

LESSON 12

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the events of the second coming.
2. To understand the purpose of Jesus' return.
3. To learn how to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

(Luke 12:40)

PRAYER

1. Thank you, heavenly Father, for gathering us in Your presence on this holy Sabbath day.
2. Please open our hearts as we learn about the teachings concerning Jesus' Second Coming.
3. Please also grant us a wise and watchful heart so that we can prepare ourselves to meet You.



Overview

1. The nature of Jesus' Second Coming

- Swift and sudden
- No one will know the time or hour
- Changes will happen in heaven and on earth

2. Jesus' appearance

3. The purpose of Jesus' return

- To gather His elect
- To destroy the world
- To judge all men
- To welcome us into our eternal home.

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Second Coming of Jesus

5. Life Application—Preparing Myself to Meet the Lord

6. Activity—Word Search ("Jesus Will Return")



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus' Second Coming is perhaps the most anticipated event in the history of the world. Every generation of believers, including those in the New Testament, have strongly believed that Jesus will return in their lifetime. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 tells us, "concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come." Some are mistakenly frightened that they have missed the second coming. Others doubt that it will ever occur. They will say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (2 Pet 3:4). So, we must avoid both extremes: believing that the second coming has already occurred, and believing that the second coming will never occur.

Many religious figures have made guesses as to when the second coming will occur. They have all been incorrect. The Bible declares, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Mt 24:36). The Bible does not give us the time, but instead describes several signs and events that must occur before the second coming. So, although we are to anticipate this event, we must also have a biblical understanding of it. There is no reason for setting dates or predicting times. Instead, we must live our lives as if it could happen any day, at any moment.



Reaching Out to Your Students

On one hand, learning about the end of the world can be frightening for some students. We should remind them that anticipating the second coming can be likened to a child who is eagerly looking forward to seeing a parent or a loved one whom they have not seen for a long time. For people who do not know God, it is a terrifying moment. But for believers, it is a moment that they have longed and hoped for throughout their life of faith. It is a time of great joy and happiness when we will at last behold our God and dwell eternally with Him.

On the other hand, some students may receive the news with flippancy. Impress upon them the serious nature of this event, and the possibility that it could happen in the next minute. We must live our lives with a strange urgency, always remembering that God could appear at any moment, and that when He does, He will judge us.

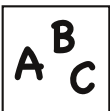


Opener

5 Minutes

Set a ringtone on your phone that can be played with a touch at any time you wish. Then, arrange a bowl of small prizes or candy somewhere in the room, numbering less than the number of students. Explain to the students that they are not to touch the prizes or candy until the ringtone goes off. When it does go off, they are allowed to grab one prize or piece of candy. Emphasize that it could go off at any time during class.

Once you have set the ringtone off—try to wait for a time when the students are not expecting it, or perhaps are working on their worksheets/activity—explain to them that the second coming will be very much like this: the time is unknown, and it will be unexpected when it does arrive. But, as long as we are watchful, we can prepare ourselves. The students who are watchful—perhaps those who kept an eye on your hand to see when you would tap your phone—will be ready for it. Make sure you give prizes to the students who were not able to get one.



Vocabulary

tsunami: a Japanese word in which “tsu” means harbor, and “nami” means wave, literally translating into “harbor wave”; a large and destructive ocean wave usually caused by an underwater earthquake

archangel: the prince of angels



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

As this lesson contains many verse references, please pace yourself accordingly and make sure the students have time to turn to each Bible verse. Perhaps have an assistant help any students who are having difficulty.

In a previous lesson, we learned about the signs of the end times, and that the end times would mark the return of Jesus—the event we call Jesus’ Second Coming. Today, we’re going to continue the topic and learn about the second coming itself, and what will happen when it occurs.

The Nature of Jesus’ Second Coming *It Will Be Swift and Unexpected*

So, what will the second coming be like? First, we know that the Bible uses many different analogies to explain that it will be **swift and unexpected**.

FOR TEACHERS

Please hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. As you refer to each analogy and verse, please have your students fill in the blanks. The answers have been underlined in this section.

There is a passage that describes Jesus as a master who returns unexpectedly. Let’s read the passage together in Mark 13:34-37:

“It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house

and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.”

Jesus here describes Himself as a man who goes on a journey. Before he departs, he leaves instructions to the servant and the doorkeeper to carry on their work and to keep watch until he returns. The servants understand that although their master is temporarily gone, they must continue to work diligently. They would not want their master to return suddenly and find them sleeping or slacking off from their duties.

Jesus is now in heaven, but like the man in the story, He will return someday. We do not know exactly when the Lord will return, but we need to stay awake spiritually by reading the Bible, praying, and obeying His will. We would not want Jesus to suddenly return and find us spiritually sleeping and enjoying the pleasures of this world.

The next verse, Revelation 3:3b, says that the second coming will be like a thief in the night. Let's read the passage together:

“Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

Usually, thieves break into houses at night when everyone is sleeping and unguarded. If someone knew ahead of time that a thief was going to break into his house, he would stay up to protect it. This teaches us that the way to be ready for Jesus' return is to be spiritually awake and ready. This means living a godly life and obeying His will. In this way, when Jesus does come, it will not happen as a complete surprise, like a thief breaking in.

No One Knows the Time or Hour

Have you ever had to wait for someone before? Perhaps a friend or a family member? When you did, you probably said when and where to meet each other. But sometimes the person you're meeting runs late, or you appear early. When this happens, you have to wait and watch for them, because you don't know when they're going to appear.

Let's turn to Mark 13:32-33.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.”

Although Jesus has given us general signs to watch for

regarding His coming, He explains to us that no one will know the exact day or hour of His coming. Even the angels and the Son (Jesus Himself) do not know. Only the heavenly Father knows the exact time. Therefore, we should be careful not to be misled by people who claim that Jesus will come on a certain day or hour. These prophecies and predictions are false.

Let's also read Matthew 24:37-39. Jesus continues to say that when He comes, people will be going about their normal lives, just as in Noah's time. Do you remember what happened? All of Noah's neighbors were eating and drinking and being merry when the rains came. None of them believed Noah, and as a result, they perished in the flood. In the same way, Jesus will come in the blink of an eye, while we are going about our daily lives.

Changes Will Happen in Heaven and on Earth

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, strange and miraculous events occurred when He took His last breath and gave up His spirit.

Let's read Matthew 27:51-54 to find out what occurred.

- The veil in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.
- The earth quaked and the rocks split open.
- The graves opened and many believers who had died, resurrected, coming out of the graves and appearing before many in Jerusalem.

If such extraordinary things occurred with the death of Jesus, how much more do you think will happen during His second coming? The Bible tells us that strange and astounding things will occur on earth and in the heavens before His coming.

Let's turn to Luke 21:25-27 and read what is going to happen.

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

How do you think people of the world will feel when they witness this? It will probably be a time of great distress, and people will probably become incredibly scared when they see what is happening.

How about you? How do you think you would feel? As believers, we should be filled with confidence and joy when we see such events, because we know that they

mark Jesus' coming, and in turn, our entry into our heavenly home where we will finally see God.

Jesus' Appearance

Now we've learned all about the characteristics of the second coming, but what about the main event—Jesus Himself?

Let's read two verses. First, let's turn to Revelation 1:7-8.

"Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."

Second, let's read 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

When the Lord Jesus first came into the world, He came as the son of a lowly carpenter. He came to serve mankind and to offer Himself up on the cross for their sins. When He appears a second time, He will no longer be a humble servant. Rather, we will see Him as He truly is: the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will appear on clouds with great power and glory and the voice of an archangel. Every eye on earth will see Him, and they will mourn because they will know that it is Jesus, and that they will have to face both judgment and destruction.

The Purpose of Jesus' Return

To Gather His Elect

What will happen when Jesus makes His appearance? The Bible mentions several purposes of His return. First, let's continue reading the next verse, 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Now, let's turn to Matthew 24:31

These verses tell us that one of His purposes will be to gather His elect.

Do you know what "elect" refers to here? It means those who are chosen by Him. In other words, those believers who are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit are His chosen ones. When Jesus comes, He will send angels out to gather the elect from the four corners of the world. Believers who have already passed away will resurrect and be transformed into spiritual bodies. Then, those who are still alive will also be transformed, and everyone will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord and be with Him forever.

To Destroy the World

For His next purpose, let's turn to 2 Peter 3:10.

This verse tells us that Jesus' purpose when He returns will be to destroy the world. The world around us—and even heaven itself—will pass away, and we will live instead

in a new heavens and a new earth (v. 13).

To Judge All Men

There is a third, very important purpose for Jesus' return. Let's read Revelation 20:12-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Jesus' third purpose will be to judge all men. Our life does not end at death. After our physical death, there will be the great judgment. Every human being will stand before God and will be judged according to their works. During that time, the Book of Life will be opened, and if anyone's name is found in it, they will be saved and receive eternal life. Those who do not know God, and whose names are not found in the book, will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Besides the Book of Life, other books will be opened, which have records of each person's works. From these books, God will give to each person according to all that they have done. During that time, we will have to give account for everything we have said and done while on earth. Those who did good, loved God and men, and preached the gospel will be rewarded. However, those who lived for their own enjoyment and pleasure, and who did not follow the truth, will be punished.

To Welcome Us into Our Eternal Home

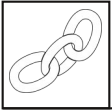
There is one more purpose for Jesus' second coming. Let's turn to Matthew 25:34. Jesus will welcome us into our eternal home.

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He will come again. When He does, He will take us with Him into our eternal home. This eternal home was being prepared for us since the foundation of the earth, and even now is still being made ready to receive us! It is difficult for us to even begin to imagine what kind of place it will be. The Bible describes it as a place that is "incorruptible," a place where God will "wipe away every tear." There will be no death, no pain, no sorrow, and no crying (Rev 21:4). All of the pain and sadness that we feel while on this earth will never exist once we get there.

Conclusion

So, from what we learned, Jesus' Second Coming will be a very momentous event—it will probably be very scary, but it will also be a time of great joy, because it will be the time we finally get to see God. Once we finally reach that day, the hope that we had of reaching our eternal home will finally become a reality.

Although it is very difficult for us to imagine what will happen, and equally difficult for us to remember that it will happen, we must do our best to be watchful, and live as though it were to come at any moment.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Lord's Second Coming

The Bible has given us the gift of both forewarning and instructions for Jesus' Second Coming. It is not enough to simply know that Jesus will come again—we must act upon this knowledge by living our lives as close to God's will as possible. Only by doing this can we be ready for the all-important event—and we must be ready. Because on that day, we will be judged: the righteous will receive eternal life, and the wicked will be condemned.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Who knows when the second coming will be?** No one, except God.
2. **Is it true that as long as you are a TJC member, you will be saved?** No; we must live godly lives according to His word.
3. **Will everyone be saved? How will everyone be judged on the last day?** No; they will be judged according to what they said and did while on earth.
4. **What two analogies did Jesus use to describe His second coming?** It will be swift and unexpected, like a master returning home or a thief in the night.
5. **What is the purpose of Jesus' Second Coming?** To gather the elect, destroy the world, judge mankind, and welcome us into our eternal home.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Preparing Myself to Meet the Lord

[Read the following section about the earthquake and tsunami that struck in 2004. Then, discuss the questions with the students.]

Sumatra Tsunami Kills 230,000

On December 26th of 2004, the most powerful earthquake in 40 years erupted in the Indian Ocean. After the earthquake, people thought that was it, but then they saw the 30-foot tall tsunami moving very quickly towards them. The giant wave crashed against the coast. The people ran as fast as they could to higher ground or inland, but for some, it was just too late. Tourists, fishermen, farmers, villagers were swept out to the ocean. Entire villages suddenly disappeared. Trucks, cars, motorbikes were swept around like toys. Many who survived had serious injuries and had lost everything.

The giant wave of water, which started in Sumatra, Indonesia, also caused deadly waves in a dozen other countries killing 230,000 people. Those 230,000 people didn't know what hit them. Tsunamis often strike with little or no warning. Can you imagine any event so devastating that it would kill 230,000 lives in one day?

1. **Why did so many people die from the tsunami?**
2. **What could have been done to prevent such a large number of deaths?**

In the same way the Sumatra Tsunami struck when the people least expected it, the Lord Jesus will also come without warning. Will Jesus find us ready and prepared for His coming, or will we be taken by surprise? In Luke 12:40, the Lord Jesus tells us, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

How can we prepare ourselves so that we can be ready to receive the Lord at any day and any moment?

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet, and ask students to read the scenario and answer the questions.]



Activity

Jesus Will Return

10-15 Minutes

Find the following words in the word search.

ANGELS
ELECT
HEAVEN
POWER
JESUS
AWAKE

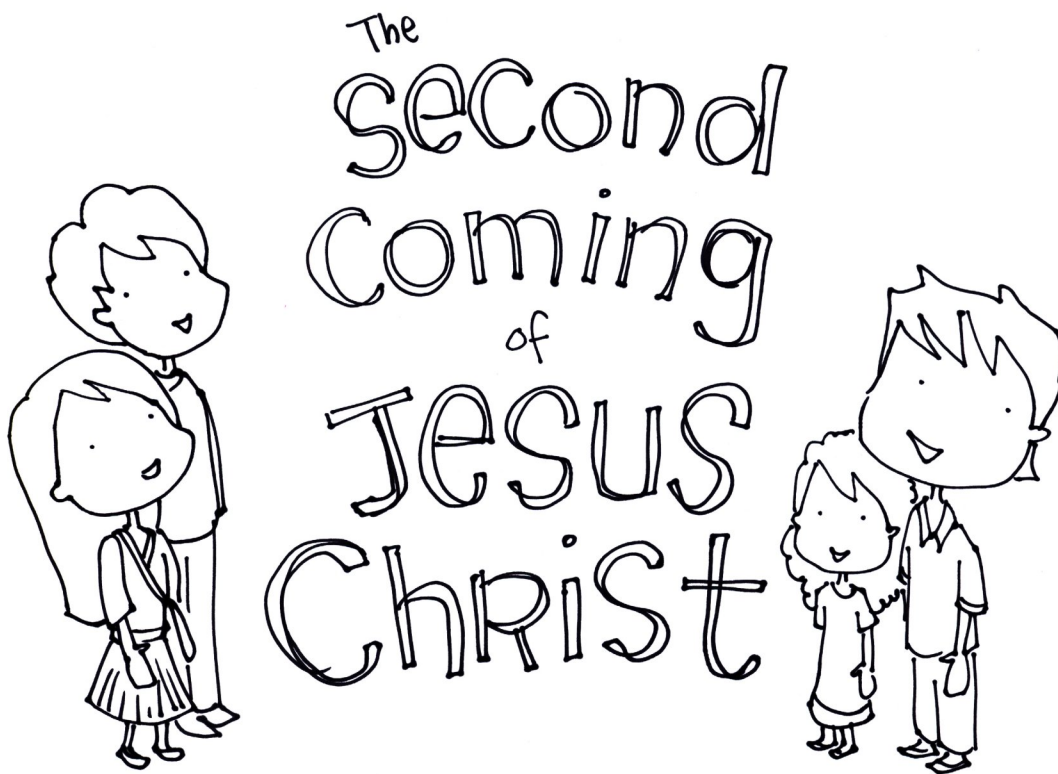
CLOUDS
FIRE
HOME
PREACH
THIEF
BIBLE

DEEDS
GLORY
JUDGMENT
PREPARE
TRUMPET
PRAY

H	I	S	B	H	S	A	W	A	K	E
E	C	L	O	U	D	S	S	B	A	P
A	D	M	S	O	G	L	O	R	Y	O
V	A	E	C	P	E	L	E	C	T	W
E	J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T	L	E
N	I	C	N	H	R	B	Z	R	E	R
P	R	A	Y	A	T	O	D	U	J	U
P	T	O	P	G	K	H	O	M	E	F
D	E	E	D	S	A	S	I	P	G	I
I	R	A	G	B	I	B	L	E	R	R
P	R	E	A	C	H	O	T	T	F	E

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him." (Rev 1:7a)
2. "But of that day and hour no one knows." (Mk 13:32a)
3. "Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev 20:15)
4. "The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light." (Mt 24:29a)
5. "He will reward each according to his works." (Mt 16:27b)
6. "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." (2 Pet 3:10)
7. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." (Mk 13:26)
8. "Come [...] inherit the kingdom prepared for you... from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25:34b)
9. We must live a godly life and be watchful by consistently praying, reading the Bible, and doing God's will.



Part A: The Nature of Jesus' Second Coming

What will Jesus' coming be like?

1. The Bible uses different analogies to describe it as swift and unexpected.

a. It will be like a _____ who returns _____.

(Mark 13:34-37)

"It is like a _____ going to a _____, who left his _____ and gave _____ to his _____, and to each his _____, and commanded the doorkeeper to _____. _____ therefore, for you _____ when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning, lest, _____, he find you _____."

b. It will be like a _____ in the _____.

(Revelations 3:3b)

"Therefore if you will not _____, I will come upon you as a _____, and you will _____ what _____ I will come upon you."

2. The Bible says that no one knows the time or hour.

(Mark 13:32)

"But of that _____ and _____ no one _____, not even the _____ in _____, nor the _____, but only the _____. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is."

3. When it comes, there will be changes in heaven and on earth.

(Luke 21:25-28)

"And there will be _____ in the _____, in the _____, in the _____; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the _____ and the _____; men's _____ failing them from _____ and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the _____ of _____ coming in a _____ with power and _____."

Part B: Jesus' Appearance

What will happen when Jesus comes?

(Revelation 1:7-8)

"Behold, He is _____ with the _____, and _____ will _____ Him, even they who _____ Him. And all the tribes of the earth will _____ because of Him. Even so, Amen."

(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

"For the Lord Himself will _____ from _____ with a _____, with the voice of an _____, and with the _____ of _____. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Part C: The Purpose of Jesus' Return

Turn to the following verses to find out what Jesus will do when He returns.

1. Matthew 24:31 - To _____ His _____.
2. 2 Peter 3:10 - To _____ the _____.
3. Revelation 20:11-15 - To _____ all _____.
4. Matthew 25:34 - To _____ us into our _____.

Preparing Myself to Meet the Lord

Sumatra Tsunami Kills 230,000

On December 26th of 2004, the most powerful earthquake in 40 years erupted in the Indian Ocean. After the earthquake, people thought that was it, but then they saw the 30-foot tall tsunami moving very quickly towards them. The giant wave crashed against the coast. The people ran as fast as they could to higher ground or inland, but for some, it was just too late. Tourists, fishermen, farmers, villagers were swept out to the ocean. Entire villages suddenly disappeared. Trucks, cars, motorbikes were swept around like toys. Many who survived had serious injuries and had lost everything.

The giant wave of water, which started in Sumatra, Indonesia, also caused deadly waves in a dozen other countries killing 230,000 people. Those 230,000 people didn't know what hit them. Tsunamis often strike with little or no warning. Can you imagine any event so devastating that it would kill 230,000 lives in one day?

1. Why did so many people die from the tsunami?
2. What could have been done to prevent such a large number of deaths?

In the same way the Sumatra Tsunami struck when the people least expected it, the Lord Jesus will also come without warning. Will Jesus find us ready and prepared for His coming, or will we be taken by surprise? In Luke 12:40, the Lord Jesus tells us, "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

How can we prepare ourselves so that we can be ready to receive the Lord at any day and any moment?



Read the following story about a boy named Brian.

Brian comes from a wealthy family with successful parents. He has been told that he needs to work hard at school so that he can get into a reputable college, find a high-paying job, and lead a comfortable life. He has watched his parents work hard and seen the fruit of their labor. He decides that his goal is to work hard to make it to the top. Besides his academic studies, Brian has a lot of close friends at school and enjoys being on the basketball team, in orchestra, and on the debate team with them.

In church, things are different. He just doesn't fit in. His peers spend too much time going to church events, RE classes, and services. He much prefers hanging out with his school buddies, playing video games, skateboarding, and watching movies.

Brian only attends the Saturday morning service now, but he often dozes off during the sermons. He didn't used to be like this. He simply drifted further and further from God. In fact, he doesn't really know if there is a God anymore. He finds that his prayers are getting weaker and weaker. A few years ago, he received the Holy Spirit at a Student Spiritual Convocation, but he's afraid to face the fact that he may have lost the Holy Spirit, so he doesn't pray. Brian feels that he doesn't really need God. He's seen from his parents' example how, through hard work, a person can accomplish a good life, success, and material prosperity. Brian feels that living in the present is what's important. He only lives once, so he's going to enjoy life to the fullest. The future? He's not going to worry about that now.

Are YOU Ready?

It is the Last Day and Brian is standing face to face with the Lord Jesus, and Jesus has a few questions for him. Write down Brian's answers to His questions. Then, read the Bible verses and write how God wants us to live for Him.

1. Was I first place in your heart?

Matthew 22:37-38

2. Were you kind and caring to others?

Matthew 25:34-36

3. Did you spend time praying and reading the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:8

4. Did you spread the gospel to others around you?

Matthew 24:14

5. Did you use the talents and gifts I gave you to serve the church and others?

Matthew 25:20-21



E2 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 12—The Second Coming of Jesus

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Luke 12:40)**

Draw a line to match up the phrases of each Bible verse.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. "Behold, He is coming with clouds... | ...was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev 20:15) |
| 2. "But of that day and hour... | ...according to his works." (Mt 16:27b) |
| 3. "Anyone not found written in the Book of Life... | ...from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25:34b) |
| 4. "The sun will be darkened... | ...with great power and glory." (Mk 13:26) |
| 5. "He will reward each..." | ...and the moon will not give its light." (Mt 24:29a) |
| 6. "The day of the Lord will come..." | ...and every eye will see Him." (Rev 1:7a) |
| 7. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds..." | ...as a thief in the night." (2 Pet 3:10) |
| 8. "Come [...] inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." | ...no one knows." (Mk 13:32a) |

Short Answer

9. What are some of the things that you need to do to get ready for Jesus' return?