



The Incredible  
Journey

# NEVER GIVE UP

---

**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN**



**GARY KENT**



**WATCH OUR PROGRAMS  
ON DEMAND:**

**[youtube.com/TheIncredibleJourney](https://youtube.com/TheIncredibleJourney)  
[www.tij.tv](http://www.tij.tv)**

Editors: Irene Relihan, Kylie Smith  
Dorothy Pansare  
Graphic Designer: Delyce Liggett

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible texts are  
from the New King James Version

Published by The Incredible Journey

Copyright © Eternity Media Productions Ltd.  
Printed in Australia | All rights reserved

# *NEVER GIVE UP*

## *JESUS IS COMING AGAIN*

There are few people today who do not recognise that we are living during a time of unprecedented turmoil. Violence, natural disasters, political corruption, social volatility, economic uncertainty – all these characterise the world today. Where is everything headed? What will happen next?

In this booklet, I want to share with you the hope for the future I have found in God's Word, the Bible. The Bible makes many predictions of coming events. To date, every prophecy in its pages has been accurately fulfilled. It speaks of the tumultuous times in which we are living, and tells of what will happen next. More

than this, the Bible reveals God's tender care for us. It assures us that God is guiding the destiny of our planet; that He is aware of what is happening today, and has a plan to end the suffering, confusion, and pain.

The Bible reveals that evil was never God's plan. Evil was introduced when a perfect being, the highest of the angels, wilfully rejected God's love. This angel, Lucifer, deceived many other angels, as well as the parents of our race, Adam and Eve. He persuaded them to unite with him in opposition to God's government. Because of Adam and Eve's choice, all human beings have come under his power.

To ensure ultimate sustainability, God has permitted this angel, whose name has been changed to Satan, to demonstrate whether or not his claims about God, and

God's government, are true. The evil we see in the world today is evidence that Satan's charges against God are false (John 8:44). God's longing is for us to accept His free gift of forgiveness and power to overcome evil in our own lives, so that we can be a part of the eternal kingdom He will establish, a kingdom that is filled with peace and joy.

As I have learned about God from His Word, I have grown to love and trust His wisdom, truthfulness, and power. I have found peace, certainty and hope for the future in God's promises of final deliverance. I pray that my story will help you to find the same.

## **THE HOPE OF MY LIFE**

As a boy growing up in Brisbane, I often heard about the second coming of Jesus Christ. Almost everyone knows

something about Jesus' first coming, or advent, when He was born as a baby in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). Jesus, a member of the three-person Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Matthew 28:19), came to Earth the first time to live as our Example and die for our sins (Hebrews 9:28). The Old Testament contains many prophecies about Jesus' first advent. The New Testament shows how these predictions were fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. Although Jesus was crucified, He rose to life on the third day, and forty days later ascended to Heaven, a literal place located in the constellation of Orion.

While many people have at least a vague idea of key events from Jesus' first advent, perhaps the idea of His second coming is not understood so well. Just before His death, Jesus personally promised His disciples that He was going to prepare

homes for them in heaven, and that He would one day return to take them to be with Him (John 14:1-3). There are many other Bible verses that also speak about Jesus' second coming. In fact, for every prophecy about Jesus' first advent, there are more than five prophecies of His second! At the second coming, all those who have accepted Christ as Lord of their lives will be freed from Satan's power, and the effects of evil and sin. From this, we can understand why, *"the doctrine of the second advent is the very key-note of the Sacred Scriptures."*

As a child, I became caught up in the urgency and excitement of both preachers and church members as they spoke to me about Jesus' second coming. They shared with me Bible verses that explained just what would happen on that day, and the wonderful future God was planning for

us in heaven. From my earliest years, the second coming of Jesus became the hope of my life.

During my adolescent years, I began to read about the great Advent Awakening of the 1830s and 1840s. For hundreds of years, during the medieval period of history, the hope of Christ's second coming was obscured by false religious teachings. But with the rapid spread of the Bible from the end of the eighteenth century, the doctrine of the second advent regained its prominence. Those who discovered this glorious truth could see its value by contrast with the superstitions they had previously held. Men like William Miller, Joseph Bates, and James White were so captivated by it that they gave time, money, all, to spread the wonderful news to others.



As I read, the enthusiasm of those Advent pioneers seemed to leap from the printed page and burn itself into my heart. My interest was further flamed by listening to inspirational preachers like George Burnside and Billy Graham, who spoke with certainty of the signs that pointed to Jesus' coming, and showed how these were being fulfilled by current events.

I became so excited by what I was learning that I longed to share it with others. I completed a theology degree and went on to preach about Jesus' second coming in many countries, including those in the South Pacific, Europe, and Africa.

I have been preaching the news of Jesus' soon return for over fifty years. And it is now more than one hundred and fifty years since the awakening of the nineteenth century. But Christ has still not returned.

Some may question, why? Why hasn't Jesus come back? Some may even wonder whether He will return at all. Have God's promises failed?

In Titus 1:2, the apostle Paul tells us that "*God, who cannot lie*" made the promise to give us eternal life "*before the world began.*" The gift of immortality, which was cruelly stolen from Adam and Eve by Satan, will be restored at Jesus' second advent to those who have accepted His salvation (1 Corinthians 15:42, 50-54). The assurance of the gift of eternal life in Titus 1:2, is therefore also a promise of the second coming. Thus, in this verse, the second coming of Jesus is linked with a bold assertion of the absolute trustworthiness of God's Word. It is against God's nature to lie (see, for instance, Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 6:18). So we can be assured that

the second coming will take place. Why, then, this apparent delay?

Hebrews 11 is a well-known Bible chapter that describes numerous heroes of faith like Enoch, Noah, and Abraham. It tells about amazing feats that God's people achieved through faith: they "*subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again*" (Hebrews 11:33-35). Yet it also says, "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises*" (Hebrews 11:13, my emphasis). While there were many promises those long-ago heroes did receive, there were others they have not

yet received. What were these? and why were these promises not fulfilled?

Verses 13-16 of the same chapter tell us that these men and women called themselves “*pilgrims and strangers*” (Hebrews 11:13). This showed that their true hope, and the promises they were still waiting to receive, were those that would be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ. They were waiting for the “*heavenly country*”, for the fulfilment of the promise that has buoyed up the hopes of God’s children ever since Adam and Eve sadly turned their steps from Eden (Hebrews 11:14-16).

## **THE HOPE OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

For thousands of years, God’s people have looked to the second coming as the ultimate realisation of their faith. From the

very day sin entered our world, Adam and Eve treasured the promise recorded for us in Genesis 3:15: *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”* All other promises of the second coming are based on this verse. It encompasses both the spiritual victory Christ gained at His first coming; and the final victory, yet future, that will be realised when He returns *“without sin, unto salvation”* at His second coming (Hebrews 9:28).

When Enoch was troubled over the apparent sameness in the fate of the righteous and the wicked, He was given a prophetic view of the second coming. He said, *“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly*

*deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him” (Jude 14, 15).*

Other Old Testament prophets also spoke and wrote of Jesus’ second advent, and of signs that would show it was near. Job knew that he would be raised again with a literal body at Christ’s coming (Job 19:25-27). David recognised that Jesus’ advent would be accompanied by visible and audible signs; it would not be secret and silent (Psalm 50:2-6). Isaiah was given a view of the persecution of the righteous by the wicked that would immediately precede that great day. He told how Christ’s return would be a day of triumph and deliverance for God’s people (Isaiah 24:1-12; 25:8, 9). And before the proud king of Babylon, whose dream was

that his earthly empire would last forever, the prophet Daniel boldly affirmed, *“The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever”* (Daniel 2:44).

The New Testament writers further elaborated this theme, the comfort of their hearts after beholding the ascension of their beloved Master to the heavenly courts. Peter testified that the heavens and the earth would be destroyed by fire on that dramatic day (2 Peter 3:2-11). Paul reminded the Thessalonian believers that the second coming would follow the long persecution of God’s people during the Dark Ages (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4). And John, the beloved disciple, spoke of the distress that would be experienced by

those who had rejected Christ (Revelation 1:7; 6).

Picture those holy men and women of long-ago days: searching the sacred records, pleading with God for enlightenment; then recording their God-given revelations for those who would live in the final moments of earth's history; for our day; for us (1 Peter 1:10-12). As we consider these prophecies, we may catch the glowing ardour of the writers' love for Christ, and their longing for His return. By diligent searching of the Bible, we can identify key aspects of the second coming. We can then piece these together to create a cohesive story of what that day will be like, and the events that will happen just before it. Let's take a closer look.



## “KNOW THAT IT IS NEAR”: SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

Regarding the time of His second coming, Jesus said, *“Of that day and hour no one knows”* (Matthew 24:36). Does that mean that we will have no idea of when Jesus is coming? The Bible certainly speaks of a group for whom the second coming will be an overwhelming surprise, as sudden and unexpected as a *“thief in the night”* (1 Thessalonians 5:2). But the apostle Paul, who penned these words, hastened to follow them with, *“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober”* (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

The Bible gives signs by which, Jesus said, His true followers will “*know*”—not guess—His coming is near (Matthew 24:33). The tokens Jesus promised were to be so unmistakable that none who were watching for them would miss them. Let’s look at what He has revealed in the Bible.

First, Jesus said, there will be signs in the heavens (Luke 21:25). Coinciding with the end of the centuries-long persecution of the “*church in the wilderness*”, He spoke of how the sun would be “*darkened*”, the moon would “*not give her light*” and the stars would “*fall from heaven*” (Revelation 12:6; Matthew 24:29). These events occurred in the way and at the time predicted.

May 19, 1780, still stands upon the record books of history as the “*Dark Day*”. From early morning, a dark, heavy cloud

spread across the sky. Lighted candles were needed at midday; birds sang their evening songs and roosted for the night. The darkness of that night also seemed uncommonly black and eerie; and when the full moon could at last be seen after midnight, it had the appearance of blood. The last of these signs, the falling of the stars, occurred on November 13, 1833, when an unprecedented shower of meteorites lit up the blackness of the night for hours, being witnessed by thousands of people all over North America.

Christ also spoke of signs on the earth: “*famines, pestilences, and earthquakes*”, with “*distress of nations*” (Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:25). Doubtless, events of this type have been happening for thousands of years; but their frequency and severity will escalate as time on earth diminishes. The persistent rejection of God’s offers

of mercy will cause His Spirit to be increasingly withdrawn from the earth (Genesis 6:5, 6). Thus, Satan will gain more and more power; environmental, social, and economic systems will become more and more fragile, until they finally crumble (Revelation 13:3; 18:8-19). These are the events we see unfolding before our eyes today; events that assure us that His coming is indeed “near, even at the doors”.

## **“THE DAY OF THE LORD”**

As Christ has given signs by which we may tell of the nearness of His coming, so He has told us the key points of what that great day, the “*day of the Lord*”, will be like (1 Peter 3:10). Understanding these revelations committed to “*us and our children*” is of vital importance to our salvation (Deuteronomy 29:29). From the earliest moments of this earth’s history,

Satan's efforts to deceive humanity have been unwearied (Revelation 12:9, 12). His rage and cunning increase as his time grows short, and his deceptions will reach their climax just before Christ's return (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10; Revelation 16:13, 14).

From the testimonies of Bible characters given above, we already know that Christ is coming visibly and audibly. He is coming literally, in the same bodily form with which He ascended to heaven (Acts 1:11). He is also coming gloriously (Matthew 16:27) While His coming will be as unexpected as a thief in the night, it will be witnessed from "*east to west*"; the "*heavens will be rolled together as a scroll, and will depart with a great noise*" (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 6:14; 2 Peter 3:10). There is no possibility of counterfeiting a coming of this

magnitude. It will be universal: witnessed by the whole world.

In the east will appear “*the sign of the Son of man*”: a small, black cloud, “*about the size of a man’s hand*” (Matthew 24:30; 26:64; 1 Kings 18:44). As the cloud nears the earth, its brightness and glory will be seen. Jesus will be seated upon that cloud, as King of kings and Lord of lords.

As Christ draws nearer the earth, He will sound His trumpet, and give a mighty shout (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). All those who have died believing in Him will then be raised to life with glorified, immortal bodies. The living righteous will be changed “*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*”, and with those who have been raised will be “*caught up to meet the Lord in the air*”. Note that we will be caught up. Christ does not come

to reign here as a temporal king on earth. He will take the righteous to the heavenly mansions, where they will live for one thousand years while the wicked will sleep the sleep of death and Satan and his evil angels will be left, trapped by a “*chain*” of circumstances, on the desolate earth (Revelation 19:11-20:6).

## “WATCH!”

These are the events concerning which Christ said, “*Watch therefore...lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping*” (Mark 13:35, 36). And then, to still further emphasise His point, He added, “*What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!*” (Mark 13:37). What meaning is centred in that one-word command! How vital it is for us to remain in a state of constant spiritual alertness!

Let us consider why Christ speaks with such urgency upon this point. By the time the second coming takes place, every case will already have been decided for eternity (Revelation 22:11). Christ brings His reward with Him (Revelation 22:12). The logical conclusion to draw from this is that there must be a judgment that precedes Christ's return in glory. Daniel 7 contains one of the most prominent and graphic descriptions of this event, a topic in itself (Daniel 7:9-14, 26). But the key point of relevance in the context of the second coming, is that there will be no second chance.

This is why Christ warned us to be ready all the time (Luke 12:35-40). He does not want us to miss the opportunity for salvation that He died to give us. Christ will come in His glory, the glory of His Father, and the glory of the angels



(Matthew 16:27). The glory of God is a consuming fire to sin; those who cling to sin become identified with it, and will be destroyed when sin is destroyed (Hebrews 12:29). Just as fire consumes “*hay*” and “*stubble*”, while it purifies “*gold, silver, (and) precious stones*”, so on the day of Christ’s appearing, His presence will be life to the righteous, but death to sin and those who are willfully enslaved by it (1 Corinthians 3:12, 13. Now is the time to put evil out of our lives. “*Today is the day of salvation*” (2 Corinthians 6:2, my emphasis). Christ has delayed His coming to give you time to hear and accept His offer of salvation (2 Peter 3:9).

Perhaps this is the first time you have heard the story of Jesus, and the news that He is coming again. Or perhaps you have heard these things before, but have never committed your heart to Him.

Today He says to you, *“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). To respond to His invitation, all you need to do is say a short prayer like this: *“Dear Lord, I understand from Your Word the Bible that You are coming soon. I don’t know much about You, but I want to be ready to meet You on that day. Please help me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Perhaps this study has rekindled the hope of the second coming in your heart, and you would like to recommit your life to Christ. To you He also says, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock”* (Revelation 3:20). I invite you to pause for a few moments to ask God to show you what you can do to hasten His return (2 Peter 3:12).

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

I will leave you with one final promise, a promise of that new world that Christ is coming to establish, where I hope and pray that we will one day meet: *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away”* (Revelation 21:1, 4).





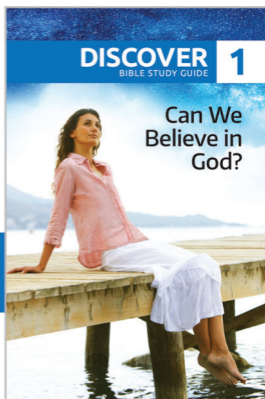


# BIBLE STUDIES

THAT COULD  
CHANGE YOUR LIFE

# FOREVER!

- God: What is He like?
- If God is good— why is there evil?
- God's dietary plan
- How to Pray
- Steps to Heaven
- Personal Peace
- Heaven
- Discouragement



---

**To request these Bible Studies:**

Website: [www.tij.tv](http://www.tij.tv)

[Facebook.com/TheIncredibleJourneyMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/TheIncredibleJourneyMinistry)

---

**Australia**

0481 315 101

[info@tij.tv](mailto:info@tij.tv)

The Incredible Journey  
GPO Box 274  
Sydney NSW 2001

**New Zealand**

020 422 2042

[infonz@tij.tv](mailto:infonz@tij.tv)

The Incredible Journey  
PO Box 76673  
Manukau, Auckland 2241

Today, we live in a world of unprecedented turmoil. Many people wonder what will happen to our planet? Where is everything headed? What will happen next? Is there any hope?

The Bible assures us that yes, there is hope. God has a plan to bring all suffering, confusion and pain to an end.



Pastor Gary Kent is Speaker for The Incredible Journey ministry. He has produced and presented numerous documentaries on subjects including the Bible, Bible prophecy, world events and natural health. His passion is to share the good news of Jesus' imminent return.

The Incredible Journey

Website: [www.tij.tv](http://www.tij.tv)

[Facebook.com/TheIncredibleJourneyMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/TheIncredibleJourneyMinistry)

Australia  
0481 315 101  
[info@tij.tv](mailto:info@tij.tv)

New Zealand  
020 422 2042  
[infonz@tij.tv](mailto:infonz@tij.tv)



**The Incredible  
Journey**