

The Easy Bible Truth



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Companion 
Christadelphians

The Literal Return of Jesus

Nearly 2000 years ago, a small group of men and women stood on the top of the Mount of Olives, a short distance from the city of Jerusalem. (Acts 1 verses 6 to 12)

Jesus Christ who had been raised to life about forty days earlier was with them. While he was speaking to the group, he ascended up into heaven. Then as the group continued to gaze upwards, two Angels suddenly appeared. The words they spoke to this group have rung down through the ages for the followers of Jesus: "*Ye men of Galilee, why stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner (the same way) as ye have seen him go into heaven.*" (Acts 1:11)

It was the angels of God who stated this to the followers of Jesus. These are God's messengers who gave this clear unequivocal statement that he would return, in a similar manner to the way he left them

If this were the only clear statement about the return of Jesus, it would be enough. It cannot be misunderstood. It is the hope of the followers of Jesus Christ. But this statement does not stand-alone. Here are a selection of verses which teach precisely the same message that Jesus will literally return to this earth. These not only show that he will return, but that he has work to do when he returns.

2 Tim. 4:1

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Acts 3:20 and 21

"He shall send Jesus Christ...whom the heaven must receive until the time of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by His Holy prophets since the world began."

1 Thessalonians 4 verse 16

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

There is one thing that believers then look for: the return of Jesus. The disciples of the first century believed, that Jesus was their master and teacher. As such, we also believe that it is our duty to do what he wishes. One thing he requires is to watch for his return. It is a message emphasised throughout the New Testament. Jesus tells us that the timing of his return rests entirely with the Father (God) and consequently, his followers need to be on their watch for his return. He gives us signs as to when he will return, but does not tell us a date. Matthew 24:36-37, 42:

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

And again Jesus words in Mark 13: 37: "*And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*"

There are many similar passages from both the Old and New Testaments which detail this truth. Take the time to look them up for yourself¹.

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ to Earth is the essence of the message of the Gospel and of Jesus preaching. The literal return of Jesus Christ to earth will be to fulfil his Father's plan by setting up God's Kingdom here on earth. With those found faithful at his return, he will rule over the earth for a thousand years, bringing all things into harmony with God. For more details see pamphlet number 2 (The Kingdom of God).

¹ See also Matthew 16:27; Psalm 102:16 to 21; Isaiah 25:9; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 2:28.