

King of Kings and Lord of Lords



SABBATH—SEPTEMBER 17

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:23-51; Matthew 7:21-29; Philipians 2:9-11; Revelation 20:7-9.

MEMORY VERSE: “Then I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True; it is with justice that he judges and fights his battles. . . . On his robe and on his thigh was written the name: King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:11, 16, TEV).

IMPORTANT THOUGHT: Our Lord and Savior Jesus will come again in glory to gather His people throughout history into His eternal¹ kingdom. All those who have received Him as Savior and Lord will welcome Him with joy when He returns to this earth.

JESUS, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, HAS GIVEN US MANY PROMISES. The greatest promise is that He will return and take us from this sin-sick world. We have this hope in the coming of the Lord. As our Savior, He brought us back to God and opened the way for the great and glorious day of His return. Then sin will be destroyed forever and we will live with Him throughout eternity.²

This is the great hope of all people who have shown in their lives that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord. But for people who have refused to accept Jesus as their Lord, the Second Coming will be a sad and fearful event.³

Right now, why not completely surrender to the One who surrendered all for us on the cross?

Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, September 24.

¹eternal—forever; without beginning or end; lasting forever.

²eternity—life without end.

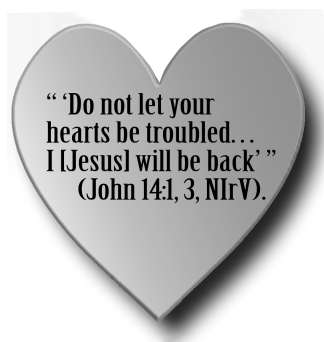
³event—thing that happens.

SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 18**CHRIST IS SURE TO COME
(John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11).**

If we have received Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are a people of hope. We are joyfully “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing [coming] of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13, NKJV). Our hope for the return of Jesus is not just a wish. We know He is returning, because He is faithful in honoring His promises.

What promise did Jesus give to His followers about His return to this earth? John 14:1-3.

We trust in this promise of Jesus: “I will come again.” This sentence might be translated “I am coming again.” The verb⁴ “to come” is in the present tense. We call this a “futuristic present” (a present that shows the future). This means that what is being described is sure to happen. In this promise, Jesus shows His return is as certain (sure) as if it were already happening!



⁴verb—a word that shows action. Run, drive, and walk are words that are verbs.

What did two angels say about Jesus' promise to return? Acts 1:9-11.

Seventh-day Adventist Christians have long held dear the blessed hope of Jesus' return. Our name, Adventist, reminds us that Jesus will come again as King of kings and Lord of lords. The people who started our church expected His return long before now. But the promise is still sure. “The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. He is patient with you. He doesn't [does not] want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins” (2 Peter 3:9, 10, NIV). Paul writes: “The Lord himself will come down from heaven” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV). Jesus' second coming is not a wish. It is our certain hope.

Are you discouraged, worried, fearful? Read again John 14:1-3. Put your name in the right places. (For example, “I am going to prepare a place for [repeat your name].”) Picture in your mind that Jesus is talking just to you. What hope do you receive from Jesus' promise to return for you?

MONDAY—SEPTEMBER 19**THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S
RETURN (Matthew 24:23-31).**

Jesus wants us to be certain (sure)

of His return. He also wants us to understand how He will return. We already have learned from yesterday's lesson that His coming will be real. Jesus said, "I will come again." We must refuse to accept any interpretation that explains away Christ's second coming as His coming into our hearts. It is true that Christ lives in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17). But the fact that He lives in our hearts does not replace His real return.

What can we learn from the following verses about the nature of Jesus' return?

Matthew 24:23-26 _____

Matthew 24:27 _____

Matthew 24:31 _____



Remember that false christs will appear.

Jesus' second coming will not be a secret. It will be very seeable and loud. Matthew 24:31 also suggests that people who died believing in Jesus will be brought back to life when He returns. Read another promise of Jesus: "My Father wants all who look to the Son and believe in him to have eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day" (John 6:40, NIV).

Read Paul's descriptions of Christ's second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. Why would such a description be hard for a false christ to fake? The Bible is clear about how Jesus will return. So why have many people been fooled by false christs in the past?

Paul supports Jesus' teaching about how He will return. Jesus' second coming is personal: Jesus Himself will come down from heaven. His second coming is powerful: Jesus will shout and the trumpet will sound. There will be a resurrection⁵: People who died believing in Jesus will rise first. Finally, all saved people will be gathered up to meet Jesus in the air.

Based on today's lesson, write a paragraph in your own words describing what it will be like when Jesus returns. Bring your paragraph to class to share with others. How are the paragraphs the same? How are they different?

⁵resurrection—the raising of the dead back to life.

TUESDAY—SEPTEMBER 20**THE TIMING OF JESUS' RETURN
(Matthew 24:45-51).**

In Jesus' last words written in the book of Revelation, He announced, "Surely I am coming quickly" (Revelation 22:20, NKJV). Christians have wrestled with that announcement ever since. From our human viewpoint, it does not seem that He is coming quickly. But we understand that He is not locked in time as we are. Peter reminds us that "with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years. And a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8, NlrV).



Remember that Jesus will return quickly.

What mistake should Peter's words keep us from making?

When we think of eternity, Jesus is coming quickly. But many times we find

ourselves crying out, "How long, Lord and King, holy and true? How long will you wait to judge those who live on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10, NlrV).

Read Jesus' parable⁶ in Matthew 24:45-51. What do you believe is the basic message He is giving us in this parable? Why is this parable so important to Adventists?

For a long time, people in the church have debated the question of a delay⁷ in Jesus' return. Is there a delay? If so, why? If there is not a delay, then why has Jesus not returned? We may not have all these questions answered before Jesus comes. But the important thing is to always be ready for His return.

If someone were to ask you, "What does it mean to be ready for Jesus' return?" How would you answer? If Jesus returned today, would you be ready? Why or why not?

WEDNESDAY—SEPTEMBER 21**THE EFFECTS OF JESUS' RETURN (Matthew 7:21-23).**

Jesus' return will affect people living on the earth in one of two ways. For people who have refused to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord, His return will be a time of ter-

⁶parable—a simple story that teaches a moral or religious lesson.

⁷delay—to put off until a later time.

ror. Even for many people who claim to be followers of Jesus but who never let Him be Lord of their lives, His return will be a time of fear.

What does Matthew 27:21-23 say about claiming Jesus as your Lord but then not really letting Him be your Lord?

Jesus is very clear: We cannot separate faith in Him from obedience to Him. In Matthew 27:21-26, Jesus connects obedience with a saving relationship with Him. He says He “never knew” people who claimed Him as Lord and did good works in His name, because they were not obedient to God’s will. In other words, calling yourself a Christian while not living like a Christian is useless. Living like a Christian requires that we do God’s will. If not, our faith is made out of nothing but sand.

How does Matthew 7:24-29 fit in with what Jesus said in verses 21-23?

THURSDAY—SEPTEMBER 22

THE COSMIC⁸ CONFESSION⁹ (Philippians 2:9-11).

Christians who claim Jesus as Lord obey God’s will. This is not an obedi-

ence that saves. Instead, it is an obedience that shows a true faith in the God who has saved them by His own blood.

What do the following verses tell us about how we are saved? Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:12.

But Christians who claim Jesus as Lord and obey God’s will are not the only people who will say Jesus is Lord. Paul says that the day is coming when everyone will say Jesus is Lord.

What is Paul talking about in Philippians 2:9-11?

“People denied and refused to accept Jesus at His first coming. They dragged Him as a criminal to Pilate’s court. There they blamed Him for blasphemy.¹⁰ Jesus was whipped and crucified. Nails were driven through His hands and His feet. . . . At His second coming, the scene will be changed. Everyone will know and say He is the King of glory. At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow. And every tongue shall confess (say) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The angels will bow with great respect to Him. His enemies will see the mistake they have made. And every person will know and say that He is God.”—Adapted

⁸cosmic—the entire universe.

⁹confession—to say Jesus is Lord.

¹⁰blasphemy—to say you are equal with God.

from Ellen G. White, “With Power and Great Glory,” *Signs of the Times*, April 19, 1905.

For wicked people, confessing that Jesus is Lord when He returns will not save them. They are just recognizing the fact that Jesus is Lord. They will have no change of heart. They will not repent¹¹ of their sins. Revelation 20:7-9 shows that they continue their rebellion against the Lord.

But when Jesus returns, there will be sinners who have committed (given) their lives to Jesus by surrendering their will to Him. These people will preach Jesus as their Lord. Their lives will reflect what they preach. They will praise their Lord in heaven the same as they praised Him on earth. Their service on earth to Jesus as Lord will continue in heaven. But it will be without the burden of sin, disease, ignorance, and Satan’s temptations. That is the victory Jesus won for them. By trusting and living by faith with Jesus as Lord, they can enjoy the results of that victory, even now.

FRIDAY—SEPTEMBER 23

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Read Revelation 19–22. Take time to think about this beautiful scene of the new earth: “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. It was as clear as crystal. It flowed from the throne of God and of the Lamb

[Jesus]. It flowed down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing [giving off] 12 crops of fruit. Its fruit was ripe every month. The leaves of the tree bring healing to the nations. There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city. God’s servants will serve him. They will see his face. His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of the lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. They will rule for ever and ever” (Revelation 22:1-5, NIV).

What a blessed hope is ours! Soon our Lord and Savior Jesus will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will create a new heaven and a new earth. And we will rule with Him for ever and ever. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Suppose you discuss Jesus’ second coming with someone. The person probably will say, “Look, ever since I was a kid, I was told Jesus was coming soon. So please, do not bother me with this talk of His ‘soon’ return.” How will you answer this person?
2. Read again Revelation 22:1-5. Talk as a class about what you think life will be like in the new earth. What will the big difference be between life in eternity and life on earth now?

¹¹repent—to say you are sorry for your sins and to turn away from sin.

3. As a class, talk about the difference between just believing in

Jesus as Lord and living under Him as Lord.



Our blessed hope!