



Await
Awaiting His Return
Isaiah 65:17–25

Why should we watch and wait?

Jesus will return

- “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth”
 - Renewed creation is connected to Jesus’ return
 - “12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:12–13).
- How will Jesus return?
 - “9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:9–11).
- Jesus will return
 - Sudden
 - Bodily
 - Visible
 - Glorious

- “11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11–13).
- Jesus will return sooner rather than later.

Jesus will renew creation

- “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind” (v. 17).
- Why will Jesus renew creation?
 - “Who are we? Resurrection people: a people, that is, formed within the new world which began at Easter. . . . Where are we? In God’s good creation, which is to be restored; in bodies that will be redeemed, though at present they are prone to suffering and decay and will one day die. What’s wrong? The work is incomplete: the project which began at Easter (the defeat of sin and death) has not yet been finished. What’s the solution? The full and final redemption of creation, and ourselves with it; this will be accomplished through a fresh act of creative grace when Jesus reappears. . . . What times is it? In the overlap of ages: the ‘age to come’, longed for by Israel, has already begun, but the ‘present age’ still continues” (N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, 581).
 - “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God” (Revelation 21:1–3).
- Jesus will renew creation so that God can be with us.

Jesus will realize his kingdom

- What will his realized kingdom look like?
 - Creation without sin (v. 17)
 - Joy without weeping (vv. 18–19)
 - Life without death (vv. 20)
 - Blessing without curse (vv. 21–24)
 - Peace without conflict (v. 25)
- “Is He Worthy?”
 - Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
 - Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
 - But do you know that all the dark won't stop
 - The light from getting through? (We do)
 - Do you wish that you could see it, all made new? (We do)
 - Is all creation groaning? (It is)
 - Is a new creation coming? (It is)
 - Is the glory of the Lord to be

The light within our midst? (It is)

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

- “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).
- Jesus’ realized kingdom will be what we all long for now.

“In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in *the time between* the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. In the Time Between, ‘our lives are hidden with Christ in God; when Christ who is our life appears, then we also will appear with him in glory’ (Col. 3:3–4). Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires. . . . The disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come. In that Advent tension, the church lives its life” (Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*, 7).

- We watch and wait for Jesus to return, renew creation, and realize his Kingdom.
- “He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20).

Corporate Prayer

Father, we thank you for the gift of your eternal Son who you sent to earth, who added humanity to his divinity, and who died and rose for our salvation.

This Advent season, however, we thank you that Jesus Christ will come again. He will return, renew creation, and realize his eternal Kingdom.

Keep us alert by the power of the Holy Spirit to await for His return. Strengthen our faith as we await for Jesus to come again.

We pray with the saints everywhere: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen