

I. OVERVIEW: THE RETURN OF JESUS - WHY DO WE WANT THIS?

A. Peter described that a believer's life should exhibit one that "looked for" the coming of the Lord with expectant hope and partnership. If we *want to look for Jesus' return*, let alone *hasten His return*, we first *must be convinced why we want Him to return* (2 Pet. 3:10–16).

¹¹ Therefore...what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... (2 Pet. 3:11)

B. ***Four main reasons*** why we should desire the Lord's return:

1. ***The establishment of justice in the earth.*** Justice occurs when the ways and systems of the world reflects those in heaven—God's will administered in all aspects of life: spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, agricultural, educational, technological, environmental, arts, athletics, etc. (Psalm 89:14; 97:2; Mat. 6:10; Isaiah 9:7; 16:5; Amos 5:24; Luke 18:7–8; Rev. 6:9–11)
2. ***The completion of our salvation.*** What we have received in part regarding our mind, will, emotions and physical bodies, we will receive in full when the Lord returns (Phil. 1:6; 1 Cor. 15:42–49).
3. ***The advancement of God's purposes in the earth during the next age.*** The Father's plan is to unite heaven to earth through Jesus (Eph. 1:9–10). Jesus will take over all the kingdoms of the earth upon His return and transform them progressively in partnership with all the saints to bring them into alignment with Heaven (Rev. 15:11–18; Isa. 4:2; Zech. 6:12; Isa. 6:3; 11:9; Hab. 2:14).
 - a. *advancement #1: the first "all-saved" nation, Israel*
 - b. *advancement #2: the transformation of society and international relations*
 - c. *advancement #3: the restoration of creation*
 - d. *advancement #4: the salvation of the Gentile nations*
 - e. *advancement #5: the removal of all supernatural forces of evil*
4. ***God's name revealed and exalted.*** In every generation where God released salvation, it caused a massive transition in how people understood the Lord, bringing forth worship: *the flood*, *the Exodus*, *the first coming* of Jesus and *age of early Church* and so again with *Jesus' second coming*. The Lord's name will be worshipped on earth as it is in heaven (Mat. 6:10; Rev. 4:2, 8–11; 5:8–14; 7:9–17; 8:1; 11:15–18; 15:1–4; 16:5–7; 19:1–8).

II. REASON ONE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUSTICE IN THE EARTH (AMOS 5:24; LUKE 18:7-8)

⁷ And shall God not avenge [give justice to] His own elect who cry out day and night to Him... (Luke 18:7)

A. Presently, the earth and its inhabitants have not experienced complete salvation. While Jesus' work of atoning for sin is finished (John 19:30), what He has paid for is not fully enforced—Jesus still has much work to do now and in the coming age (Isa. 40:10; 62:11). There will come a time when Jesus completes the “work before Him” and the Father says “It is finished” (Rev. 21:6).

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand...Behold...His work before Him. (Isa. 40:10)

B. Mankind still needs deliverance from:

1. Sin (Dan. 8:23; Mat. 13:30, 41-42; Isa. 24:4-6; Mat. 24:12). This includes the power of sin operating in the earth and those who love sin instead of the righteousness of God (Isa. 59:4-15; Rom. 1:18; 2 Thes. 2:9-11; Rev. 9:20-21; 11:18; 16:9, 11; 20:15).

²³ And in the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness (Dan. 8:23)

2. Death (Rom. 6:23; 5:12; 7:24; Isa. 25:8; 1 Cor. 15:26, 50-56; Rev. 20:14). Death is physical but also the quality of life involving all aspects of human relationship.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (1 Cor. 15:26)

3. The Devil (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 16:20; Isa. 27:1; Rev. 20:1-3, 10)

²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. (Rom. 16:20)

C. Creation is groaning under the weight of sin and distorted (Rom. 8:22; Isa. 24:4-6; Rev. 11:18).

⁴ The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away... ⁵ The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws... (Isa. 24:4-5)

D. The righteous suffer, are persecuted and perish without reward or recompense (Psalm 12:1; Isa. 57:1; 59:15a; Mat. 5:10; Luke 18:7; 1 Cor. 4:9-13; Heb. 11:35b-39; Rev. 6:9-11).

¹ Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from the sons of men. (Psalm 12:1)

E. The weak and poor of the earth are neglected and exploited (Psalm 10:17-18; 76:9; Ecc. 4:1; Isa. 3:15; 5:7; 11:4; Jer. 22:17; Ezek. 22:29-31; Mal. 3:5; Amos 4:1; James 2:1-6; 5:1-5; Rev. 6:6; 18:13)

¹ Then I...considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: and look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter... (Ecc. 4:1)

F. The nations are in rebellion to God, under the power of sin and the Devil (Luke 4:5-6; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18; Psalm 2:1-3; Isaiah 34:2; Rev. 19:19).

¹ Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? ²... against the Lord and against His Anointed, ³“Let us break Their bonds [God's righteous restraints] in pieces...” (Psalm 2:1-3)

- G. *Israel* will enter into a time of national crisis by making a covenant with the Antichrist and other nations (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; 9:27; Isaiah 28:15, 18). The Antichrist will break the covenant and betray Israel (Isa. 24:16; 33:1). He will then lead the nations against the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3; 14:2). God has not changed His mind in using Israel to release salvation on the earth (Rev. 12:13, 17; Rom. 11:11, 15; 25–27, 29; Ex. 19:6).
¹ ***Behold, the day of the Lord is coming...²...I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem (Zech 14:3)***
- H. *Accusations against God*—His name is blasphemed and mocked. His goodness questioned.
¹⁰ ***Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” (Psalm 79:10)***
1. The wicked say He is powerless and not present (Psalm 42:3, 10; 79:10; Isa. 52:5; Rev. 13:6)
 2. His own people doubt His goodness and ability (Isa. 40:27)
 3. Scoffers and mockers will increase in the last days (2 Tim. 3:2; 2 Pet. 3:3–4; Jude 4, 18; cf. Isa. 5:19)
- I. When Jesus returns as a King and Judge, He will judge men and angels by how they used *the authority delegated* to them and remove all power from the wicked and give it to His saints.
- J. When we meditate on the justice God will bring, it stirs us to bring justice through prayer and works of the Kingdom right now.

III. REASON TWO: THE COMPLETION OF OUR SALVATION (PHIL 1:6)

- A. When Jesus returns, each believer will receive their salvation in full. Presently, we have our salvation in part regarding our minds, will, emotion and physical body.
[B]eing confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you [salvation] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil 1:6)
- B. To understand what we will receive at His return, we must understand the three parts of our salvation.
1. ***Our legal position***—*justification*, past tense, focused on our spirit. *We have been saved.* (Rom. 3:21–31; 2 Cor. 5:17–21; Eph. 2:8–10). A billion years from now, we will never be more righteous than now. We have the same righteousness that Jesus Himself possesses before the Father (1 Cor. 1:30; Isa. 53:11)
⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Eph. 2:8–9)
 2. ***Our living condition***—*sanctification*, present tense, focused on our soul. *We are being saved.* (Rom. 6:11–13; 8:5; 13; 2 Cor. 6:1; Titus 2:11–12; Rom. 5:3–4, 21). Our soul includes our mind, will and emotions. Sanctification involves our participation with the grace freely offered, including cultivating a life in the Spirit and abstaining from corrupting lusts of the world.
¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared... ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live...righteously, and godly... (Titus 2:11–12)
¹ We..... plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2 Cor. 6:1)

3. **Our eternal exaltation**—*glorification*, future tense, focused on our body. *We will be saved*. At the resurrection our bodies and soul will be perfect and fully recreated (1 Cor. 15:42–49, 54; Dan. 12:3).

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption...⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...⁴⁹...we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. (1 Cor. 15:42–49)

- C. ***Our eternal exaltation occurs when Jesus returns***: All saints will stand before the judgment (evaluation) seat of the Lord *to receive a reward* (Rom. 14:10–12; 2 Cor. 5:9–11). Our reward includes:
 1. *A glorified, resurrected body with increased capacities* (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; 1 Cor. 15:42–49, 54; Mt. 13:12; 25:29)
 2. *A role in God's government* (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 22:5) in its many layers and positions (Hag. 2:23; Lk. 19:17–18; Rev. 2:26–27)
 3. *A place in the New Jerusalem, our eternal home* (Jn. 14:2–3; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:9–22:5).
- D. Paul prophesied that the rapture would occur at the *last trumpet* (1 Cor. 15:51–52). The last trumpet is the *seventh trumpet* that *sounds for days* when *the mystery (purpose) of God* is finished (Rev. 10:7; 11:15–19). Paul saw those who fell asleep in the Lord and those presently awake would be “caught up” with the Lord at that time (1 Thess. 4:16–17).

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51–52)
- E. When we preach, teach and meditate on Jesus and His return and what it means for us, it brings *urgency* in our every day lives, *love* for God and His plan, *hope* in our eternal destiny (Acts 23:6; 24:15; Rom. 8:24; Eph. 1:18; 1 John 3:3)

³...everyone who has this hope in Him [in His return] purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:3)

IV. REASON THREE: THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S PURPOSES IN THE EARTH (EPH. 1:9–10).

- A. Presently, the Lord is using the Gentile Church as the primary vehicle of salvation. After the first century the focal point of the Church and its growth was the Gentile nations with mostly Gentile believers.

¹¹I say then, have they [Israel] stumbled [temporarily rejected God] that they should fall [Never recover]? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation [the ministry of salvation] has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

- B. Upon the Lord's return, He will shift back to use Israel as the primary vehicle of salvation upon the earth. This period of time will last for 1,000 years, called, “The Millennium,” a literal 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from His Throne of Glory in Jerusalem (cf. Rev. 20:2–7). *Millennium* is the Latin ‘mille’ a thousand.

¹⁵For if their [Israel's] being cast away [divine discipline] is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance [repentance and return to God] be but life from the dead [for the earth]?... ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Rom. 11:15, 29)

- C. At this time the Kingdom of God will be openly manifest affecting every sphere of life (spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, agricultural, educational, technological, environmental, arts, athletics, etc.). The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus establishes righteous rule and prepares the earth for the Father's arrival (1 Cor. 15:24–28). It will take 1,000 years to spread, mature and test the righteousness in every area of every nation (Isa. 9:7).

²⁴ Then comes the end [of the 1,000 year reign], when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father... (1 Cor. 15:24)

- D. There is a common misconception that we are going away to live with God in heaven. The reality is that heaven is coming to earth where we will live with God forever (Rev. 21–22).

² Then I...saw the...New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [the Father] is with men, and He will dwell with them [on earth]... (Rev. 21:2–3)

V. ADVANCEMENT #1: THE FIRST "ALL-SAVED" NATION, ISRAEL

- A. When Jesus returns, all Israel will be saved (Isa. 4:3–4; 33:14; 59:20; 60:21; 62:1–2; Ezek. 20:37–38; Rom. 11:25–26). They will see the one they pierced, mourn and receive Jesus as their King (Zech. 12:10; Ps. 118:26). They will become the first of many "all saved nations".

³ And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. ⁴ When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning (Isa. 4:3–4)

²⁶ ...so all Israel will be saved... "The Deliverer [Jesus] will come out of Zion [Heavenly Jerusalem], and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." (Rom. 11:26–27)

- B. Israel's priestly ministry among the nations will be restored on the earth, bringing heaven and earth closer together, and secondly, providing a clear witness to the nations of the earth regarding the Lord (Ex. 19:6; Isa. 60:1–22; 61:6). The way the early apostles were sought after for carrying the presence of God, the entire nation of Israel will so be desired (Isa. 60:15; Psalm 48:2; Zech. 8:23; Acts 4:13).

⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.... (Ex. 19:6)

²³ "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days [after the Lord returns] ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'" (Zech. 8:23)

- C. Jerusalem will be the religious, political and geographic epicenter of the world.

² ...in the latter days [after Jesus returns] that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains...be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. (Isa. 2:2)

- D. Jesus will reign on a throne and His glory will touch the nations. His beauty will be seen openly. (John 17:24; Mat. 17:1–2; Isa. 4:2; 11:10; 24:23; 33:17; 60:13; Psalm 27:4; Hag. 2:7).

²In that day the Branch of the LORD [Jesus] shall be beautiful and glorious. (Isa. 4:2)

¹⁷Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)

- E. Jesus will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which will serve as the convergence point of heaven and earth allowing for in the Glory of the Father to pour out into the city and the land (Hag. 2:9; Zech. 6:12–13; Isa. 11:10; 24:23; 60:1–3; Mat. 25:31). There will be manifestations of smoke and a cloud over earthly Jerusalem greater than the days at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 24:17–18; 33:9–10; 40:34; Isa. 4:5; 33:14). All the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be living in the intense and manifest presence of God. How amazing and terrifying.

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Mat. 25:31)

VI. ADVANCEMENT #2: THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- A. The quality of human life will dramatically improve beginning in Jerusalem. What we see God doing in Jerusalem He will also do across the earth with those who agree with Him. He will personally heal and restore all those who come to Him (Isa. 25:6–8).

⁶And in this mountain [where earthly Jerusalem sits]...⁸...the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces (Isa. 25:6–8)

- B. Sickness will be absent in Jerusalem and a great healing revival will impact the entire earth (Isa. 11:9; 25:8; 33:24; 35:6; 9:7; Zech. 6:12; Dan. 2:35b, 44).

²⁴And the inhabitant [of Jerusalem] will not say, “I am sick”... (Isa. 33:24)

- C. Lifespans will lengthen (Isa. 65:20–22). It will be rare for the inhabitants of the earth to die before reaching 100 years-old. Zechariah mentions those of great age living in Jerusalem (Zech. 8:4). Because of the removal of sin and its effects, lifespans will increase to what they were before the Flood (Gen. 5:1–32).

²²For as the days of a tree [500+ years], so shall be the days of My people... (Isa. 65:22)

- D. Jesus will appoint godly leaders. Society will walk in the righteousness of God found in the Sermon of the Mount, protecting the weak and upholding justice (Ps. 72:1–14; Isa. 9:6–7; 11:4; 32:1–4; 33:5–6; Mat. 19:28; Luke 22:30; Mat. ch. 5–7; Isa. 54:13–14). The fruit will be great stability and peace.

¹Behold, a king [Jesus] will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. ²A man [in his government] will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a cover from the tempest... (Isa. 32:1–2)

- E. Israel will possess abundance of riches in water, food, livestock and precious metals. (Psalm 72:15–16; 65:13; Isa. 30:25; 33:16; 35:7; 54:11–12; 60:5–9, 11, 17; 61:5; 65:10; Jer. 33:13)

¹¹Behold, I will lay your [Jerusalem's] stones with colorful gems...your foundations with sapphires. ¹²I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal...your walls of precious stones. (Isa. 54:11–12)

- F. International peace. Jesus will solve many troubling ethnic, environmental, agricultural, social and international issues (Isa. 2:2–4; 9:6; 11:4; 60:14–15, 18). National budgets will cease spending money on weapons development, intelligence gathering and armies. The memory of war will be forgotten (Isa. 29:5; 43:17–18; 49:17; 54:4; 65:17). Nations will use their resources to produce food for the booming population.

⁴ *...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. (Isa. 2:4)*

VII. ADVANCEMENT #3: THE RESTORATION OF CREATION

- A. Jesus will inherit a creation groaning and dying but transform it to life (Rom. 8:22; Isa. 24:4–6; Rev. 11:18). As the first Adam brought sin and death into a perfect environment God made, the last Adam, Jesus, will bring life and perfection according to the Father's original purpose (Rom. 5:14–15; 1 Cor. 15:45).

⁴⁵ *...The last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit. (1 Cor. 15:45)*

- B. The atmospheric and agricultural conditions of Eden will return to the earth. (Isaiah 51:3; Ezek. 36:35)

³⁵ *So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' (Ezek. 36:35)*

- C. Supernatural light will touch the land of Israel (Isa. 9:2; 11:10; 24:23; 30:26; 35:1–2; 60:1,19).

¹ *The wilderness [of Israel] and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; ² ...They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God. (Isa. 35:1–2)*

¹ *...the glory of the Lord is risen upon you... ³The Gentiles shall come to your light... (Isa. 60:1–3)*

- D. The sun and moon will increase in brightness but not damage agriculture or scorch the earth's inhabitants.

²⁶ *Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people... (Isa. 30:26)*

- E. Natural and supernatural sources of water turning the the land of Israel, even it's desert places and much of the Middle East into a most fertile place. (Isa. 30:25; 33:16, 21; 35:1–8; Joel 3:18; Ezek. 47:1–12; Zech. 14:8; Psalm 46:4; Rev. 22:1–2; Isaiah 51:3; Ezek. 36:35).

²⁵ *There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter... (Isa. 30:25)*

¹⁸ *And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; a fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord. (Joel 3:18)*

- F. Animal kingdom restored and Man's dominion returned. (Isa. 11:6–9; 65:25). While maintaining their distinct qualities and characteristics, animals will no longer do violence to each other. (IE, a lion will still be terrifying and powerful but no longer prey on lambs.) All animals will rightfully respond to even the weakest of human beings in their role of stewarding the earth as God's rulers.

⁶ *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb... And a little child shall lead them. ⁷... And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole... (Isa. 11:6–8)*

VIII. ADVANCEMENT #4: THE SALVATION OF THE GENTILE NATIONS

- A. *Many nations will join Israel in worshipping the Lord* (Isa. 11:10; 19:18–24; 25:6–8; 42:6; 10–12; 49:5–6; 60:1–22; 66:23; Psalm 65:2). *The greatest missions movement* will occur after the greatest war. The nations will experience the blessings of salvation and be astounded at the glory and beauty of God.
- 6 ...I [The Father] will also give You [Jesus] as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isa. 49:6)***
- B. Even Israel’s *historic oppressors*, *Egypt* and *Assyria*, will join themselves to the Lord with Israel and be a blessing in the earth (Isa. 19:18–24). This most likely implies that most if not all of their inhabitants will be saved and in agreement with Jesus during the millennial era. (cf. Isa. 60:14)
- 24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria [Modern Iraq] the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isa. 19:24–25)***
- C. Isaiah also highlights other nations who pledge allegiance to the Lord and worship the Him alone:
1. Other present-day *Muslim nations*, Saudi Arabia and Jordan (Isa. 42:11–12; 60:5–7; Amos 9:11)
11 The villages that Kedar [villages in Saudi Arabia] inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela [villages in Jordan] sing... 12 Let them give glory to the Lord... (Isa. 42:11–12)
 2. *Mediterranean nations* (Isa. 42:10; 60:8–10; 66:18–19)
9 Surely the coastlands [of the Mediterranean] shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish [Spain] will come first...to the name of the Lord your God... (Isa. 60:9)
 3. *Far distant nations, coastal regions and mountain tops* (Isa. 24:16; 42:10–13)
16 From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: “Glory to the righteous [Jesus]!” (Isa. 24:16)
 4. *All peoples from every nation* (Isa. 11:10; 25:6–8; 60:1–3; 66:23)
23 And it shall come to pass...all flesh [people groups] shall come to worship before Me [in Jerusalem],” says the Lord. (Isa. 66:23)
- D. Upon witnessing the sovereignty and power of God, the saved nations will throw away their idols (Isa. 2:18, 20; 31:7; 42:8–9; 44:9–11; 45:16; 48:5; 46:5–10; Rev. ch. 13; 17–18). These prophecies are partially fulfilled the last 2,000 years of Church history (Isa. 65:1; 55:1, 5; Rom. 10:20).
- 7 For in that day [after Jesus’ return] every man shall throw away his idols ... (Isa. 31:7)***
- E. All the kings of each nation will be saved and worship Jesus during this time (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24)—what a different picture from much of today’s world rulers.
- 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down [worship] before Him [Jesus]; all nations shall serve Him. (Psalm 72:11)***

- F. Gentile nations and their kings will help rebuild the city of Jerusalem and beautify the temple of God as they are deeply moved, witnessing God's salvation (Isa. 60:3, 10–11, 13, 19; 61:4; 49:23; 23:18; 25:8; 26:9, 12–15; 52:15; 62:2; 12:2, 4–6).

¹⁰...foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you...¹¹...your gates shall be open continually...that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles... (Isa. 60:10–11)

- G. Gentiles from each nation will serve the Lord as priests with abandonment and great joy in the Millennial temple in Jerusalem (Isa. 56:6–8; 66:21). The prayer ministry out of Jerusalem will be more anointed and effective in the next age allowing the realities of heaven to come to earth as the Father's will is released in greater measure through prayer and worship. (Mat. 6:10; Eph. 1:9–10)

²¹ And I will also take some of them [Gentiles] for priests and Levites," says the Lord. (Isa. 66:21)

⁶ "Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord...⁷...I will... make them joyful in My house of prayer [in Jerusalem]. (Isa. 56:6–7)

IX. ADVANCEMENT #5: THE REMOVAL OF ALL SUPERNATURAL FORCES OF EVIL

- A. Satan will be bound with supernatural chains and then cast into the pit or prison (Rev. 20:1–3), as well as fallen angels and all powers of darkness (Isa. 24:21–22; 27:1; Rev. 20:1–3; 12:1–3). Presently Satan and his fallen angels deceive mankind, blind people groups, stir up sin, war and all evil things.

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven...² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ 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... (Rev. 20:1–3)

- B. Sin and death defeated (1 Cor. 15:24–26; 54–57; Isa. 25:6–8). God will completely remove the curse on the earth that came through Adam.

⁷ ... on this mountain [Jerusalem] ⁸ He [Jesus] will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces... (Isa. 25:7–8)

X. REASON FOUR: GOD'S NAME REVEALED AND EXALTED

- A. Presently God's name, His Word and His people are mocked in the earth. (Psalm 42:3, 10; 79:10; Isa. 52:5; Rev. 13:6; 2 Tim. 3:2; 2 Pet. 3:3–4; Jude 18; cf. Isa. 5:19)

³...scoffers will come in the last days...⁴...saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? (2 Pet. 3–4)

- B. After the Lord demonstrates His power, redeems His saints, delivers Israel, removes the Devil, produces righteousness in the nations, His name will be honored in all the earth.

⁴ And in that day [The Lord's return] you [Israel] will say: "Praise the Lord...Make mention that His name is exalted. ⁵... He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. (Isa. 12:4–5)

- C. Beauty (Excellence) - When Jesus returns, He will be seen as beautiful in the eyes of the nations. He will be the most exalted and sought after person in human history (Hag. 2:7; Isa. 4:2; 33:17). The Father's pleasure

for Jesus will be openly demonstrated before all nations, because He was obedient to the Father's will, even to the point of death (Mat. 3:17; Phil. 2:8–11; Isa. 52:15; Rev. 5:12)

⁷ *I will shake all nations [upon His return], and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus] (Hag. 2:7)*

- D. **Justice** - Jesus comes to remove the things that hinder love (Rev. 15:3–4; 18:6). Human society can enjoy laws that bring life and righteousness that sustains it (Psalm 89:14; 97:2; Mat. 6:10; Isaiah 9:7; 16:5; Amos 5:24; Luke 18:7–8; Rev. 6:9–11). Believers are rewarded for their works (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10).

³ *They [saints] sing...“Great and marvelous are Your works...Just and true are Your ways... (Rev. 15:3)*

- E. **Vengeance** - Fair return for the deeds which have been done, whether good or bad. *Recompense* is given to unbelievers (Rev. 11:15–19; Rom. 12:19; Isa. 34:8; 35:4; 59:17; 61:2; 63:4; 2 Thess. 1:6–10; Rev. 20:11–12) as well as nations meted out at the day of His return (Mat. 25:31–46; Isa. 13–23; Ezek. 25–32; Jer. 46–51).

⁹ *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. (Rom. 12:19)*

- F. **Righteousness** - Sin will be removed and God's ways will be revealed and imparted on a world-wide scale (Ps. 9:8; 45:4–7; 65:5; Isa. 24:16; Rev. 16:5–6; 19:2, 11). In the coming age, the Father will demonstrate His righteousness in all seven spheres of human life.

¹⁶ *...From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: “Glory to the righteous [one]!” (Isa. 24:16)*

- G. **Zeal** - Unrelenting commitment and energy to establish the Father's Kingdom on earth. (Isa. 9:7; 42:13; 59:17; 63:15; John 2:17; Psalm 69:9; Nu. 25:11; Mat. 6:10). Jesus will never tire to bring heaven to earth.

⁷ *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end... to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward...The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isa. 9:7)*

- H. **Sovereignty** - The one who declares the end from the beginning and accomplishes all that He has on His heart (Isa. 42:9; 44:6–8; 46:10; Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Rev. 19:1).

²⁰ *The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)*

- I. **Mercy** - Generous pardoning of sin and removal of its effects on human society and creation (Ps. 145:8–9; Isa. 55:7; Mic. 7:18; Eph. 2:4–5). God's love in action, making all things new and unspoiled by sin, pain or death (Isa. 65:17; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:5).

¹⁷ *“...behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered... (Isa. 65:17)*

- J. **Compassion** - Intervention to remove the ravages of sin that has damaged and plagued humanity. Jesus will personally shepherd, heal and restore the survivors on the earth (Isa. 25:6–8; 40:10–11; 57:16–18; 61:1–3).

¹⁸ *I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will also lead him, and restore comforts to him... (Isa. 57:18)*

- K. **Humility** - The position of God to serve humanity by bringing about the Father's will at great personal cost. Jesus is called the *Servant of Rulers* as He leads by serving just as He did in His first ministry (Isa. 49:7; 52:13–15; Phil. 2:1–10; Mk. 10:42–45; John 13:7–8, 14; Mt. 11:29). The same humble Lamb that died on the

cross will now enforce His victory by removing all things that hinder love in the earth. (Isa. 53:7; Mt. 5:5; Jn. 1:29; Rev. 5:6; 6:1, 12, 15–16; 14:10)

⁷ ***To the Servant of rulers...¹⁵ Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isa. 49:7; 53:15)***

- L. ***Faithful*** - Jesus will fulfill all the promises written about Him that the saints have longed for and put their hope in. He will not disappoint and will be faithful to bring salvation to Israel, Gentile believers, and all creation just as He said He would. (Rev. 19:11; Mat. 5:17; 26:53–54; Luke 24:44; Isa. 26:8; 33:2; Phil 1:6)

¹¹ ***...He who sat on him was called Faithful and True... (Rev. 19:11)***

- M. ***Wise*** - Only the Lord could devise a plan that brings forth voluntary love and righteousness without violating human free will or compromising His name. He is His own counsellor with unlimited insight and wisdom at His disposal (Isa. 9:6; 11:2). He oversees the affairs of men and orchestrates salvation in the earth in the best possible way imaginable (1 Tim. 1:17; Luke 11:31; Rom. 11:33–35; Isa. 28:23–29).

³³ ***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴...Or who has become His counselor?" (Rom. 11:33-34)***

XI. PRAYING FOR THE LORD'S RETURN - HOW TO DO IT?

- A. Many people believe Jesus could come at any time. However this perspective about Jesus' return is in error. Jesus gave both *trends* and *prophetic signs events* that alert us of His coming.

³³ ***So...when you see all these things, know that it [Jesus' return] is near—at the doors! (Mat. 24:33)***

- B. First, Jesus gave *twenty-one global trends* that signal the generation in which He will return (Mt. 24:3–28; Mk. 13:3–23, Lk. 21:7–26). The prophets and apostles gave many other trends signaling His coming.

- C. There are also *prophetic sign events* that must occur *before* His return.

1. the *rebuilding of a third temple in Jerusalem* (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1–2)
2. the *covenant confirmed with the Antichrist* in the final seven years (Dan. 9:27; Isa. 28:15, 18–19)
3. the *"abomination of desolation"* in the final 3 1/2 years (Mat. 24:15; Dan. 12:11)

- D. Jesus' return is dependent upon *the fullness of the Gentile church* occurring. Afterward, He will return.

²⁵ ***For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer [Jesus] will come out of Zion [Heaven], and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. (Rom. 11:25–26)***

- E. When we see what the "fullness" of the Gentile Church looks like, it inspires us to pray and participate in our ministry assignments to bring it about. The "Fullness" consists of these aspects:

1. *Full number of Gentile believers* (Mat. 24:14)

¹⁴ ***And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Mat. 24:14)***

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2. *Godly character, including love for God, holy living and unity of the faith* (Eph. 4:13; John 17:23; Eph. 5:27; Mat. 5:48; 22:37)
²⁷...that He [Jesus] might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)
 3. *Supernatural power demonstrated in signs and wonders* (Dan. 11:32–33; Mt. 16:18–19; Jn. 14:12)
³²...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (Dan. 11:32)
 4. *Divine understanding of the Lord's end time plan* (Jer. 23:20; 34:30; Dan. 11:32–33; 12:10)
²⁴ The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has...performed the thoughts of His heart [His plans]. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly [in a mature way]. (Jer 30:24)
 5. *Discernment* (Eph. 4:13–14; Heb. 5:14)
¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb. 5:14)
 6. *Five-fold ministry functioning properly in the Body of Christ world-wide* (Eph. 4:11)
¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...¹³ till we all come to... to a perfect [mature] man... (Eph. 4:11–13)
 7. *World-wide prayer culture* (Rev. 5:8; 8:1–3; Mal. 1:11; Amos 9:11–15; 1 Chron. 15:1, 16; 23:5, 7)
¹¹...In every place incense [prayers] shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts. (Mal. 1:11)
- F. When we see that God is looking for, it stirs us *to hasten the day of His coming* by participating in the small personal assignment God has given us as it ties into the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18–20; Mk. 16:15–18)
¹¹ Therefore...what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... (2 Pet. 3:11)
- G. We can also pray for the Lord to strengthen the Church. There are over 30 prayers in the Bible the apostles used to pray for the Church (Acts 4:24–31; Rom. 10:1; 15:5–7; 13; 16:25–27; 1 Cor. 1:4–8; 3:9–13; Eph. 1:17–19; 3:16–19; Phil 1:9–11; Col. 1:9–12; 4:2–4; 1 Thes. 1:11–12; 3:9–13; 5:23–24; 2 Thes. 3:1–5; 2 Peter 1:2–3; 3:18; Rev. 22:17, 20).
- H. There will come a time when the world-wide Church will pray at a specific moment with the Holy Spirit, “Come Lord Jesus,” and the Father will answer. This will occur before the 7th trumpet (Isa. 64:1; Rev. 11:15–19; Rev. 22:17)
¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” (Rev. 22:17)