

# The Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus



## SABBATH—JUNE 23

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Isaiah 13:6, 9; Matthew 24:30, 31; Daniel 2:34, 35; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “ ‘When the Son of Man comes, everyone will see him. It will be like [the same as] lightning flashing in the sky that can be seen everywhere’ ” (Matthew 24:27, ERV).

**POETT. S. ELIOT** began a poem with this line: “In my beginning is my end.” His words show us a powerful truth. Endings can be found in beginnings. We see this truth in our name: Seventh-day Adventist. The “Seventh-day” part of our name reminds us of the Sabbath commandment of God’s law. Every week the Sabbath helps us remember that God made the heavens and the earth. The “Adventist” part of our name helps us remember Jesus’ soon coming in the future.

Our beginning started when God made this earth in six days. Our end will happen at Jesus’ Second Coming. At the Second Coming, Jesus will end sin on this earth. But the Second Coming also will be a new beginning for God’s saved people. Our beginning and our end may seem far apart. But the making of this earth and the Second Coming are really connected. The God who made us (John 1:1–3) is the same God who will come back for us. In a quick moment, “we will be changed as quickly as an eye blinks. This will happen when the last trumpet blows” (1 Corinthians 15:52, ERV). This week, we will talk about the last thing that will happen in this earth’s history: the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus.



The “Adventist” part of our name helps us remember Jesus’ soon coming in the future.

**THE SECOND COMING (2 Timothy 3:1–9)**

Many people think that the teaching about Jesus' Second Coming is found only in the New Testament. That is not true. In fact, the Old Testament gives many hints about the Second Coming. So, the New Testament writers who talked about the Second Coming were not showing us a new truth about Jesus. Instead, these New Testament writers gave more information to us about a truth already shown in the Bible. But we could not truly value the promise of the Second Coming until now. Why? Because now we know the truth about Jesus' coming back to life from the dead. This truth helps us understand more about the Second Coming.

**Read Isaiah 13:6, 9; Zechariah 14:9; and Daniel 12:1. What do these verses teach us about Jesus' Second Coming?**

The Bible is clear: the Second Coming will be a day of ruin, sadness, and trouble for people who reject God. But the Second Coming also is a day of freedom from sin and from death for all of God's people. Each loyal follower of God will have his or her name written in God's Book of Life (read also Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; Revelation 13:8). The Second Coming is a time when God will judge the earth. God will judge against evil people. But the Second Coming also is a time when God protects His loyal followers and rewards them. This same topic is found in the Old Testament. We read about one Old Testament example in Zephaniah. Zephaniah tells us that some people will experience God's "burning anger" against sin (Zephaniah 2:2, NLV). But God's loyal followers will "obey his laws" (Zephaniah 2:3, ERV) and "have no pride" (NLV). Then they "will be safe when the LORD shows his anger" (ERV).

**Read Matthew 24:30, 31. How do these verses show us the big difference at the Second Coming between people who reject God and people who are saved?**

---



---

**As this earth's history comes to an end, the side we are on will become very clear. What choices must we make today to make sure we are on the right side?**



**The Second Coming is a time when God protects His loyal followers and rewards them.**

## DANIEL AND JESUS' SECOND COMING (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45)

Many Jews during Jesus' time on earth waited for the Messiah. The Messiah was the Savior that God promised to send to save His people from their sins. But many Jews wanted the Messiah to save them from the Romans instead. The Jews hoped the Messiah would make Israel the top nation on the earth. But God had a different plan for His people at His first coming. God has something much better planned for His people for the Second Coming too.

Daniel 2 teaches us that the new earth that God promises us does not grow out of the old earth we live on now. The new earth will be a completely different earth.

Daniel 2 shows us a statue that is a word picture for the start and end of four worldwide kingdoms: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Then Rome breaks up into the countries that are now today's Europe. But the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream breaks in an amazing way. The amazing way the statue ends shows just how different the new world will be after Jesus comes back.

**Read Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45. What do these verses teach us about how this earth will end? How will the new earth be different from the old one?**



**Jesus says He is the stone that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. The stone is a word picture for what Jesus will do at the Second Coming. He will crush to powder everything that is left on this earth.**

Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, and 45 clearly talk about what happens when Jesus comes back. In Luke 20:17, 18, Jesus says He is the stone that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. The stone is a word picture for what Jesus will do at the Second Coming. He will crush to powder everything that is left on this earth. Daniel used the Aramaic language to write Daniel 2. The Aramaic language in Daniel 2:35 says that the gold, the silver, the clay, the iron, and the brass were crushed first and broken into pieces. Then they “became like [the same as] dust on the grain-floor in the summer. The wind carried the dust away so nothing was to be found” (Daniel 2:35, NLV). That means that nothing is left of this old earth after Jesus comes back.

The stone that destroys every last bit of this old earth “became a very large mountain and filled up the whole earth” (Daniel 2:35, ERV). God will set up a new kingdom that “will never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44, NLV). So, one of two endings waits for every person who has ever lived on this planet. Which ending will you choose?

## OUR FUTURE HOPE (Titus 2:13)

**Read Titus 2:13. What hope for the future do we have? Why is this hope so wonderful?**

---



---

The Bible teaches that God made us. This truth about our past gives us wonderful hope about our future too. We have so much to be hopeful about in the future. This hope is connected to the promise of Jesus' Second Coming.

**Read 2 Timothy 4:6–8. What is Paul talking about in these verses? What is he putting his hope on?**

---



---

Paul knows he will die soon. But he trusts that God will give him the gift of everlasting life when Jesus comes back. Paul's name for Jesus' Second Coming is "that great [wonderful] day when He comes again" (2 Timothy 4:8, NLV). A crown waits for Paul. This crown "will show I [Paul] am right with God" (2 Timothy 4:8, ERV). Paul did not earn this crown because of anything special he did. He did not earn this crown because of helping people or good behavior. Instead, God gives Paul this crown because of Jesus' holy life and obedience. Paul puts his trust in the things that Jesus has done for him. That is why Paul has hope. Paul knows his hope in the Second Coming is real. True, Paul waited in jail to die. But Paul knows that his future holds many good things and happiness. That is because Paul did not worry about the troubles he experienced at that time. He was looking forward to the hope he would have at the Second Coming.

**Maybe you are experiencing some difficult times, just the same as Paul did. How can you have the same hope Paul had? How can we learn to look beyond the bad things that are happening now? How can we learn to look to the hope we have in the Second Coming and all that this hope offers us?**



**Paul waits in jail to die. But he knows that his future holds many good things and happiness.**

**IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN (2 Thessalonians 1:7–10)**

The Second Coming is very important to our beliefs as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. But not all Christians see the Second Coming as something that will really happen. They do not believe it means that Jesus Himself will come back in person. Some Christians believe that Jesus' Second Coming happens when His Spirit is poured out on His church on earth. They believe that Jesus' Second Coming happens when the lives of God's people show they obey His law.

We can be thankful that this teaching is false. But what if it were true? Then we must ask ourselves another question: What real hope for the future would we really have if Jesus' Second Coming were only a picture story?

**Read the verses below about the Second Coming. What do these verses show us about Jesus' Second Coming?**

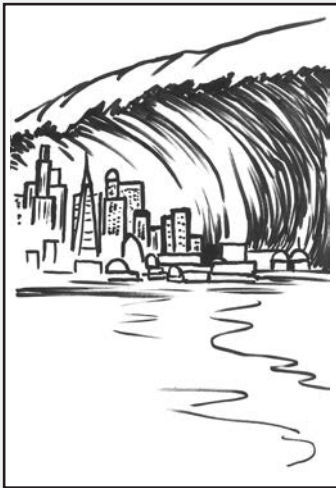
**Matthew 24:30** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 26:64** \_\_\_\_\_

**Revelation 1:7** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thessalonians 1:7–10** \_\_\_\_\_



**“The cities by beaches are swallowed up by the angry waters.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great [big] Controversy [war between God and Satan]*, page 637; adapted.**

“The sky seems to open and close. The glory from God's throne seems to flash in the sky. The mountains shake the same way that grass shakes in the wind. Sharp rocks spill everywhere. There is a roar that sounds the same as a storm. The sea becomes rough and dangerous. An awful cry is heard. It sounds the same as a hurricane or the voice of demons who are out to destroy lives. The whole earth shakes and moves up and down the same way as the waves of the sea. The ground cracks open. The center of the earth itself seems to be falling apart. Mountains sink. Islands filled with people fall under water. The cities by beaches are swallowed up by the angry waters. These cities have become very evil. They are as evil as Sodom. God is judging Babylon the Powerful. God gives to her the cup filled with the wine of His burning anger.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great [big] Controversy [war between God and Satan]*, page 637; adapted. The Second Coming is so big that it ends life as we know it on earth. When that happens, everyone on earth will know it is happening.

## THE LIVING AND THE DEAD (1 Corinthians 15:42–44, 53–55)

Jesus said: “I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies’ ” (John 11:25, NLV). Jesus did not expect people to accept His word without proof. Jesus showed everyone He could do exactly what He said. He woke Lazarus up from the dead. Lazarus had been dead long enough for his dead body to smell very bad (John 11:39).

People who believe in Jesus die. But Jesus says they will live again. Jesus will bring the dead back to life at His Second Coming. Our belief in Jesus’ power to wake up the dead makes our hope in the Second Coming our most important hope.

### What hope do we find in Romans 6:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; and 1 Corinthians 15:42–44, 53–55?

The Second Coming promises us that all of Jesus’ loyal followers will experience the same thing Jesus experienced when He woke up from the dead. Jesus’ coming back to life from the dead gives us wonderful hope. What hope is that? If we die before Jesus’ Second Coming, then Jesus will wake us up from the dead when He comes back the second time.

### What happens to God’s loyal followers who are alive at Jesus’ Second Coming?

Some of Jesus’ loyal followers will be alive when Jesus comes back at the Second Coming. These loyal followers will not die. But their bodies will be changed. They will get new bodies from Jesus. These bodies will be the same bodies that Jesus gives to His loyal followers who died. They all get new bodies when Jesus comes back. Their bodies will no longer be evil. Their bodies will never die. “Jesus’ loyal and obedient followers who are alive will be changed. This change will take place in a quick moment. This change will happen in a blink of an eye. God announces that His loyal and obedient followers are now clean, with no sin. Now God gives His people the gift of everlasting life. God’s people who were alive when Jesus came back now rise in the air. They are joined by God’s people whom Jesus woke up from the dead. Together, they meet Jesus in the air.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great [big] Controversy [war between God and Satan]*, page 645; adapted.



**Jesus woke up Lazarus from the dead and brought him back to life from the dead to show us that we can trust Him to bring the dead back to life at the Second Coming.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Jesus' Second Coming is not the end to the story about human sin and suffering on this earth. But the Second Coming is the most exciting and interesting part of human history. The Second Coming is the most important hope a Christian can have. Without this hope, what good is it to believe in anything? Without our hope in the Second Coming, human history goes on and on and ends only in death. But we have this wonderful hope in the Second Coming instead. The Bible tells us about this hope again and again. We have hope in the Second Coming because Jesus paid for our sins with His life (Mark 10:45). Jesus is coming back to get what He paid for: us. The stars in the heavens do not tell us about the Second Coming. The birds singing in the trees do not announce the Second Coming either. Stars and birds might show us something good. But they do not teach us that one day Jesus will come back. At that time, God's loyal followers who have died will wake up. They wake up when the last horn sounds. The dead will wake up "never to die again. Then the rest of us who are alive will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52, NLV). Then we will look up and "see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of the Powerful One. And you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds in the sky" (Mark 14:62, ICB). We know these things will happen because the Bible tells us they will happen. We trust in the promises of the Bible.



**Jesus is coming back again to this earth to get what He paid for: us.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① What would it mean if the Second Coming was not real and it only meant that Christians obeyed God's law fully instead? Christians obeying God's law fully would be wonderful to see, right? But in the end, why does that idea give us no hope?
- ② Right now, many people accept the idea that all life came from nothing. Why is this a silly idea? Why do you think people say that this idea is really true? Why do people believe in it? Why does believing that God made all things make a lot more sense?
- ③ What thing in this life or on this earth would you be willing to give up your everlasting life for? Nothing, right? How can we make sure that nothing in our lives stops us from accepting God's gift to save us?

# BOOT CAMP

## FOR THE LAST DAYS

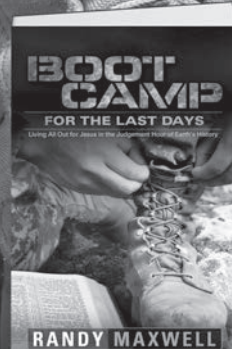
Living All Out for Jesus in the Judgement Hour of Earth's History

# RANDY MAXWELL

**W**hen you hear the words *boot camp* you probably think of discipline, rigorous training, and hard work—and you'd be right. *Boot Camp* means getting serious about anything you take seriously. There's no boot camp for couch surfing. And there's no boot camp for pew warming either!

We are being made for holiness, and that means we have a transformation to undergo, from "civilian" churchgoers into fully devoted disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ—disciples who are ready for His coming.

*Boot Camp for the Last Days* is a game changer that will inspire you to live all out for Jesus. Are you ready to take the challenge?



US\$13.99  
ISBN 978-0-8163-6194-6

For eBooks, go to:  
[Adventist-eBooks.com](http://Adventist-eBooks.com)

 Pacific Press®

©2017 Pacific Press®  
Publishing Association  
Please contact your ABC  
for pricing in Canada.  
1757301891

### Three ways to order:

<b>1</b> Local	Adventist Book Center®
<b>2</b> Call	1-800-765-6955
<b>3</b> Shop	<a href="http://AdventistBookCenter.com">AdventistBookCenter.com</a>



[AdventistBookCenter.com](http://AdventistBookCenter.com)



[AdventistBookCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AdventistBookCenter)



[@AdventistBooks](https://twitter.com/AdventistBooks)

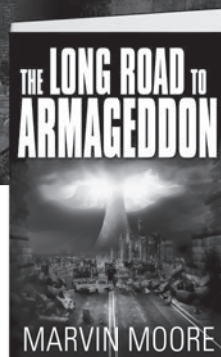
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/AdventistBooks)

[AdventistBooks](https://www.youtube.com/AdventistBooks)



# THE LONG ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON

**MARVIN MOORE** examines the entrance of sin, expands on God's provision to save His children, and looks at God's end-time church.



US\$14.99  
ISBN 978-0-8163-6262-2

For eBooks, go to:  
[Adventist-eBooks.com](http://Adventist-eBooks.com)

 **Pacific Press®**  
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

©2017 Pacific Press®  
Publishing Association  
Please contact your ABC  
for pricing in Canada.  
1755902181

## Three ways to order:

<b>1</b> Local	<a href="#">Adventist Book Center®</a>
<b>2</b> Call	1-800-765-6955
<b>3</b> Shop	<a href="http://AdventistBookCenter.com">AdventistBookCenter.com</a>



[AdventistBookCenter.com](http://AdventistBookCenter.com)



[AdventistBookCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AdventistBookCenter)



[@AdventistBooks](https://twitter.com/AdventistBooks)

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/AdventistBooks)

[AdventistBooks](https://www.youtube.com/AdventistBooks)