



**Our lives on earth will come to an end in one of two ways:**

**A)** We will die. (We've seen this happen before.)

**B)** Christ will return to put an end to this world. "Judgment Day" – "The Last Day"  
(No one has ever seen anything like this!)

### A) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON DIES?



**Why is there such a thing as death?** (cf. Genesis 2:16-17, Romans 5:12)

**Hebrews 9:27a** *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** *...the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

**Luke 23: 46** *Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.*

**Luke 23:43** *Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*

[**Luke 16: 19-31**—The rich man and Lazarus]

**John 5:28-29** *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—"*

### B) WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT "THE END OF TIME?"

**Truth Number**



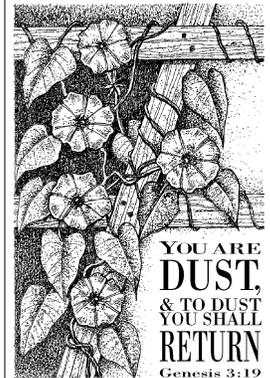
Jesus will return on "the last day" - one final return

**Hebrews 9:27-28** *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Written...that  
you may  
have life.

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## Truth Number



No one (except God himself) knows when the Last Day will come.

**Matthew 24:36** *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

**Matthew 24:42** *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*

## Truth Number



The Last Day could come at any time—all “signs” are in place.

**Matthew 24:4-14** *Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*



DISCUSS: Jesus says that “he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” What methods has Satan employed in these last days to keep us from “standing firm?” (How do we do battle with each method?)

## Truth Number



**God’s people are to anticipate Christ’s coming with hope-filled joy. We are to remain focused on the mission Christ gave us.**

**Luke 21:34-36** *Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.*

**Thessalonians 5:4-11** *But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*



THOUGHT QUESTION: Is God’s message of the Last Day a terrifying threat or a joyful comfort?

**Truth Number** 

**There are certain things that we know about the events that will take place on the Last Day.**

**Matthew 25:31-33** *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

**Truth 5A...**Jesus will return in glory with his angels.

**Truth 5B...**The Last Day will include the final judging of all people for heaven or hell.



**John 5:28-29a** *Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—*

**Truth 5C...**Even those who have already died will be present on the Last Day.

**Job 19:25-27** *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

**Philippians 3:20-21** *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**Truth 5D...**We will live in our current body in a glorified state for all eternity.

**Revelation 7:15-17** *Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

**Truth 5E...**We will live in the presence of God without the sorrow and sadness brought on by sin.

**2 Peter 3:10-13** <sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

**Truth 5F...**This earth will be destroyed and God will create a new abode for his people.





When is a person prepared for the end of life?

**Philippians 1:21-25** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

**2 Peter 1:13-15** I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

**Luke 2:25-32** Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

**1 Corinthians 15:54b-58** "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

*Lord, when your glory I shall see and taste your kingdom's pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be, my joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need not hide me.  
And there in garments richly wrought, as your own child I shall be brought  
to stand in joy beside you.*

*Christian Worship 219*



*"Store up for yourselves treasures  
in heaven, where moth & rust do  
not destroy, & where thieves do not  
break in and steal."*

*Matthew 6:20*