

## James 5:7-12

### 1. Parousia – Presence, Arrival, Advent

The most common Greek words used for Christ's return is parousia. The word is used in (*Matthew 24: 3, 27, 39; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 John 2:28; 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4*).

The selection of the usage of this word by Christians was to specifically describe the Second Coming of Jesus. It means His Second Coming is the final invasion of earth by heaven and the coming King to receive the final submission and adoration of His subjects. This is described in *Philippians 2:9-11*, "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

### 2. Epiphaneia – Appearance

The Greek word "epiphaneia" comes from two other Greek words, the Greek word "*pháinō*" which means to shine, and the Greek word is "epiphanēs" which means "visible / magnificent." The Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be a magnificent appearance! It will also be a magnificent return even for those who disregard Christ.

### 3. Apokalupsis – Revelation, Revealed

Apokalupsis was used by early Christians to describe Christ's return. It means to "reveal" or the "revelation" or "laying bare" of the power and glory of God upon mankind.

#### Summary:

From these 3 Greek words we have a series of illustrious pictures of Christ's return. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the arrival of a King; it is God appearing to His people and mounting His eternal throne; it is God directing on the entire earth the full radiance of His heavenly glory!

### 4. No One Knows the Time

Christ's return is so secret that Jesus Himself does not know the date and time of His return; it is known only to God, *Matthew 24:36*, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Human speculation about the time of the Second Coming is not only useless, it is blasphemous.

### 5. The Second Coming will be as Sudden

The Scriptures teach that at His appearing it will be as flash of lightning, *Matthew 24:27*, "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Christ's Second Coming will catch humanity off-guard and unexpected, *2 Peter 3:10* "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." And *1 Thessalonians 5:2*, "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."

Far too many believers live by the perception that Christ's return, while imminent, it is not near, so they can live the way they want to, disregarding holy living.

### 6. Christians Must be Vigilant and Watchful

The Apostle Peter provides for us this urging found in *1 Peter 4:7*, "But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers." This Scripture is urging us to be sober minded about how we live our life in these last days.

We are to be like the servants Jesus spoke about in His parable. The master had gone away and the servant, not knowing when he will return, must have everything ready and in order for his return. (*Matthew 24:45-51*)

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### 7. Christians are Not to Despair or be Forgetful

We can despair when life's pressures bear down on us and we feel abandoned or forget the return of Christ will be a glorious day and all of life's problems will be small in comparison. Notice what the Apostle Peter instructs in **2 Peter 3:3, 4, 8, 9** *"<sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. <sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise."* In God's sovereignty He will, at His choosing, send His Son to the earth the second time. God has not abandoned His design for Christ's return.

### 8. Christians Must Prepare for the Coming King

We must strive for holiness, **1 Thessalonians 3:13** *"so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."* By the grace of God we must become blameless in all of our actions, thoughts, and words, **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

### 9. Christians Must be Well Established in Fellowship

The Apostle Peter uses the Second Coming of Christ to urge believers to demonstrate love and mutual hospitality **1 Peter 4:7-9**, *"<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."*

Paul urges us to let our forbearance be known to all men because the Lord is at hand, **Philippians 4:5**, *"Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand."* The word "forbearance" is "epieikes" which means the spirit that is more ready to offer forgiveness than it is to demand justice.

### 10. Christians Must Live Close to Christ

The Apostle John employs the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as a reason for advising us to abide in Christ, **1 John 2:28**, *"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."*

### 11. The Provision of Comfort (vs. 10:1-11)

Through the agonizing and questioning which tore out Job's heart, he never ... never lost his faith in God. Notice Job's words in **Job 13:15**, *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."* **Job 16:19**, *"Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high."* James ties how we should live and with Christ's Second Coming with Job who also watched for this event, **Job 19:25**, *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth."*

### 12. Provision of Honor (Vs. 12)

James is speaking of making a confirming statement or promise of undertaking by making an oath. In those days it was because taking an oath there were two evil practices.

- **The Distinction:**

For the Jew the concept was, once God's name was used in an oath, it made God a partner in the transaction.

- **The Quantity:**

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ and not swearing oaths are tied together. It is a matter of character that the Christian be a person of truth so that in these last days we may be a testimony of God's truths and a witness to the non-believer.