

Is Christ's Return Soon or Never?

Erwin Lutzer

I. Introduction.

- A. The return of Christ is something that all people will experience.
- B. Many people think that history will go on as it has, but the Bible teaches that Jesus will return and change the course of history changing everything.

II. Christ returns in two different stages.

- A. The dead in Christ will rise and those alive in Christ will be transformed. (I Thessalonians 4, I Corinthians 15)
- B. The glorious appearing of Christ. (Matthew 24:26)
 - 1. In I Thessalonians Christ comes to receive His saints.
 - 2. In Matthew 24, Christ comes with His saints to rule.

III. The antichrist will come before Christ's return, and he can come at any moment.

IV. Five signs of the Great Tribulation.

- A. The unification of Europe. (Daniel)
- B. The unification of the world. (Revelation 13, 17)
- C. The unification of religion.
 - 1. Men will be seduced by evil by uniting under a world religion.
 - 2. This is demonic—Christianity has no harmony with things like this such as the New Age movement. (I Timothy, II Thessalonians 2:3)
- D. The centrality of Jerusalem. The Jews must be in the land.
- E. An enthusiasm for the peace of the world. (I Thessalonians 5)

V. The extent which one loves Christ is the extent that one longs for Christ's appearing.

Application questions:

- 1. How would you explain the stages of Christ's return?

2. How can a believer live in expectation of Christ's imminent return when it could be thousands of years before He comes back?

3. Why is it important to know the signs of the Great Tribulation? Explain.
