

THIS IS JESUS

UNIT ONE: THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS PART 2: HE IS

Lesson 4: He Is Coming Again

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN: That Jesus' return is an incredible promise that His followers can look forward to.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED: To await Jesus' return with steadfast excitement.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Revelation 22:12-17

KEY TAKEAWAY: Jesus' followers live with the promise that Jesus is coming again and that they will live with Him in eternity.

OVERVIEW:

The Book of Revelation indicates that the present Earth and the present heavens will pass away and be replaced by a new creation. In the early chapters, it is the return of Jesus that marks the beginning of this incredible transformation. It is true that the early believers anticipated the coming of Jesus at any moment, even in their lifetime. That belief in the imminence of His return and the need for readiness has persisted throughout the history of the Church, even to the present day. The appropriate response for believers today is to have the same anticipation regarding His coming that the early Church had. We still do not know when He will return, only that His return is promised and sure.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO:

Each *This Is Jesus* lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These short videos are designed to help you grasp the lesson's main point as you prepare to teach.



BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Bible Background is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. *The Details* give you background info for each book. *The Setting* informs you of what's happening in and around the passage. *The Main Point* gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CONTEXT"?** In every YM360 Bible Study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context," we mean, at the very least, helping students know *who* wrote the book, *when* it was written, and *why* it was written.
- **WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the *Bible Background* to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Revelation

- *Author:* The writer of Revelation identifies himself as John four times. Scholars agree that it is most likely John the Apostle, son of Zebedee, one of Jesus' most beloved disciples.
- *Time frame:* Revelation was written toward the end of John's life, somewhere between 90 and 95 A.D.
- *Purpose:* The purpose of Revelation was to reveal the fullness of Christ's identity and to provide hope for suffering Believers at the time who were encountering grave persecution and suffering. Today it provides us hope of what is to come, as well as a stark warning of the battle that rages until Christ returns.

THE SETTING

In the Book of Revelation, John described the darkness of human history and the suffering role of God's people. As he reached the description of the final victory of Jesus and His return to bring about the consummation of all things, John described in chapters 18 through 20 the judgment of those who rejected the salvation provided by God through Jesus. Then John looked beyond that final judgment and saw the destiny of Christ's followers. The picture of the destiny of those who have rejected salvation and those who have accepted it is important to the account of the return of Jesus. He is coming to call His own to their destiny in the presence of God and to announce the eternal judgment of those who will not be in heaven. The focus of this lesson is on the return of Jesus to bring His people into the presence of God.

THE MAIN POINT

Revelation demonstrates that Jesus is in control of His actions and that His return is imminent. Further, today's passage demonstrates the rewards and judgment that will be pronounced at Jesus' return. The return of Jesus is meant to be a joyful and hope-filled promise, not a source of fear or dread. Revelation 22 reminds us that Jesus is eternal and in control of all things- past, present, and future. Those who trust in Him are welcomed into the city of God, given access to eternal life, and invited to share that hope with others. As believers, we are called to live watchfully and extend Jesus' invitation of salvation to everyone.

LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: an introductory activity called *The Lead In*; the Bible Study section called *The Main Event*; and an application-focused segment called *The Last Word*.

THE LEAD IN

- *Goal:* To introduce the idea of faith in the unseen.
- *Set-Up:* None needed.

FIRST, explain that today's lesson will begin by examining a quote from an early church father named Augustine. **Share the quote with students:**

- “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

THEN, after allowing them to consider the quote for a moment, **ask:**

- **Is it difficult to place your faith in a God you cannot see? Why or why not?**
 - *Answers will vary.*

FINALLY, explain to students that today's lesson will encourage all of us to keep faith in God's promises, even when they seem far away.

Make sure there are no questions, and then transition to the Main Event.

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THE MAIN EVENT

- *Goal:* To help students interact with the truth that Jesus will return.
- *Set-Up:* Make sure students have a Bible or Bible App.

FIRST, **ask students:**

- **The holiday season is usually a time when people gather with friends and family. Why might someone dread this time of year, while someone else may consider it their favorite time?**
 - *Answers will vary.* Steer students towards answers that highlight loneliness or broken relationships.

Say something like:

- **It makes sense that people would be less jolly if they don't view the holidays as a time to celebrate with others. It could be a time of sadness and grief, or even something that makes them a bit irritable. They might dread Christmas Day or hate New Year's Eve because they know it will be painful and lonely. A time meant for celebration seems the opposite.**

Briefly explain that today, you will be discussing a day that is meant to be far more celebratory than any holiday students have ever experienced: The day Jesus returns to Earth. **Say something like:**

- **Sometimes we can look towards the return of Jesus with the same dread and fear. You might not even realize that's what you have been doing! Many live in fear that they will see the return of Jesus before they've reached major milestones in their life... like getting their driver's license, for example... and many others**

fear that they will live their whole lives and NEVER see the return of Jesus. Today, we will take a closer look at what the Bible tells us about the return of Jesus and ask ourselves if we look forward to it with a patient excitement or an anxious dread.

THEN, read or have a student read Revelation 22:12-13. Explain that “soon” could express an imminent arrival or a sudden, unexpected arrival. Point out that the early Church believed that Jesus was going to return almost immediately. Emphasize that Jesus, however, told His disciples that they should remain watchful, underscoring the suddenness of His return rather than the immediacy of it (see Mark 13:32-37). **Ask:**

- **How does Jesus describe Himself in this passage?**
 - *Answer:* As the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last, the Beginning and End.
- **What do these terms reveal about Jesus?**
 - *Answer:* His eternal nature.

Encourage students that an eternal God means that there is nowhere we (as humanity) can go, and nowhere that we have been that God was not in charge of. The past, present, and future are all in God’s control.

NEXT, read or have a student read Revelation 22:14-15. Point out that Jesus promised to reward people according to their deeds. Explain that the city described in the verse refers to heaven. **Ask:**

- **Who will go through the gates and into the city when Jesus returns?**
 - *Answer:* Those who “wash their robes.”

Briefly explain to students that ‘those who wash their robes’ is a reference to those who have had their sin washed clean by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus). To help students understand, read or have a student read Revelation 1:4-6.

THEN, **ask students:**

- **Let’s review. Jesus returns, brings Heaven with Him, invites all of His followers to come in, and... what next? What do those inside the gate have access to?**
 - *Answer:* The tree of eternal life.

Point out that the Tree of Life was originally found in the Garden of Eden, where those who ate from it were meant to live forever (Genesis 2:9, 3:22). That is quite a reward! But point out that we still haven’t taken a closer look at those who were left outside the gate. **Ask:**

- **What does it look like to be left outside the gate?**
 - *Answer:* Outside the gate are the people that you wouldn’t necessarily want to spend eternity with. It’s dangerous, and you are left without access to the Tree of Life.

Say something like:

- **Before you start to worry about being left on the outskirts of the city, let’s read a little further about Jesus’ promise to us.**

Read or have a student read Revelation 22:16-17. **Ask:**

- **What invitation is offered in verse 17?**
 - *Answer:* Anyone who hears the message may come. Anyone who is thirsty may come and take the gift of the water of life.

THEN, explain to students that Jesus invites anyone who declares Him as Savior and Lord into this city. Jesus referred to Himself as the Root and the Offspring of David in order to reveal that He existed before David but was born from David's lineage. (Note that both of these points testify to His identity as the Messiah.)

Direct learners' attention to Revelation 22:17. Explain that in this verse, "the bride" is a reference to the Church. **Ask:**

- **Who is included in the Church?**
 - *Answer:* The Church is the people of God. Remind students that this includes followers from all over the world and all across time.
- **What is the bride, who represents the Church, saying in this passage?**
 - *Answer:* "Come."
- **According to this verse, what should the Church be doing?**
 - *Answer:* This verse seems to emphasize the importance of the Church offering others the invitation to believe in Jesus.

FINALLY, remind students that we don't have to be scared of Jesus' return or worry about what we might miss out on. As a follower, there is also no reason to fear being left out of the city gates. Jesus' offer for salvation does not come with prerequisites or strings attached. In fact, when we come to a saving faith in Jesus, we are encouraged to say "Come" to others as well! That is our role as a part of the Church. What was once an invite to us is now an invite we can share with others.

Allow for questions, and then transition into The Last Word.

THE LAST WORD

- *Goal:* To help students think about what Jesus' return means for them personally.
- *Set-Up:* None needed.

FIRST, ask students:

- **If we believe that Jesus could return soon, or suddenly without warning, how should that influence the way we live every day?**
 - *Answers will vary.*
- **What about the way that we share the Gospel with others?**
 - *Answers will vary.*

THEN, encourage students to think about their typical day. Would their morning routine change if they knew Jesus would return right after they brushed their teeth? What if He showed up in the middle of their math class? Would their approach to the normal, mundane aspects of life change?

FINALLY, leave students with the question:

- **How should the daily activities of our lives change if we live expecting Jesus to return any moment?**
 - *Answers will vary.*

Allow Time For Any Closing Thoughts Or Questions From Your Students. Before Leaving, Close With A Prayer.

- Don't forget to remind students about their devotions this week. If you're posting them on Social Media or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.