Jesus will come again.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." **John 14:3**

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" **Revelation 22:20**

The coming of the Lord will be preceded by rebellion, antichrists (people with influence who are opposed to Christ), destruction, and persecution.

"For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, <u>for this must take</u> <u>place, but the end is not yet.</u> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

Matthew 24:4-8

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Matthew 24:9-13

"For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as <u>to</u> <u>lead astray,</u> if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24

"Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, <u>unless the rebellion comes</u> <u>first</u>, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God."

2 Thess. 2:3-4

"...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come <u>in the last days</u> with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, 'Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."" **2 Peter 3:3**

The coming of the Lord will be sudden and unexpected.

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security,' then <u>sudden destruction</u> will come upon them as labor paints comes upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape." **1 Thess. 5:2-3**

"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour <u>when you do not expect</u> <u>him.</u>"

Matthew 24:44

"But concerning that day and hour <u>no one knows</u>, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Matthew 24:36

Jesus will come back on the clouds, the same way he ascended. And it will be visible, loud, and glorious.

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, <u>will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.</u>" Acts 1:11

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven <u>with a cry of command</u>, with the voice of an archangel, and with the <u>sound of the trumpet of God.</u> And the dead in Christ will rise first. **1 Thess. 4:16**

On this day, the saints who have fallen asleep (died) will be resurrected and united with their bodies. Those who are alive will also be brought to meet Jesus in the air. At this time, we will all be given glorified, imperishable bodies, so that we can be in the presence of God. This is the resurrection.

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. <u>We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.</u> For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and <u>we shall be changed.</u> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **1 Cor. 15:50-55**

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <u>who will</u> <u>transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body</u>, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." **Phil 3:20-21**

"When Christ, who is your life, appears, you also will appear with him in glory." **Col. 3:4**

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." **1 Thess. 4:14**

<u>"Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds</u> to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:17

On that day, there will be a separation of believers and unbelievers.

"<u>When the Son of Man comes in his glory</u>, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one

from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And <u>he will place the sheep</u> <u>on his right, but the goats on the left</u>. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:31-34, 41

"Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, <u>those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have</u> <u>done evil to the resurrection of judgment."</u> John 5:28-29

Unbelievers will suffer the judgment, but believers will be relieved.

"...and to wait for His son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

1 Thess. 1:10

"This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <u>and to grant relief to you who are afflicted</u> as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, <u>inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer</u> the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes <u>on that day</u> to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed."

2 Thess. 1:5-10

"...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but <u>to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.</u>" **Hebrews 9:28**

"But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until <u>the day of judgment</u> and destruction of the ungodly." **2 Peter 3:7**

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be **burned up and dissolved**, and the earth and the works that are done on it will **be exposed**."

2 Peter 3:10

"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth <u>will wail</u> on account of him." **Revelation 1:7**

During that judgment, believers will also give an account of what we have done with our words, and our time.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." **Matthew 6:19-20**

"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matt. 12:36-37

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (The Parable of the Talents) **Matthew 25:21**

"Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who <u>will bring</u> to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. <u>Then</u> <u>each one will receive his commendation from God.</u>" 1 Cor. 4:5

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

Then, Jesus will establish (sanctify) the saints as holy and set them apart for God.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion <u>at the</u> <u>day of Jesus Christ."</u> Phil 1:6 "...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints." 1 Thess. 3:13

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify** for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." **Titus 2:11-14**

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that **when he appears we shall be like him,** because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself** as he is pure. **1 John 3:2-3**

Then, Jesus will create a New Heaven and a New Earth.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 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! <u>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens</u> <u>and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."</u> **2 Peter 3:10-13**

<u>"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had</u> <u>passed away, and the sea was no more.</u> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place[a] 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. 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." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **Revelation 21:1-5**

The coming of the Lord should encourage us and remind us to always be prepared by walking in the light.

"Therefore encourage one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4:17

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

"So then let us not sleep, as others do, but **let us keep awake** and be sober." **1 Thess. 5:6**

"And now, little children, abide in him, so that **when he appears** we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming." **1 John 2:28**

We can prepare for Christ's coming by being patient, establishing faith in our hearts, and staying unified as the body of Christ.

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

James 5:7-9

"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..." **2 Peter 3:11-12a**

The reason Jesus has not yet returned is because God is giving people a chance to repent and not perish in their sins. Therefore, the coming of Christ compels us to be active in evangelism, discipleship, and missions.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him <u>should</u> <u>not perish but have eternal life.</u> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but <u>whoever does not believe is condemned already</u>, because he has not <u>believed in the name of the only Son of God."</u> John 3:16-18

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent, because he has fixed a day** on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:30-31

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God **among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a** *fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.* Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as *commissioned by God*, in the sight of God we speak in Christ." **2 Cor. 2:14-17**

Therefore, <u>knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.</u> But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. <u>We implore you</u> on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5:11, 20

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish**, but that all should reach repentance. **2 Peter 3:9**