

Imagine His Return

[Acts 1:9-11](#)

[Acts 1:9-11 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹“And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

In our lives, we may have had opportunities to experience amazing things, see beautiful views, and hear wonderful music. But more marvelous than any earthly event is what Christians will experience at the return of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul urges believers to become familiar with what will occur at that remarkable time ([1 Thessalonians 4:13](#)). Just imagine...

[1 Thessalonians 4:13 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.”

What we will hear: Jesus “will descend from heaven with a shout” ([1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)).

[1 Thessalonians 4:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Perhaps the Lord will say something similar to the words He spoke when raising Lazarus back to life: “Come forth!” ([John 11:43](#)). The voice of the archangel Michael—the leader of the angelic host—and a heavenly trumpet will also be heard, calling the saints to assemble.

What we will see: Jesus will descend ([Acts 1:11](#)), to be met in the air by newly resurrected deceased saints and then, a moment later, by living believers.

[Acts 1:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹“They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

What we will feel: Though it’s impossible to know exactly what the experience will be like, we can expect it to be magnificent. We’ll be transformed physically: Unlike our present body, our new form won’t be susceptible to pain, sin, sadness, sickness, or death. And in an instant, we will be brought into the presence of our heavenly Father, to remain with Him for eternity.

It’s not hard to become disheartened by the materialism, selfishness, and hopelessness surrounding us in this world. However, we can encourage one another—and ourselves—with a

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reminder about Jesus Christ's return ([1 Thessalonians 4:18](#)). So, when hardships get you down, think about this exciting event in your future. The best is yet to come!

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“**Therefore comfort one another with these words.**”