

**I Thess. 4 : 16:** "With a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."  
**I Cor. 15 : 52:** "The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised."

If the words of the New Testament are to be taken at face value, and we believe they are, Our Lord's Return will be a stupendous public spectacle, conducted in the open gaze of the world!

It would seem that Jesus has deliberately chosen words which give the impression of unparalleled majesty and splendour when describing His Second Coming. Consider these examples: "Clouds"; "Lightning"; "Trumpet"; "Shout"; "Power"; "Glory"; "Angels"; "Brightness"; "Flaming fire", etc.

Put these words together, and they make a scene of incomparable grandeur and power. It defies all attempts at description. It beggars all comparison. It will be the greatest spectacle of the ages!

#### 4.—IS IT NECESSARY?

Not only does the Bible make plain the promise of Christ's Coming, and the pattern of His Coming. Its testimony is equally plain concerning the purpose of His Coming.

**John 14 : 1-3:** To receive His people unto Himself.

**Rev. 14 : 14-16:** To reap the harvest of the earth, after centuries of sowing.

**Matt. 13 : 39-40:** To separate the wheat from the tares.

**I Thess. 4 : 14-18:** To raise the righteous dead.

**I Cor. 15 : 51-53:** To bestow the gift of immortality.

**II Thess. 1 : 7-10:** To punish the ungodly.

**Rev. 22 : 12:** "To reward every man according as his work shall be."

**I John 3 : 8:** "To destroy the works of the Devil."

**II Pet. 3 : 10-13:** To create a new heavens and a new earth.

#### 5.—IS IT NEAR?

Can we know anything about the nearness of our Lord's return, or is the matter veiled in secrecy?

**I Thess. 5 : 1-6:** God's people need not be "ignorant" of the "times and seasons" relative to the future programme of God. They are "not in darkness", that the day of Christ's Coming should overtake them "as a thief".

Whilst it is true that "no man knows the day nor the hour" (Matt. 24 : 36), God has given many, unmistakable "signs" by which we may know with certainty when the Coming of Jesus is near. We will consider these "signs" in Lesson 10.

**Conclusion** Everyone is naturally curious about the question: "When will Jesus come?" But there is another question that is far more personal and urgent: "Are we ready for His Coming?" The New Testament never mentions this subject without sounding an earnest call for personal preparedness:

**Luke 21 : 34-36:** "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

**Luke 12 : 35-40:** "Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching."

Thank God, we are not left in doubt as to how to make this personal preparation:

**I John 2 : 28:** "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."