

**“But of that day and hour no one knows,
not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”**

Matthew 24:36

*We believe that Jesus is coming soon! But how do we know this is true? And how soon is soon? Haven't people been saying that for many, many years? How can we be sure that the Second Coming really is imminent? Fortunately, the Bible powerfully, compellingly, and clearly answers these questions. Let's turn our attention to the Bible and see what it has to say about this important topic. Is it possible for us to know the exact time that our world will come to an end?
See Matthew 24:36.*

1. How many different prophecies did Jesus fulfill when He came the first time?

The evangelist Dwight L. Moody discovered that the Bible references the Second Coming more than 2,500 times.

2. What thrilling promises does Jesus give us in John 14:1-3?

- 1) Let not your heart be _____
- 2) In my Father's house are many _____
- 3) I go to prepare a place for _____
- 4) I will _____

3. According to Matthew 24:24-26, what are some of the ways the enemy will attempt to deceive us?

4. Interpreting Prophecy:

Define Preterism _____

Define Futurism _____

Define Historicist _____

The only way to be safe is to know what the Bible and the Bible alone says about Christ's return.

In seeking to correctly understand the rapture and the second coming, we must address five essentials surrounding the Second Coming.

5. Christ's Second Coming will be:

1) Acts 1:11 _____

2) Matthew 25:31 _____

3) Revelation 1:7 _____

4) 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 _____

5) 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 _____

6. Does the Second Coming sound like it will be a secret event?

The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible. Yet, correctly understood, it is a Biblical teaching. Like the words "trinity" or "millennium," which also do not appear in the Bible, some words essentially become synonymous with certain Bible teachings. There is nothing wrong with this, per se, but we must labor to be sure that our beliefs and teachings all come from the Bible.

The Bible does, in fact, teach that the Second Coming will resemble, in some sense, a thief in the night. See 2 Peter 3:10 and Matthew 24:42. But what does this mean, that it is a secret that no one knows?

7. In what respect is the Second Coming like a thief?

No good thief calls ahead to alert you of his arrival. He times his coming so that you won't expect it. Only in this sense is the Second Coming like "a thief."

8. When does the antichrist appear?
2 Thessalonians 2:1-4,8

Now we are brought to focus on the most glaring inconsistency of the secret rapture theory, and that is that the antichrist will not appear until after the saints are caught away. Paul settles the entire matter for us in the first few verses of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

9. So what happens to those who are not saved at the rapture? Luke 17:26-30

**There are two groups:
*Those that were in the ark,
and those that were "destroyed;"
Those that left Sodom and Gomorrah,
and those that were "destroyed."***

10. Will Christ return in two phases? Matthew 24:37,
Luke 17:26,30

Some have taught that the two separate stages of Christ's coming are indicated "in the Greek." They argue that there will first be the rapture (parousia), a secret coming; then seven years later will be the revelation (apokalupsis), His coming in power and glory.

11. List the Bible verses that speak of a seven-year tribulation.

12. What would prevent me from being ready for the Second Coming? Jeremiah 8:20

How terrible to know that you have come all the way down to the very end and you are not ready to cross the finish line. That we blew the one chance we had to get this thing called life correct. How tragic would it be to know that we were responsible for discouraging someone else from following Jesus?

13. List examples of those that God delivered **through** tribulation rather than **from** tribulation.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____



Is there anything in your life that would keep you from being ready for the coming of Jesus? A habit or perhaps an attitude? Would you like to surrender to Jesus now and ensure your readiness for His soon coming?
