

## The Return of Jesus:

### The Timeline

! THE RISE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. <sup>2</sup> Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. <sup>3</sup> Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NLT)*

Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

<sup>9</sup> This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. <sup>10</sup> He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. <sup>11</sup> So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. <sup>12</sup> Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 (NLT)

*But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! <sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. <sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)

*We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NLT)

! THE LAST \_\_\_\_\_.

*In that day the great trumpet will sound. Many who were dying in exile in Assyria and Egypt will return to Jerusalem to worship the Lord on his holy mountain.*

Isaiah 27:13 (NLT)

*Then the Lord will appear over them;  
his arrow will flash like lightning.  
The Sovereign Lord will sound the trumpet;*

*he will march in the storms of the south,  
15 and the Lord Almighty will shield them.  
Zechariah 9:14-15 (NIV)*

*And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his  
chosen ones from all over the world<sup>31</sup>—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.  
Matthew 24:31 (NLT)*

! WE WILL SEE HIM IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ CLOUDS.

*Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the  
place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”  
Matthew 26:64 (NLT)*

*On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came  
down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people  
trembled.<sup>17</sup> Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of  
the mountain. <sup>18</sup>All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended  
on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the  
whole mountain shook violently. <sup>19</sup>As the blast of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses  
spoke, and God thundered his reply.  
Exodus 19:16-19 (NLT)*

*Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem!  
Raise the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let everyone tremble in fear  
because the day of the Lord is upon us.  
<sup>2</sup> It is a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of thick clouds and deep blackness.  
Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains,  
a great and mighty army appears.  
Nothing like it has been seen before  
or will ever be seen again.  
<sup>3</sup> Fire burns in front of them,  
and flames follow after them.  
Ahead of them the land lies  
as beautiful as the Garden of Eden.  
Behind them is nothing but desolation;  
not one thing escapes.  
Joel 2:1-3 (NLT)*

*And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there  
will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man  
coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he will send out his angels  
with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world  
—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.  
Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)*

*On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came  
down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people*

trembled.<sup>17</sup> Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. <sup>19</sup> As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply.

Exodus 19:16-19 (NLT)

Sound the trumpet in Jerusalem!  
Raise the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let everyone tremble in fear  
because the day of the Lord is upon us.  
<sup>2</sup> It is a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of thick clouds and deep blackness.  
Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains,  
a great and mighty army appears.  
Nothing like it has been seen before  
or will ever be seen again.  
<sup>3</sup> Fire burns in front of them,  
and flames follow after them.  
Ahead of them the land lies  
as beautiful as the Garden of Eden.  
Behind them is nothing but desolation;  
not one thing escapes.  
Joel 2:1-3 (NLT)

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)

The earth trembled, and the heavens poured down rain  
before you, the God of Sinai,  
before God, the God of Israel.  
Psalm 68:8 (NLT)

You sent abundant rain, O God,  
to refresh the weary land.  
<sup>10</sup> There your people finally settled,  
and with a bountiful harvest, O God,  
you provided for your needy people.  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord gives the word,  
and a great army brings the good news.  
<sup>12</sup> Enemy kings and their armies flee,  
while the women of Israel divide the plunder.  
<sup>13</sup> Even those who lived among the sheepfolds found treasures—  
doves with wings of silver  
and feathers of gold.  
<sup>14</sup> The Almighty scattered the enemy kings  
like a blowing snowstorm on Mount Zalmon.

Psalm 68:9-14 (NLT)

! THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_\_.

*But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!<sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.<sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)

*We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.<sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>So encourage each other with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NLLT)

*And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

Colossians 3:4 (NLT)

! HE WILL HAVE AN \_\_\_\_\_.

*Surrounded by unnumbered thousands of chariots,  
the Lord came from Mount Sinai into his sanctuary.  
Psalm 68:17 (NLT)*

*Then the Lord my God will come, and all his holy ones with him.  
Zechariah 14:5 (NLT)*

*And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. <sup>10</sup>When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.*

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 (NLT)

! THE LORD COMES TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*Look! The Lord is advancing against Egypt,  
riding on a swift cloud.*

*The idols of Egypt tremble.  
The hearts of the Egyptians melt with fear.  
Isaiah 19:1 (NLT)*

*I will bring them back from Egypt  
and gather them from Assyria.  
I will resettle them in Gilead and Lebanon  
until there is no more room for them all.  
<sup>11</sup> They will pass safely through the sea of distress,<sup>[d]</sup>  
for the waves of the sea will be held back,  
and the waters of the Nile will dry up.  
The pride of Assyria will be crushed,  
and the rule of Egypt will end.  
Zechariah 10:10-11 (NLT)*

! THE PROCESSION BEGINS TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The Lord came from Mount Sinai  
and dawned upon us from Mount Seir;  
he shone forth from Mount Paran  
and came from Meribah-kadesh  
with flaming fire at his right hand.  
<sup>3</sup> Indeed, he loves his people;  
all his holy ones are in his hands.  
They follow in his steps  
and accept his teaching.  
Deuteronomy 33:2-3 (NLT)*

*“Lord, when you set out from Seir  
and marched across the fields of Edom,  
the earth trembled,  
and the cloudy skies poured down rain.  
<sup>5</sup> The mountains quaked in the presence of the Lord,  
the God of Mount Sinai—  
in the presence of the Lord,  
the God of Israel.  
Judges 5:4-5 NLT)*