



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Exploring the Return of Christ (The Full Story of Jesus pt 4)

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme

We Are Near The End

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, You've promised to return and bring eternal life. Help me honor Your Word and embrace Your grace and forgiveness. Please help me walk free from shame and serve others joyfully. Prepare my heart and let my life reflect Yours. I desire to be vigilant, awaiting the day You establish Your Kingdom on Earth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Key Truths

When a believer passes away, their spirit and soul join the Lord. Upon Jesus' return, He'll resurrect those who've died that eagerly awaited Him—the Church. Christians have anticipated Christ's return for generations, and we must remain vigilant and prepared. When Jesus comes back, He will confront the Devil and cast him into Hell. The Scriptures contain numerous warnings about the Antichrist, detailing his arrival, how to prepare, and what to avoid. But, as believers, we'll be taken away before the Antichrist appears.

Jesus will establish His Kingdom and rule from Jerusalem. Although we don't know the exact time of His return, we should always be prepared. As we live, we should honor God and embrace our grace. With our sins forgiven, we can be free of shame. Service is a reward, not a punishment; God offers us more responsibility and increased opportunities. Jesus will be King over Earth, establishing an eternal Kingdom.

Practical Application

Embrace the grace and forgiveness you've received by living with joy and freedom from shame. Spend time with God and His Word to grow your faith and character.

Jesus paid a weighty price for you to live close to Him. Learn who He designed and created you to be.

Reference Verses

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1:10, 2:18
- 2 Corinthians 5:8
- Hebrews 9:28
- Romans 5:9
- Luke 21:36
- Revelation 19:11-21, 20:1-7
- 1 John 4:3
- Jude 1:14-15
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Zechariah 14:3-4, 14:9
- Isaiah 63:1-6, 2:3-4, 65:20
- Psalms 110:5-7
- Acts 1:4-8
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Philippians 3:11
- Ezekiel 47:9-10
- Matthew 25:21

Declarations

- I will honor God and embrace His grace and forgiveness.
- I eagerly await the return of Christ, confident in the freedom and purpose He gave me.
- I will serve joyfully; it's an opportunity to reflect God's love.

What's Next?

As we look forward to the return of Jesus Christ, the Bible calls us to live in anticipation, hope, and readiness. This involves deepening our understanding, cultivating a life of readiness, and developing a mindset of watchfulness. Let's explore how we can apply these principles in our daily walk with Christ.

1. Deepen Your Understanding

Growing in knowledge of God's Word is essential for understanding His plan for the future. Dedicate time to study Scripture, focusing on passages like Revelation, Daniel, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4, and 2 Thessalonians. Seek sound teaching through sermons, Bible studies, and trusted theological resources that offer balanced, biblically-grounded interpretations. A deeper understanding will strengthen your faith and prepare you to navigate the times with clarity and confidence.

2. Cultivate a Life of Readiness

Readiness begins with a vibrant relationship with God. Commit to daily devotions that include prayer, Bible

reading, and meditation on His Word. Strive to live in obedience, letting your actions reflect God's love and character by serving others and pursuing righteousness. Additionally, share the gospel with those around you—it's the message of hope and salvation that the world needs, especially in uncertain times.

3. Develop a Mindset of Watchfulness

Adopt a watchful and heavenly mindset. Stay informed about current events without being overwhelmed by fear, trusting in God's sovereignty over all things. Keep your focus on eternity, remembering that your ultimate home is in heaven. Live each day fully for the Lord, knowing that while we don't know when Jesus will return, we are called to be ready at all times.

As we anticipate Christ's return, let's deepen our understanding, live in readiness, and maintain watchfulness. These steps will not only prepare us for His coming but also help us live purposefully and joyfully in the present, reflecting His glory to the world around us.

Scripture References

Exploring the Return of Christ

1 John 3:3 NKJV And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 John 2:28 NKJV ...and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 NKJV But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Hebrews 9:28 NKJV so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time...

Romans 5:9 PASSION For through the blood of Jesus we have heard the powerful declaration, "You are now righteous in my sight." And because of the sacrifice of Jesus, you will never experience the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 NKJV ...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Luke 21:36 NKJV "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."

Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with

a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1 John 2:18 NKJV Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:3 NKJV ...and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Jude 14-15 NKJV Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Revelation 19:19-20 NKJV And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

1 Peter 5:8 NKJV ...the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelation 19:21 NKJV And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition...

2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV ...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4-5 NKJV ...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Zechariah 14:4 NKJV And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...

Isaiah 63:1-4 NKJV Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel...Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I

have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

Psalms 110:5-6 NKJV The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.

Acts 1:4-7 NKJV And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Genesis 12:1-2 NKJV Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation...

Isaiah 2:3-4 NKJV For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Revelation 20:1-3 NKJV Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

Revelation 20:4-5 NKJV And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:5-7 NKJV But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Now when the thousand years have expired...

Philippians 3:11 NKJV ...if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:11 Wuest ...the out-resurrection from among those who are dead.

Ezekiel 47:10 NKJV It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.

Isaiah 65:20 NKJV For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

Matthew 25:21 NKJV His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Zechariah 14:9 NKJV And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.