

KidZone

Guide 13



Here I Come!

It was three o'clock in the morning. The phone rang, awakening Pastor Haffner just enough for him to mumble, "Hello?"

"Isn't it wonderful, Pastor?" the aged voice trilled.

"Huh? What in the world are you talking about?" the pastor wondered whether he was dreaming.

"Have you looked outside, Pastor?"

He peered outside into the blackness.

"It's dark! It's dark, Pastor!"

"Yeah? So?"

"This is it! No more arthritis! No more glaucoma! No more wheelchair! Soon I'll be in my new heavenly body. Jesus is here at last!"

At last Pastor Haffner understood. "Mrs. Charles," he said gently, "do you know it's three o'clock in the morning?"

"What? No, Pastor, it's three o'clock in the afternoon, and look how dark it is! Jesus is coming. All things are made new."

"No, Mrs. Charles. It's nighttime. That's why it's dark outside."

"Are you sure, Pastor?"

"Yes, Mrs. Charles."

"Oh, Pastor, I'm terribly sorry. I thought it was afternoon, and . . . I mean, I just assumed Jesus was . . . I feel so silly. I'm sorry. It must be this new medication Dr. Darcy put me

on. Pastor, you go back to bed. I'm sorry. Good night.”

It would be great if Jesus had come that night and taken Mrs. Charles to Heaven. It would be great if God had destroyed her wheelchair that evening. And erased her wrinkles. And healed her glaucoma. And restored the bounce in her step as she sailed upward.

It would be great if we could make all things new, but we can't. Only God can. So we hold to His promise: “I will come back.”

1. Find that promise in John 14:1-3. Why did Jesus say He's coming back?

Imagine that day. A black cloud floats into view in the eastern sky. We stare at the cloud as it grows bigger and bigger. Closer and closer. Brighter and brighter. The flaming cloud expands to fill the heavens. Now it burns a brilliant white.



Suddenly the cloud bursts into song! Angels of light sing a song that makes our senses tingle. Then all of heaven explodes as the cloud opens up to reveal Jesus, the Son of God!

2. How do you think it will feel to finally see Jesus face to face?

Blank space for writing an answer.



We shout, “It’s Jesus! It’s Jesus!” Crying and laughing at the same time, we hug each other and sing.

3. Look up Isaiah 25:9 and write what we’ll be singing on that day.

Closer and closer Jesus rides towards earth. With a shout that shakes the world, Jesus commands the dead, “Awake, my children who sleep in your graves.” The blasts of angels’ trumpets become louder as the dusty covers of millions of caskets are thrown back, and the sleeping friends of God wake up.

Mrs. Charles can exclaim, “No more arthritis! No more glaucoma! No more wheelchair! A new heavenly body! Jesus is here at last!”

Fascinated by the smile of Jesus, we gaze on His flowing hair and beaming face. He turns toward us, His husky arms and scarred hands outstretched in welcome. Eyes brimming with tears of joy, He exclaims, “I told you I would come again for you!”

Then Jesus whisks us into the sky. Higher and higher! Faster and faster! The world shrinks beneath our soaring feet. And the One who would rather die than live without us welcomes us home to heaven.

That will be quite a day, wouldn’t you agree? Jesus’ coming will affect everyone!

4. Read Revelation 1:7 and write down how many people will see the second coming of Jesus.

Not everyone will be excited to see Jesus coming back. Those who chose not to accept His loving gifts of forgiveness and salvation will feel afraid and guilty. When they see Him coming, they'll try to run and hide from Him! It's sad to think of it, but Jesus won't be able to take those people to heaven to live with Him forever.

5. On that day, what will happen to our bodies?
(Philippians 3:20-21)

Our bodies will be perfect again, the way God created them. We will never get sick or die any more.

6. On that day, what will Jesus bring for you? (2 Timothy 4:8)



Jesus brings a crown that is a symbol of victory over sin. He will bring it to you, not because you defeated sin, but because He did. The battle with sin will be over. You'll never fail again. You will wear the crown because Jesus earned it on the cross for you.

Signing Off

"Hurry, Dad!" Kathy whined. "Can't you drive any faster?"

"I'm going the speed limit. That's as fast as I drive."

"But I can't wait to see San Diego."

"Yeah," Kathy's brother, David, spoke up, "me either. Hurry up, Dad. I want to see Sea World."

"And the beach!" Kathy added.

"Settle down, kids," Dad said with a smile. He was happy they were so anxious to see the city he had chosen for their vacation.

"We'll get there soon enough."

For Kathy and David, "soon enough" would never be soon enough. For six months they had been studying books and photo albums of San Diego. Now they were finally going to visit it for real.

Kathy stared out the window. Once in a while she'd spot a sign that advertised the distance left to travel—222 miles.

Will we ever get there? Kathy wondered. "Dad, how long does it take to drive 222 miles?"

"About four hours, honey. Just be patient."

"Four hours!" Kathy gasped. "David will have a mustache by the time we get to San Diego."

"But I don't shave yet," David protested.

"That's my point," Kathy said. "We're never going to get there."

"Just watch for the signs," Dad encouraged.

Soon another sign read "San Diego—152 miles."

As the family neared San Diego, Kathy noticed that the signs appeared more frequently.

"I can tell we're almost there, Dad."

"How do you know?"

"Just read the signs! Now they're everywhere!"

We as Christians are traveling toward a city that's much bigger

**San Diego
Left Lanes**



SAN DIEGO 222 mi.

and prettier than San Diego. It's a city God has designed for us. Like Kathy, we can tell we're almost there because the signs tip us off. Jesus said in Luke 21 that when we see certain signs, we'll know our trip through this world is almost over!

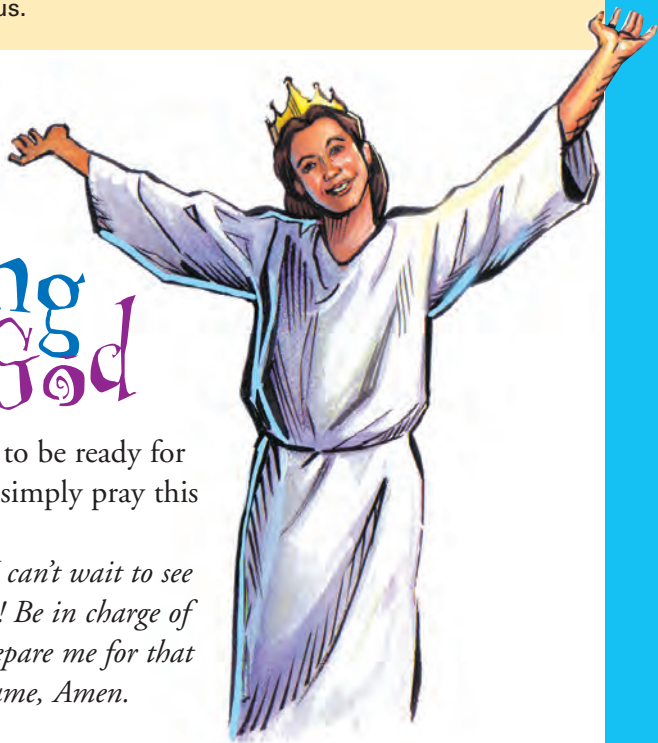
Read Matthew 24, and you will see that the signs are everywhere. Soon Jesus will say: "Ready or not, here I come!"

For those who have accepted Jesus the thought of the second coming sparks hope and anticipation. Remember why Jesus is coming—because He is so much in love with His children that He can't live without us.

Talking to God

If you want to be ready for Jesus to come, simply pray this prayer:

Dear God, I can't wait to see You face to face! Be in charge of my life, and prepare me for that day. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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