

# How Long, O Lord!

#3049 0416 23A

How long will the Lord wait until He gives the command for Jesus to return to Rapture believers? The dreadful spiritual condition of the world today is solid evidence that we are in the *last days*—the return of Christ is closer than anyone thinks.

There is one thing, however, that we absolutely *know* for certain: Jesus *will* return; Satan *will* be defeated; and the Millennial Kingdom *will* be established on earth. Our *concern*, our *focus*, and what we must *keep* in mind, is our *readiness* and our *preparation* to meet Jesus at any second.

There are twenty-one serious judgments unleashed in the world during the seven-year Tribulation—*no one* should be here. Revelation tells of *Seven seals*; *Seven trumpets*; and *Seven bowls*. God wants *no one* to perish through unbelief, but all to be saved by *repentance* and believing in *faith* on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Ezekiel 33:11 “*Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*” God is loving and forgiving; but He is also righteous and just.

Since the world has rejected God’s mercy and love, it will have to face God’s justice and wrath.

The four horses Revelation 6 give an overview of Revelation. The Antichrist begins to enforce his agenda on earth. Following the black horse of *famine*, is the pale horse of *disease* and other evils. There will be spiritual conversions of some who accept Jesus and give up their life rather than deny their faith in God.

Revelation 6:9 “*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*”

After God’s true church is raptured to meet the Lord in the air, some on earth will realize what has happened; they will repent, and they will accept Jesus as their Lord and Master. They 9 “*were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.*” They were committed to follow God’s Word during their time on earth and were not ashamed of *testifying* of this faith and trust on God.

As we await the Lord’s return, we are to be committed to following His instructions and being a godly example for others—that is *our* testimony. Due to the prevalence of *false* religions—1 John 4:1 “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*” Any religious message must be compared with the Word of God to be sure it contains the true Gospel of Christ.

2 “*Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*” Antichrist

means *against* Jesus—*against* His teaching and *against* His words of instructions.

Being persecuted is a given—2 Timothy 3:12 “*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*” Life can *seem* difficult, but God is in control and He is ready to give us the strength and ability to stay the course of the Christian race—we just need to be willing to believe.

It is evident that those in Heaven *know* what is happening on earth. Jesus told the story about the rich man and Lazarus Luke 16. Both men had passed on into eternity—Lazarus went to a place of *comfort* with Abraham in Heaven, and the rich man to a place of *torment* with the devil in Hell. The story is a true account of two actual people who lived and died—and then went to *one* of *two* places for an eternity—real *people* in real *places*.

The rich man obviously did *not* trust God for things while on earth and was preoccupied with accumulating wealth for himself. He showed no compassion for others, no interest in God, and no faith in Jesus. In time, death came to both—the wealthy and the poor as death is no respecter—everyone eventually passes on to eternity.

The rich man is tormented in *flames* and Lazarus is comforted in *Heaven*—what a stark contrast! From this we know that people in eternity are conscious of what happens on earth. The rich man sees Abraham in Heaven and recognizes him from Hell. Luke 16:27 “*I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*”

It seems that in eternity we are the *same* people with the *same* memories. The man in Hell remembered his five brothers on earth who he *knew* needed to repent. Luke 16:29 “*Abraham saith unto*

him, *They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*”

Today we have the Bible and can *hear* what God is saying to us through Scripture. The man’s brothers could have read Genesis, Exodus, or Leviticus—as well as Isaiah or Jeremiah if they wanted to know more on God’s plan of living.

Luke 16:30 “*And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.* 31 *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*” There are many in the Bible who had lived in sin, but later repented and turned to God.

Jesus tells this parable Luke 15:4 “*What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?* 5 *And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.* 6 *And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.*”

We should always *rejoice* when someone *repents* and *returns* to God. Luke 15:7 “*I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*”

There is the story about the woman and the lost coin—Luke 15:9 “*And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.* 10 *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*”

Jesus told about the Prodigal Son—that the father waited and waited for this son to come home, and when he did, he *rejoiced* and *celebrated* with everyone. There is *rejoicing* in Heaven when any-

one repents and turns to God, so Heaven *celebrated* when this son returned. God is very concerned about the rebellion and unbelief on earth.

Those who give up their life during the Tribulation, rather than deny Jesus are rewarded. Revelation 6:11 “*And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*” They are concerned for those still on earth.

Revelation 6:12 “*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*”

The four horsemen tell of the time when God allows unbelievers to fight one another; To take peace from the earth and to kill; There is overcharging for food—runaway inflation. The pale horse was named Death with Hell following. Revelation 6:8 “*And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*”

It is time here for judgment to begin—due to the prevalence of wickedness, ungodly lifestyles, mass murders, horrible injustices of every kind imaginable, and for all the evil that has been perpetrated on earth for so many centuries.

Judgment should make people *repent* and to realize that there *is* a living God to whom everyone will give an account someday. It is the last call to repent. Revelation 6:15 “*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman,*

*and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

16 “*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*”

We can reason that some will give their life to God in their last moments, but we see *no* repentance here; *No* remorse; *No* change of attitudes—just crying out in desperation to anything or anyone, but not to God—it is what the world has been doing for all these millennia—totally ignoring God.

No matter how wicked a life anyone has lived, God will *forgive* them if they *confess* their sins to Him and truly repent. The thief on the cross accepted Jesus in the last moments of life, so salvation was granted. Luke 23:42 “*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.* 43 *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*”

It is most unfortunate, however, that most people *die* just as they *lived*—rebellious and unrepentant to the very end! Those here in Revelation are out of time, but their hearts remain hardened—instead of crying out to God for His mercy and grace, they call on the mountains to hide them from His justice and wrath!

How unfortunate! How unnecessary!—and how different it could all have been—if they would only *repent* and give their life *back* to God—they could be with *Jesus* in paradise forever!



[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

\*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcgchurch.org](mailto:info@fcgchurch.org)

#3049 0416 23A