

The Signs of the Times

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PAROUSIA – CHRIST'S RETURN OR SECOND COMING. The *arrival* of the *owner* who alone can *deal* with a situation (cf. LS). [3952](#) (*parousía*) is a "technical term with reference to *the visit* of a king or some other official, 'a royal visit' " (Helps Word Study)

Matthew 24:27 (NIV) ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be **the coming of the Son of Man**.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 (NIV) ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, **when he comes**, those who belong to him. ²⁴ **Then the end will come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NIV) ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father **when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones**.

James 5:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ Be patient, then, brothers, until **the Lord's coming**. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because **the Lord's coming is near**.

What is the most essential thing when Jesus returns?

Preterism is an eschatological view that interprets prophecies of the bible as already taken place

Moderate Preterism states that while some of the prophecies have taken place some are yet to be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:3 (NIV) ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of **your coming and of the end of the age?**"

Good read: R. C. Sproul, *The Last Days According to Jesus*, Baker Books. Dr David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs: 31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse*, Thomas Nelson Publishing.

Some New Testament Signs

Matthew 24:3-31 (NIV) ⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵ "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of

through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.¹⁷ Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.²² If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened...

²⁹ "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'³⁰ "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NIV)¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

When?

Matthew 24:36-41 (NIV)³⁶ "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at **the coming of the Son of Man**.³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the **coming of the Son of Man**.³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

2 Peter 3:4-12 (NIV)⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.¹⁰ But the **day of the Lord will come** like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives¹² as you look forward to the **day of God and speed its coming**. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Conclusion: