



# THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

RESCUE FROM ABOVE

## TRY JESUS COURSE BOOK 12

The rescue operation was “without comparison in the history of humanity.” “Never before has such a rescue been attempted. The lesson of the miners remains with us forever.”

- President Sebastian Pinera

# RESCUE FROM ABOVE

## 12 – THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

*"The world's heart stood still ... while the extraordinary rescue was taking place of 33 miners trapped 622m below the desert of northern Chile." It "was compared to the Apollo moon landings in terms of worldwide attention it has received" reported the Herald-Sun. Two thousand news reporters crammed the site. The BBC blew its budget, spending over £100,000 on the coverage. The entire rescue cost up to US\$20 million.*

For 17 days they were given up for dead when a sensational note was tied to a drill probe on August 22 saying: **"We're alive, in the shelter, all 33 of us."** Camp Hope was then established, where the families prayed and kept vigil.

During those 17 days the miners survived on two teaspoons of tuna, a sip of milk and half a biscuit each every 48 hours. The 150mm shaft, along with two others, became the lifeline, for food, medicine and especially communication, for those desperate miners. The shift leader, Luis Urzua said:

***"Mr President, we need you to be strong and to rescue us as soon as possible. Don't abandon us."***

The President told them every effort is being made to free them.

The arrival of miniature Bibles **"gave me so much faith that I will leave here,"** said Renan. Drill master and evangelical preacher **Jose Henriquez** led a prayer group and brought calm, God and unity to the most difficult moments.



Drilling a 700mm rescue shaft took 52 days (it was thought it could take 4 months). A special capsule, called Phoenix, symbolising rebirth, was constructed with the help of NASA, to bring the men up one at a time.

**Mario Sepulveda**, the second miner saved, said as he punched the air:

***“I have been with God and with the devil. I seized the hand of God, it was the best hand. I always knew God would get us out of there.”***

A number of miners fell to their knees in prayer.

**Daniel Herrera**, a truck driver not a miner, said: ***“Don’t worry about me, my shift is finally over, and a new one is about to begin.”***

Satan plunged this world into the darkness of sin and death, when he led Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. God’s plan for saving the human race from death was by Jesus dying for our sins 2000 years ago. Jesus promised to come back a second time to end this dark world and to rescue to heaven all who trust in Him. For those who do a new life will begin when He comes again! God won’t abandon us!

*Time* magazine\* lists a number of people, who, in recent times, have predicted the end of this world.

\*July 12, 1999

> **Sun Myung Moon**, leader of the Korean Unification Church, prophesied that the “Kingdom of Heaven would materialise in 1967.”

> **Jim Jones**, predicting doomsday, “persuaded 900-plus followers to drink poisoned Kool-Aid in 1978.”

> **Moses David**, Children of God evangelist, “predicted that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1986, with Russia defeating the United States and setting up a global communist dictatorship.”

> **David Koresh**, “gun-toting ex-rock singer fore-casted that the Battle of Armageddon would begin at his self-styled Ranch Apocalypse in Waco, Texas. It did, in a blaze of gunfire in 1993 between his Branch Davidians and government agents.”

> **Marshall Herff Applewhite**, Heaven’s Gate leader, convinced “his techno-religious cult in March 1997 that the end was near and the only way they could survive was by committing suicide and hitching a ride on an alien spaceship.”

How can we avoid such deceptive cults and such destructive teachings? What does the Bible say about Jesus’ second coming?

## The Promise of Jesus’ Coming

The Old and New Testaments contain well over 1500 specific references to the return of Jesus. The second coming of Jesus is one of the most frequently mentioned topics in the New Testament, with one in 13 verses referring to it.

1. What promise did Jesus give to His disciples before He went back to heaven? John 14:1-3 (page 763 in NIV Bible: International Bible Society, 00195)

I am going there to prepare a \_\_\_\_\_ for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, \_\_\_\_\_ and take you to be with me.

This promise has sustained the followers of Jesus down through the centuries. In writing to Titus, a young minister, Paul calls the second coming of Jesus “the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13, page 844).

# How Will Jesus Come?

## IT WILL BE VISIBLE

2. Who did John, the writer of the last book of the Bible, say would see Jesus coming the second time?

Will only followers of Jesus see Him coming? Revelation 1:7 (page 867)

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ him, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; and \_\_\_\_\_ the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.

3. What did Jesus say all the nations of the earth would see at His second coming? Matthew 24:30 (page 701)

All the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the sky, with \_\_\_\_\_ and great \_\_\_\_\_.

## IT WILL BE AUDIBLE

4. According to Jesus, what would people hear when He comes again? Matthew 24:31 (page 701). (See also 1 Corinthians 15:51, page 816; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16, page 837)

And he will send his \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ trumpet call, and they will \_\_\_\_\_ his elect from  
the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Jesus said the time would come when all who were in the graves would hear His voice and rise from the dead (John 5:28, 29, page 754). Paul said there would be a "loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God."

## IT WILL BE PUBLIC

5. How did Jesus explain that His second coming would not be in secret? Matthew 24:25-27 (page 701)

See, I have told you ahead of time. So if anyone tells you, "There he is, out in the \_\_\_\_\_," \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; or, "Here he is, in the \_\_\_\_\_," \_\_\_\_\_. For as  
\_\_\_\_\_ that comes from the east is \_\_\_\_\_ even in the west, so will be the coming of the  
Son of Man.

You might ask, "How can everyone see Jesus coming on a round world? Surely they can't see Him all at once?" That's true, but everyone sees the sun each day. So, if His coming takes 24 hours, everyone will see the event in one day, as Jesus circles the earth.

## IT WILL BE GLORIOUS

6. How did Jesus describe His coming? Matthew 25:31 (page 702)

When the Son of Man [Jesus] comes in \_\_\_\_\_, and all the \_\_\_\_\_ with him, he will sit  
on \_\_\_\_\_ in heavenly glory.

The Greek term often used for "coming" is parousia. It means "presence" and is used in ancient writings for the literal coming of an emperor or king.

## IT WILL BE PERSONAL

After Jesus rose from the dead He spent 40 days with His disciples, during which time He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. At the end of this time, while they were watching, He went back to heaven. This is usually called His Ascension. After He ascended, two angels appeared and spoke to the disciples.

7. What did the two angels say about Jesus' second coming? How personal will it be? Acts 1:9-11 (page 770)  
They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
you have seen him go into heaven."

It will be the same Jesus who went up into heaven who will come back - not some apparition or spiritual concept. The same Jesus who walked the dusty roads of Palestine, who had such compassion for the people. The same Jesus who died on the cross for our sins and who brought hope and healing to many. It will be the same Jesus the world upholds as a great moral teacher and a great model to follow.



In commenting on Paul's words to the Thessalonian church, **Leon Morris**, former principal of Ridley College and Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, says:

"It is difficult to see how he [Paul] could more plainly describe something that is open and public."

# Why Jesus Is Coming?

## TO TAKE HIS FOLLOWERS TO HEAVEN

8. When Jesus comes, who will be raised from the dead? What happens to the living Christians who trust in Jesus? 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 (page 837)

... and the \_\_\_\_\_ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left \_\_\_\_\_ together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

“Those who have fallen asleep in Him” are people who have died believing in Jesus. They will come to life at Jesus’ second coming, and together with all those who trust Him and who are alive at this time, will be taken to heaven.

9. What change does Paul say will take place in the true followers of Jesus when He comes again? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (page 816)

We will not all \_\_\_\_\_ [die], but we will all be \_\_\_\_\_...

For the perishable must clothe itself with the \_\_\_\_\_, and the mortal with \_\_\_\_\_.

“Mortal” means “subject to death”; “immortality” means “not subject to death”, “living for ever”. Leon Morris says the New Testament “understands eternal life not as the immortality of the soul, but in terms of the resurrection of the body.” In other words, those who trust in Jesus receive immortality at the second coming of Jesus. (More will be said about this topic in Bible Guide 15.)



## TO DELIVER US FROM EVIL AND SUFFERING

10. What did Jesus say will be separated at the Second Coming? Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (page 691); 25:31-34 (page 702)

- sheep from the goats
- saved from the lost
- wheat from the weeds
- all of the above

11. In His last talk with His followers, what did Jesus say would happen to those who have not accepted His gift of salvation at His coming?

Just as it was in the days of Noah ... the flood came and DESTROYED them all. It was the same in the days of Lot.... The day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and DESTROYED them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

(Luke 17:26-30, page 742)

(See also Matthew 13:36-43; 24:36-39, pages 691, 701; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, page 837; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10, page 837).

12. According to Jesus' own words, when do people receive their rewards? Matthew 16:24-27 (page 694)

at the Second Coming OR  at death

While we are judged by our works we are not saved by them. Salvation is a free gift. Our works will show whether or not we are trusting in Jesus.

## How Near Is Jesus' Coming?

### TO TAKE HIS FOLLOWERS TO HEAVEN

13. Can we know exactly when Jesus will come again? Matthew 24:36-44 (701) (Tick the right answer)

YES  NO

14. In view of the fact that Jesus' coming will be unexpected, what should we do?

Therefore keep WATCH, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. So you also must BE READY, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

(Matthew 24:42-44, page 701)

The truth is that the coming of Jesus is, for each of us, as close as our lifetime. I need to be ready today; I may not be alive tomorrow! The real issue is not when will Jesus come, but, Am I right with God today? If so, then I'm ready for Jesus to come today!

15. How can we be ready for His coming? 1 John 5:11-13 (page 864)

I write these things to you who \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Son of God so that you may \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_ eternal life.

When people truly accept what Jesus has done for them in paying for their sins and crediting them with His perfect life, then they are ready for heaven. We become citizens of heaven the moment we accept what Jesus has done for us. And if we are citizens, then we have all the rights of citizens. This includes the right to go to heaven when He comes.

The pop group R.E.M. have a song that has been released on at least three of their albums,

"It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine."

I'm not sure what they meant by this song, but for those who trust in Jesus the second coming is the end of the world as we know it, and they will feel fine! They will be with Jesus.

# Explorer Shackleton

When the great explorer **Ernest Shackleton** was on his quest of the South Pole, he was at one time driven back and compelled to leave some of his men on Elephant Island with few supplies. He promised that he would return for them.

But when he endeavoured to get back he found a sea of ice between him and the island. He tried to reach them, but failed. He tried again and again, but without success.

At that time of the year a favourable change in the weather seemed hopeless. He was told that there was absolutely no hope of getting his little boat, the *Yalcho*, through the great ice barrier to Elephant Island.

But he must reach his men; so at the risk of losing his boat he pushed in nearer to the island. Unexpectedly, there came an opening in the ice. He hurried in, rescued the waiting men, and was out of

the ice in an hour. Had they been delayed only a few minutes the frail vessel could have been crushed by the ice as it closed in around it.

When they were safe Shackleton said to one of the rescued men, "Well, you were packed and ready, weren't you?"

"Yes," came back the reply, "we never lost hope. We believed you would come for us, even though circumstances were unfavourable. ***Each morning we rolled up our sleeping bags and packed all our equipment, that we might be ready.***"

*(C L Paddock, God's Minutes, page 315)*

## Jesus is coming again! Are you ready for Him to come?

- Yes, I've accepted Jesus and am ready for Him to come.
- I'd like to be ready for Jesus to come, but I'm a little nervous.



When you think about the uncertainty of life, how does it make you feel to know that Jesus is coming again?

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Published by: The Seventh Day Adventist Church, South Pacific Division Design and Layout: DEC Creatives, Bonnells Bay, New South Wales, Australia Cover

Image: shutterstock.com