

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS?

We have studied what the Bible says in answer to this question for a few weeks. When Jesus returns, He will raise up the believers on the last day (**John 6:40**). He will call forth all who are in the graves to arise, both good and bad for judgment (**John 5:27-29**). So we know all the dead are raised at the same time when they hear the voice of Jesus call them up. This is also the Day of Judgment, which is also mentioned in **John 5**. Jesus said that we will be judged by His word on the last day, the same time we arise from the dead.

Other passages indicate what we will see and hear when Jesus returns. **Revelation 1:7** says that every eye will see Him. The question of when Jesus will come again is a secret (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**), but it will not be a secret when He comes again. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** says He will descend with a shout. It will be so loud that the dead will hear it and rise! We will also hear the archangel and the trump of God.

2 Peter 3:10-14 also talks about the earth passing away with a great noise from burning up. The creation will come to a cataclysmic end. The elements will melt and be dissolved by the fervent heat.

With such a catastrophe looming, how will we survive? **1 Corinthians 15** gives us the answer to that. Our bodies will be changed into bodies that can survive. Mortality will put on immortality. The bodies of the dead will be changed, too. They will rise up with new bodies; the physically alive will be equipped with similar bodies with a new, immortal nature; and we shall all rise up together to meet the Lord in the air (**1 Thess. 4:17**). This is because Jesus must deliver up the kingdom when He returns at the end.

Next is the great throne judgment. Jesus will sit on the throne of His glory (**Matthew 25:31-46**). Everyone will be there. We all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account to God (**Romans 14:10-12**). This is why **John 5:29** refers to the general resurrection as a resurrection of life for those who have done good and a resurrection of judgment for those who have done wrong. Body and soul will be cast into the lake of fire if one dies in his sin (**Matt. 10:28** and **Revelation 20:11-15**). Peter says this is why we need to make our conduct be godly and holy **now**.