

The Future Work of Jesus

Prophesied in the Hebrew Bible

(1) Dan 7:13-14

¹³ I was watching in the night visions,
“And with the clouds of the sky
one like a son of man was approaching.
He went up to the Ancient of Days
and was escorted before him.

¹⁴ To him was given ruling authority, honor, and sovereignty.
All peoples, nations, and language groups were serving him.
His authority is eternal and will not pass away.
His kingdom will not be destroyed.

Note: Jesus’ favorite title is “Son of Man”

Matthew 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:8, 32, 40; 13:37, 41; 16:31, 27, 28; 17:9, 12, 22; 19:28; 20:18, 28;
24:27, 30 [twice], 45, 64

Mark 2:10, 28; 8:31, 38; 9:9, 12, 31; 10:33, 45; 13:26; 14:21 [twice], 41, 62

Luke 5:24; 6:5, 22; 7:34; 9:22, 26, 44, 58; 11:30; 12:8, 10, 40; 17:22, 24, 26, 30; 18:8, 31; 19:10; 21:27, 36;
22:22, 48, 69; 24:6-7

John 1:51; 3:13, 14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34 [twice]; 13:31

(2) Isa 35:4

Tell those who panic, “Be strong! Do not fear! Look, your God comes to avenge! With divine retribution he comes to deliver you.”

(3) Isa 40:10-11

¹⁰ Look, the sovereign LORD comes as a victorious warrior;
his military power establishes his rule.
Look, his reward is with him;
his prize goes before him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd he tends his flock;
he gathers up the lambs with his arm;
he carries them close to his heart;
he leads the ewes along.

(4) Zech 14

³ Then the LORD will go to battle and fight against those nations, just as he fought battles in ancient days. ⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which lies to the east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, leaving a great valley. Half the mountain will move northward and the other half southward. ⁵ Then you will escape through my mountain valley, for the mountains will extend to Azal. Indeed, you will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come with all his holy ones with him. ⁶ On that day there will be no light - the sources of light in the heavens will congeal. ⁷ It will happen in one day (a day known to the LORD); not in the day or the night, but in the evening there will be light. ⁸ Moreover, on that day living waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea; it will happen both in summer and in winter. ⁹ The LORD will then be king over all the earth.

Jesus' Predictions of His Return

(1) Central Passage in Olivet Discourse

- a. "Immediately after the suffering of those days, *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.* ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see *the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt 24:29-31)
- b. "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man arriving in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send angels and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven." (Mark 13:24-27)
- c. "And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth nations will be in distress, anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves. ²⁶ People will be fainting from fear and from the expectation of what is coming on the world, for *the powers of the heavens will be shaken.* ²⁷ Then they will see *the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory.* ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28)

(2) "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is here! Come out to meet him.'" (Matt 25:6)

(3) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne." (Matt 25:31)

(4) "And if I go and make ready a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that where I am you may be too." (John 14:3)

(5) Before the Sanhedrin

- a. Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man *sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.*" (Matt 26:64)
- b. "I am," said Jesus, "and you will see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.*" (Mark 14:62)

(6) "Look! I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to pay each one according to what he has done!" (Rev 22:12)

(7) "The one who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20)

References to Jesus' Return by Others

Peter

(1) "Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you - that is, Jesus. ²¹ This one heaven must receive until the time all things are restored, which God declared from times long ago through his holy prophets." (Acts 3:19-21)

(2) "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare." (2 Pet 3:10)

Paul

(1) "For people everywhere report how you welcomed us and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath." (1 Thess 1:9-10)

(2) "For who is our hope or joy or crown to boast of before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not of course you?" (1 Thee 2:19)

- (3) “so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” (1 Thess 3:13)
- (4) “For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.” (1 Thess 4:15-17)
- (5) “and to you who are being afflicted to give rest together with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.” (2 Thess 1:7)
- (6) “But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; then when Christ comes, those who belong to him.” (1 Cor 15:23)
- (7) “But our citizenship is in heaven - and we also await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,” (Phil 3:20)
- (8) “When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him.” (Col 3:4)
- (9) “Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day - and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing.” (2 Tim 4:8)
- (10) “as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

Author of Hebrews

- (1) “so also, after Christ was offered once to *bear the sins of many*, to those who eagerly await him he will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation.” (Heb 9:28)

John

- (1) “Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is.” (1 John 3:2)

James

- (1) “So be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s return...You also be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the Lord’s return is near.” (James 5:7-8)

Terms for the Second Coming/Return of Jesus

- (1) Parousia (παρουσία) “coming” or “advent” or “arrival.” It is a term referring to the physical arrival/presence of a dignitary to a location from another location. Cf. Matt 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Cor 1:8; 15:23; 1 Thess 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:1, 8; 1 John 2:28; James 5:7-8; 2 Pet 1:16; 3:4, 12
- (2) Apocalypse (ἀποκάλυψις) “revelation,” “disclosure.” To make fully known. Cf. 1 Pet 1:7, 13; 4:13; 1 Cor 1:7; 2 Thess 1:6-7
- (3) Epiphany (ἐπιφάνεια) “appearance,” or “manifestation.” Act of visually appearing. Cf. 1 Tim 6:14; 2 Tim 4:1, 8; Tit 2:13; 2 Thess 2:8

Summary:

Jesus will return to earth from Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)

Jesus will return to earth Personally (Acts 1:11)

Jesus will appear as Son of Man (Dan 7:13-14; Matt 13:41; 24:30; 26:64)

Jesus will return to earth Visibly (Zech 12:10; Matt 23:39; 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; Rev 1:17)

Jesus will return to earth from heaven on Clouds and with Clouds (Dan 7:13; Acts 1:9-11; Matt 24:30; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 14:14-16; in the Hebrew Bible, only God rides the clouds: Exod 14:20; 34:5; Num 10:34; Psa 104:3; Isa 19:1)

Jesus will return to earth Suddenly, Unexpectedly, and Instantly (1 Thess 5:2-3; Luke 12:39-40; 17:24, 26-30; Matt 24:23, 26-27, 37-41, 43-44)

Jesus will return to earth Surrounded with Great Glory (Dan 7:13-14; Matt 16:27; 24:30; 26:64; Rev 19:11-16),
Jesus will return to earth with all his Angels (2 Thess 1:7-8; Jude 14-15; Matt 13:38-41; 16:27; 24:31; 25:31; Rev 19:14)

Jesus will return to earth with all his Saints (resurrected Saints and still alive Saints; Zech 14:5; Col 3:4; 1 Pet 6-7; 1 Thess 4:13-5:11)

Jesus will return to earth and place his Feet on the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:3-4; Matt 26:30; Acts 1:9-12)

The Main Purposes of Jesus' Return/Second Coming: to Rule and to Judge

Evidence for Jesus' Role as Ruler

Hebrew Bible Predictions of a Permanent Great King Over Israel and the Nations (from the line of David)

- (1) "Your house and your kingdom will stand before me permanently; your dynasty will be permanent." (2 Sam 7:16)
- (2) "I myself have installed my king on Zion, my holy hill." (Psa 2:6; "Zion" is one of the hills of Jerusalem)
- (3) "...I will appoint him to be my firstborn son, the most exalted of the earth's kings... I will give him an eternal dynasty, and make his throne as enduring as the skies above. ... His dynasty will last forever. His throne will endure before me, like the sun, ³⁷ it will remain stable, like the moon, his throne will endure like the skies." (Selah)" (Psa 89:20-37)
- (4) "...For there will be universal submission to the LORD's sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea." (Isa 11:1-9)
- (5) "I, the LORD, promise that a new time will certainly come when I will raise up for them a righteous branch, a descendant of David. He will rule over them with wisdom and understanding and will do what is just and right in the land.
⁶ Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Israel will live in security.
This is the name he will go by:
'The LORD has provided us with justice.' (Jer 23:5-6)
- (6) "Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Jerusalem will live in security" (Jer 33:14-26)

Predictions of Jesus' Rule as King Surrounding Birth

- (1) "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32-33)

Jesus' Acknowledgment of His Role as King

- (1) The Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:12)
- (2) Compare Jesus' use of "Son of Man" in reference to Dan 7:13-14 (see above)
- (3) Compare Jesus' use of "Christ"/"Anointed One" (Matt 16:13-23; Mark 8:27-33; Luke 9:18-22)
- (4) See Jesus' use of Psalm 110 (Matt 25:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:66-71)
- (5) Before Pilate (Matt 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-15; Luke 23:2-5)
- (6) John 4:25-26
- (7) Rev 19:16

Evidence for Jesus' Role as Judge

Hebrew Bible Predictions of a Great Judge (from the line of David)

- (4) Tell those who panic, "Be strong! Do not fear! Look, your God comes to avenge! With divine retribution he comes to deliver you." (Isa 35:4)

(5) Isa 11:3-5

He will not judge by mere appearances,
or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.

⁴ He will treat the poor fairly,
and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and order the wicked to be executed.

⁵ Justice will be like a belt around his waist,
integrity will be like a belt around his hips.

Jesus' Predictions of His Role as Judge

Mark

Mark 3:28-29 (= Matt 12:31-32 = Luke 12:10); Mark 4:24 (= Matt 7:2 = Luke 6:38); Mark 4:25, 29; 6:11 (= Matt 10:14 = Luke 9:5); Mark 8:38 (= Matt 10:32-33 – Luke 12:8-9); Mark 9:43-49 (like Matt 5:29-30); Mark 10:25 (= Matt 19:24 = Luke 18:25); Mark 10:31 (= Matt 19:30); Mark 12:1-12 (= Matt 21:33-46 = Luke 20:9-19, 40); 13:4, 13, 20, 24-27 (with parallels in Matt 24 and Luke 21); Mark 14:62 (= Matt 26:64; like Luke 22:69)

Matthew & Luke

Matt 7:1-2 = Luke 6:37-38; Matt 7:13-14 (like Luke 13:23-24); Matt 7:22-23 (like Luke 13:25-27); Matt 7:24-27 = Luke 6:47-49; Matt 8:11-12 (like Luke 13:28-29); Matt 10:14 = Luke 9:5; Matt 10:15 (like Luke 10:12); Matt 10:28 (like Luke 12:4-5); Matt 10:32 (like Luke 12:8-9); Matt 10:39 (like Luke 17:33); Matt 11:6 = Luke 7:23; Matt 11:21-24 (like Luke 10:13-15); Matt 12:27 = Luke 11:19; Matt 12:32 = Luke 12:10; Matt 12:41-42 = Luke 11:31-32; Matt 19:28 (like Luke 22:28-30); Matt 23:34-36 (like Luke 11:49-51); Matt 23:37-39 (like Luke 13:34-35); Matt 24:37-39 (like Luke 17:26-29); Matt 24:40-41 (like Luke 17:34-35); Matt 24:45-51 (like Luke 12:42-46); Matt 25:11-12 (like Luke 13:25); Matt 25:14-30 (like Luke 19:11-27); Luke 11:30 (like Matt 12:40); Luke 14:16-24 (like Matt 22:2-14)

Matthew Only

Matt 5:4, 7, 22; 7:19, 21; 8:29; 12:36-37; 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50; 15:13; 18:14, 23-35; 21:43; 23:33; 25:31-46

Luke Only

Luke 6:21, 24-26; 10:20; 12:48-49, 58-59; 13:2-5, 6-9; 14:11; 16:1-8, 19-31

Summary:

The judgment will come suddenly (Luke 12:3; Matt 24:43)

The judgment will come at an unexpected time (Luke 12:40; Matt 24:44)

The judgment but non-condemnation of Christians (John 5:24; Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 4-5)

The immediate judgment of the militaries of the enemies of Israel (Isa 63:1-6; Zech 14:3-4; Rev 19:11, 15, 21)

The judgment of Antichrist (2 Thess 2:8; Rev 19:17-21)

The judgment of the Nations (Psalm 2; Matt 25:31-32)

The final judgment (Rev 20:11-15; 14:10-11)

The Last Things (Chronological from Rev 19:11-21:8)

- (1) Jesus' Return to Earth from Heaven (Rev 19:11-16)
 - a. Dead in Christ are Raised back to life (1st Resurrection) and meet the Lord in the Air (1 Thess 4:13-18)
 - b. Alive in Christ Meet the Lord in the Air (1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 24:31)
 - c. Arrival on the Mount of Olives (Zech 14; Acts 1:9-11)
- (2) Defeat of Antichrist & Salvation of Israel (Rev 19:17-21)
- (3) The Binding of Satan (Rev 20:1-3)
- (4) The Literal Physical Presence and Establishment of the Kingdom of God; 1,000 year reign; Millennium (Rev 20:4-6; Matt 25:31-34)
- (5) The Release of Satan and Man's Final Rebellion (Rev 20:7-10)
- (6) Final Judgment of the Unjust Living and Dead (2d Resurrection) (Rev 20:11-15; Matt 25:31-46)
- (7) The Lord Jesus Christ Gives the Kingdom to the Father (1 Cor 15:24-28)
- (8) The New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev 21:1-8)

Why is Jesus' Return Important?

- (1) Jesus' return indicates Jesus is fulfilling prophetic expectations regarding the King of Israel (Psa 2, 110)
- (2) Jesus' return will further establish the credibility and further authenticate the claims and teaching of all Jesus said (see predictions above).
- (3) The return is a source of comfort and hope to the church to know Jesus will raise the dead (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- (4) The return is a source of encouragement for repentance of unbelievers and holy living for believers.