants us to be like the sons of Issachar, who understood their times, and knew what Israel should do.³ There must be those in the Church today who understand the times, who also know what the Church should do to prepare for the second coming of Christ. Many of the signs Jesus and other Bible writers said would precede His coming seem to be apparent in our current season of time. It could be that we are now in the season Jesus spoke of concerning the coming birth pangs

¹ 1 Corinthians 15:52

² Matthew 24:36

³ 1 Chronicles 12:32

Mark 13:7-8 "But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

With an understanding that we are most likely at the beginning of the birth pangs Jesus spoke of, we must make sure we prepare ourselves for His coming, lest we get caught sleeping. We don't want to be caught unprepared like the foolish virgins Jesus spoke of in His parable.⁴

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ "Watch therefore, **and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**"

Before the Second Coming of Christ, the great challenge for the Christian will be to maintain a state of readiness. Because, when Jesus returns, He's coming for a bride that has made herself ready and is full of faith.

Revelation 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself **ready.**"

Matthew 25:10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were **ready** went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Jesus' parable of the ten virgins reveals that the determining factor in being ready is the amount of oil in our vessels. Oil is always symbolic of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Therefore, we must have an ongoing vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit, keeping ourselves stirred up in the faith if we want to be among those who will be ready when the Bridegroom comes for His bride.

The following gives you a good reminder on how to keep yourself stirred up in the faith and in a state of readiness:

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit – *Maintains your oil supply.*⁵
- Build a Strong Word Foundation – *Lamps represent God's Word.*⁶
- Walk in the fear of the Lord. – *This is what gives wisdom.*⁷
- Put on the garments of the new nature – *This destroys the old nature.*⁸
- Purpose to walk in love – *Love is what holds everything together.*⁹

⁴ Matthew 25:1-10

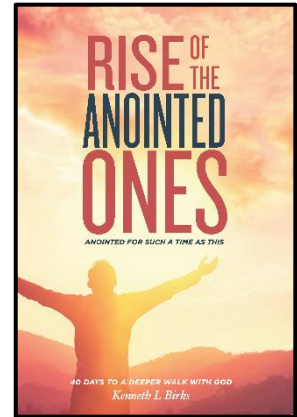
⁵ 1 John 2:20,27 – from Strong's Concordance [<G5548>](#) (chrio); an *unguent* or *smearing*, i.e. (figurative) the special *endowment* ("chrism") of the Holy Spirit :- anointing, unction.

⁶ Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 6:1-3 – foundations truths needed to go on to maturity.

⁷ 2 Corinthians 7:1 – perfect holiness in the fear of God

⁸ Ephesians 4:20-24 – the new nature vs. the old nature.

⁹ Colossians 3:14 – Love the bond of perfection.



For more information on the Book, "Rise of the Anointed Ones," and how to order at a discounted price, [Click Here Now](#)



- Learn to Accept Trials and Tribulations with Joy – *This is what matures us.*¹⁰

We are in a season of laboring together with the Lord. However, a day is coming when we cease from our part in the process. God will then perfect in us what He began. He is the author and finisher of our salvation.¹¹ Until then, we must remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.¹²

¹⁰ James 1:2 – Count it all joy

¹¹ Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 5, Romans 9:28,

¹² 1 Corinthians 15:58