

WHEN WILL JESUS RETURN?



The Wall Street journal carried this story from Seoul, Korea. The news report detailed the account of a certain Lee Jang-Lim, whom the Korean government is charging with fraud and illegal possession of foreign currency.

The Journal reports that \$628,000 in bank checks and bonds were found hidden in his house, along with \$26,711 in U.S. currency. Authorities believe it is part of nearly \$4.2 million in assets that thousands of Koreans have turned over to Mr. Lee and his church, the Dami Missionary Church, but government prosecutors doubt Mr. Lee "practices what he preaches."

The telltale evidence for such a conclusion was the fact that this minister was found to be holding bank certificates of deposits that mature in May 1993, which turns out to be long past the date on which he was predicting the world's end! Lee Jang-Lim, you see, was a major proponent of the "Jesus is coming on October 28, 1992" movement. He preached Jesus' return on October 28, but carried investments that wouldn't mature until May 1993. Just in case, perhaps. But still, something doesn't seem to quite add up, does it?

Listen to the sobs of one of his disillusioned followers, a broken hearted mother, as the Journal quoted at the end of its report on the now publicly disgraced and discredited October 28 movement: "The government has got to think about what will happen after October 28 when nothing happens," says Lee Seung-Eun, the head of a group of alleged doomsday victims. Like others, she worries about mass suicide. Her son has left college to hide in the mountains with other doomsday believers to prepare for the seven year war between good and evil that will follow the return of Jesus, as believed to be foretold in the Bible. "He is learning kick-boxing to fight the Antichrist," she says tearfully. (Ibid.)

Learning how to kick-box in preparation for the end of time...there has got to be a better way! The Wall Street journal was right that Mr. Lee was wrong. Jesus did not come on October 28, 1992. But the incontrovertible fact remains that He is coming soon!

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIS SECOND COMING

“...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” — John 14:2,3.

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. Who alone knows the exact day and, hour of the end of this world and the coming of Christ? Matthew 24:36 _____

2. Is there any way by which we can know when Jesus' return is near?
Matthew 24:30, 32, 33. (Read all of chapter 24)

Matthew 24 has a dual application to both the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and the end of the world (vs 2-3). Jesus outlines a number of different events to take place before He returns. We have witnessed most of what is outlined in this chapter and with each passing day we see a worse state of things than the day before. Just as we can tell when summer is near, we can see from what is going on in the world that Jesus will come very soon!

3. What are some of the signs in the natural world heralding the coming of Jesus?
Luke 21:11 _____



The increase in natural disasters is a clear indication that the end of the world is near. Most of the world's governments have declared a state of emergency around climate change. From what we are being told the world is headed toward the next mass extinction if we cannot find a solution very soon. Surely this should be a sign to us that the end of all things is upon us!

4. What term is used to describe the anxiety and trouble that will exist among and within the nations just before the end? Luke 21: 25, 26.

With recent world events we would not be wrong to say that the nations are in a state of perplexity with many peoples hearts failing them for fear, however, sadly, worse things are yet to come before Christ returns to put an end to it all.

5. What are the signs that will be seen in the financial or economic world? James 5:1-3.

The Bible foretells at time of economic decline, this is the natural result of a world in turmoil.



6. What message will the nations be proclaiming, and what will actually happen? 1 Thessalonians 5:3, 4.

7. What are some of the signs of moral deterioration, in the last days? 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

8. What did Daniel say would happen in the time of the end? Daniel 12:4.

God specifically outlined that knowledge in our world would increase just prior to Jesus' return. Even in just the past one or two decades we have seen an exponential growth in our understanding of science and technology. This is another sign that we are very close.



9. What will the scoffers in the religious world be saying at this time? 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

There will always be those who will scoff at the preaching of the second coming of Jesus but we should not let that weaken our faith in what we know is true.

10. What must be proclaimed in all of the world before the Lord can return?

Matthew 24:14. _____

God plans that every soul shall be given an opportunity to know the truth. He will not bring our world to an end until the true message of salvation has reached every corner of the earth.

11. When we see all these signs being fulfilled, what are we to do and why? Luke 21:28.

12. How can we prepare for that day? Luke 21:36.

If we would have the faith to stand through the earth's last days we need to have an abiding relationship with Jesus. This can only be achieved through spending time with God in His word and through prayer. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). We also must be intelligent regarding the signs of Jesus second coming and be ready for His return.

13. Why will many not be prepared for this event? Matthew 24:48-51.

Quite often the reason that people deny that Jesus is coming soon is because they do not want Him to. To acknowledge that His coming is near is to accept the need to repent and submit ourselves to Him. For most this is an unwelcome idea.

14. Who is it that blinds men to the gospel of Christ? 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Since Adam's fall into sin Satan has claimed this world as his own. He understands the signs of the times and knows that he has little time left to lead as many as he can to destruction; and so he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

15. What follows the signs of Christ's coming? Luke 21:27.

The final conclusion, the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven to take us home! This is the blessed hope of all who have placed their trust in him (Titus 2:13).

16. According to what will Jesus reward the righteous at his coming? Revelation 22:12.

We are each judged and rewarded according to our works. For the faithful who have confessed their sins and forsaken them, all of their evil deeds have been eternally removed from the record of their life with only the account of the good deeds remaining.

17. To whom is a crown of righteousness promised? 2 Timothy 4:8.

A glittering crown is but the beginning of the eternal glory that God shall impart to those who love His appearing.



And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh.

Luke 21:28

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20



LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

___ I am thankful for the signs that point towards Jesus' second coming. I am looking forward to His coming and plan to be ready for it.

___ I have some unanswered questions concerning the signs and want to spend more time discussing this topic.

___ I believe I have a good understanding of the topic, but I am still thinking about how I should respond in my life. Please pray for me.

___ Other _____