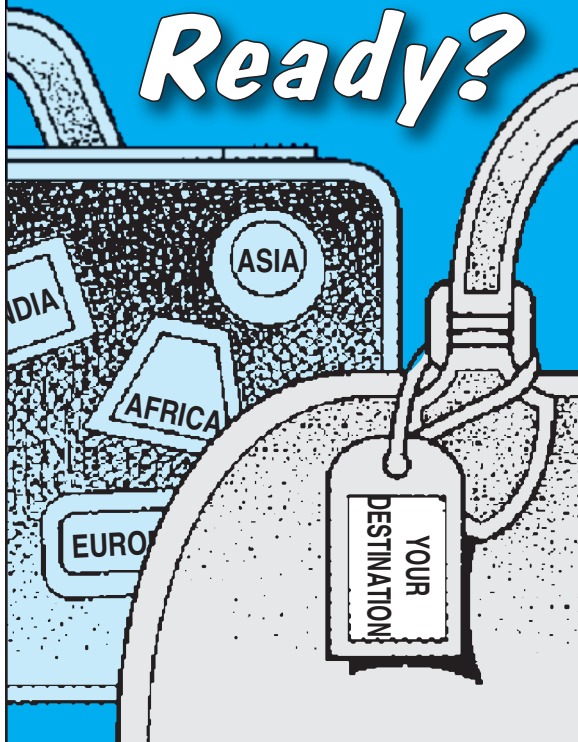


Are You Ready?



We plan for travel; we study for exams; we prepare for job interviews; we rehearse for weddings; we save for retirement; and we even pre-arrange for funerals. Why? Because *we want to be ready* when these events occur.

Did you know that there is one more happening that *we must be ready for*? Jesus Christ is coming back to take all those who love Him to heaven. Satan is doing his best to keep you in the dark about this great event, and to cheat you out of the hope that belongs to all who believe God's Word.

GOD LOVES YOU and wants you to know what He has planned for His people. Just before Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He told His followers: "In My Father's house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and 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). How simple His words are! He will not be satisfied until He has all those who believe at home with Him.

When the Apostle Paul took the good news of salvation to the town of Thessalonica, many

"turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

JESUS IS RETURNING! The Thessalonians believed, and were waiting for Him to come from heaven for them – just as we should be waiting for Him today. "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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

After this event (called the "Rapture"), seven years of tribulation on earth will take place (Matthew 24:21-22). Believe me: you will want to be on the Lord's side when this happens! Following this terrible period, all unbelievers (dead and living) will be judged "according to their works" by God Himself, before being cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:11-15).

ARE YOU READY? Jesus warns, “*Be ready*, for the Son of Man is coming ... when you do not expect Him” (Matthew 24:44). He could return today! Have you trusted Him as your Savior? Are you waiting for His return? *Are you ready* to go to His heavenly home with Him whenever He comes?

If you are not, regardless of what else you may or may not have done in your life, you are lost. It's as simple as that. Jesus says in the Bible: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). If He should come today, will you be left for judgment? I urge you to trust Him now, before it is too late.

— F. Wurst (*revised*)

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