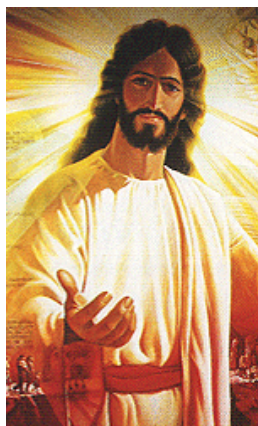




Adventures in Bible Study

Abraham's Surprise Attack

The news reached Abraham that his nephew, Lot, had been captured along with hundreds of other citizens from Sodom by enemy tribes. Immediately Abraham organized the 318 servants from his camp who were trained in warfare and set out after the invaders. When they caught up to the enemy they waited until nightfall and then divided their forces to attack from different directions. Completely taken by surprise the enemy soldiers were quickly defeated and the prisoners and spoil they had taken from Sodom were recovered.



The earth has been taken captive by an enemy whose name is Lucifer, or the devil. He is the one responsible for all of the pain, sickness, and death in the world ([Job 1 & 2](#)). Like Abraham, Jesus said He had come to this world to seek and save that which was lost ([Luke 19:10](#)). At the time of His second coming He will rescue the earth from Satan and restore it to its original owner. The earth will once again be a place of beauty and peace.

How would you react if a being in dazzling brightness appeared in San Francisco, or New York and began healing people. Such an event would be reported on all the major news channels and would seem so credible—so momentous. What if he seemed to talk like Jesus and look like Jesus, and performed miracles just like Jesus did? And then what would you do if he said, “I am Christ. I have returned just as I said I would.” This is why Jesus said, “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert’ do not go out, or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.” [Matthew 24:26](#).

We do not need to be deceived if we study the Bible. ([1 Thessalonians 5:4](#)). Jesus is coming back, and when He does the Bible says some very wonderful events will take place so that no one need be mistaken. Jesus will come again. He Himself said so ([John 14:1-3](#)). Jesus didn't say He was coming to set up His kingdom on earth, but to take us to heaven. He is not coming to be where we are, but to take us to be where He is.

The great men and women of the Bible have anticipated

the second coming of Jesus. They did not think it was some warm feeling inside, but a real and literal event. It was something they were looking forward to. The apostle Paul said he was, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” [Titus 2:13](#). The Bible describes the second coming of Jesus as a glorious event. It will be spectacular.

His coming will be visible. “. . . He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight . . . Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” [Acts 1:9-11](#). Jesus will return in the same way He left—visibly and with clouds. Jesus said His coming would be like lightning ([Matthew 24:27](#)), you won't be able to miss it. Some think His coming will be a secret thing, but the Bible never uses the word secret in the context of Christ's coming. On the contrary, it tells us we will know when He comes. The only thing that could be considered secret about the coming of Jesus is when it will happen. “But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” [Matthew 24:36](#). The Bible says every eye will see Him ([Revelation 1:7](#)), and all the people of every nation will know He has come. It will not be a secret. “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” [Matthew 24:30-31](#). Jesus is not going to step quietly out of a flying saucer in some distant city. He is coming back in the clouds with power and great glory, and every eye will see it happen. Not only will the righteous see Jesus come, but the wicked who are lost will also see Him ([Revelation 6:15-16](#)).

His coming will be audible. “And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. . . Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” [Revelation 16:18-20](#). The second coming of Jesus will be the most dramatic event the earth has ever witnessed.



There will be no doubt that it is Jesus. “For the Lord Himself shall 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.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16. He will send His angels with the great sound of a trumpet and they will gather His children up to meet Him in the air ([Matthew 24:31](#)).

His coming will wake up the dead. It will be impossible for Satan to counterfeit the real second coming of Jesus, for he cannot give life to the dead. Unless you see Him coming in the clouds, hear the trumpet of God sound, and witness the resurrection of the dead it is not Jesus. What a great day it will be when death is de-



stroyed, and those who have wept at the grave of the loved ones will weep no more, but will welcome them back into their arms. It will be a wonderful reunion when Jesus breaks through the darkness

of this world and comes to rescue us from this earth. The Bible says there will be those who will not die before Jesus comes, but who will be alive when He comes and who will be translated. That means they will pass from this life into the next without death ([1 Thessalonians 4:17](#)).

Jesus will not even touch the ground when He returns, but we will go up to meet Him in the clouds. “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in 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 Corinthians 15:51-52](#). An event this momentous cannot be kept silent, nor can it be duplicated, for only the Creator can give life.

When Jesus comes He will give His followers life everlasting, with vigorous, healthy bodies ([Philippians 3:20-21](#)) We will have real bodies, but they will be like Christ’s body. No more aches, pains, or disease. “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. . .” [Isaiah 35:5-6](#).

His coming will be a glorious coming. Just imagine what it will be like to glimpse that massive cloud of angels with Jesus in the center making its way through space to our earth. It will be a spectacular event. “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.” [Matthew 25:31](#). In [Matthew 28:2-4](#) just one angel at the tomb of Jesus on the day of His resurrection was enough to cause the Roman soldiers guarding His tomb to fall as dead because of the brightness. What will it be like when the sky is ablaze with angels! John said the number of angels he saw in heaven was at least 100

million ([Revelation 5:11](#)). Imagine 100 million angels filling the sky. The scene will be beyond description, and those who are earnestly waiting for Jesus will be thrilled.

As John continued to write down what Jesus revealed to him it became clear that not everyone would be thrilled to see Jesus, however. Those who have turned their back on Him and disobeyed His laws will be horror-stricken



([Revelation 6:14-17](#)). The Bible says that these people will die from the brightness of His coming ([2 Thessalonians 2:8](#)). They are lost and they know it! If we are deceived, or we are not prepared for Christ’s coming, we lose everything. There is nothing more important than being ready for Jesus to come. That is why Paul said: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” [Colossians 3:2](#).

God wants you to be saved. He is “not willing that any should perish” ([2 Peter 3:9](#)). He will freely forgive your sins and give you eternal life ([1 John 1:9](#) & [John 3:16](#)). Choose Jesus today and look forward to His coming with anticipation and joy.