

INTO ETERNITY



Lesson 13 for June 27, 2026



“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”

(1 John 3:2, NKJV)

Although relating to God and getting to know Him throughout our lives is vital, that is not the goal of the Christian.

We aspire to something more. We want to meet face to face the One we have met and with whom we have interacted here.

How long until that moment? What will happen afterward? How does this knowledge impact my daily life?



Waiting time

The Second Coming



Arriving home

What will we do in eternity?



Our responsibility



WAITING TIME

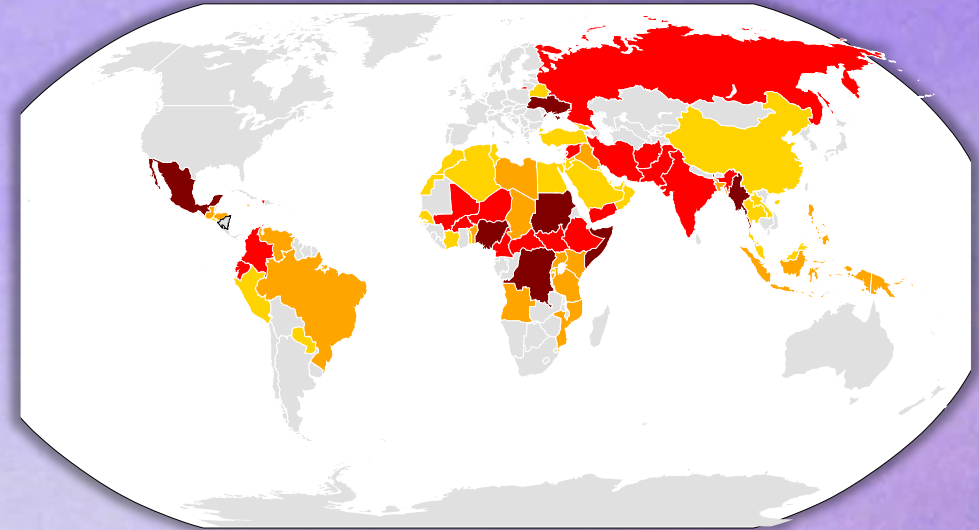
“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.” (2 Timothy 3:1)

Jesus gave us signs that would occur before his Second Coming. They are a series of situations that will worsen as that moment approaches (Mt. 24:6-11):



- Wars and rumors of wars
- Nation against nation
- Plagues, famines, and earthquakes
- Christians will be hated
- General apostasy
- False prophets who deceive

To maintain our confidence in these “terrible times” (2 Tim. 3:1) we must cultivate a right relationship with God, and have the assurance that He has forgiven our sins and we are saved by Him.



Map of ongoing armed conflicts:

- Major wars (10,000 deaths or more)
- Minor wars (1,000-9,999 deaths)
- Conflicts (100-999 deaths)
- Skirmishes and clashes (1-99 deaths)

A spiritual revival is needed. We need to pray, like Asaph: “Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:3).

THE SECOND COMING

“And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” (Matthew 24:31)

Matthew 24:29-31 summarizes the main events of this great event, the scene of which is complemented by other passages:



In that moment, when the trumpets sound and every human eye sees Jesus, we'll know that it's been worth the wait. Every persevering prayer, every moment we've prioritized time with Him, every time we've spoken boldly for Him, every trial—will be culminated in seeing His face.



**Great disasters shake the Earth
(Rev. 6:12-14)**



**The sign of the Son of Man appears
(a small cloud)**



**Jesus bursts forth from the clouds
(Rev. 1:7)**



**His voice raises the dead and
transforms the living
(John 5:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1
Corinthians 15:51-52)**



**The angels gather the redeemed and bring
them to Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:17)**

ARRIVING HOME

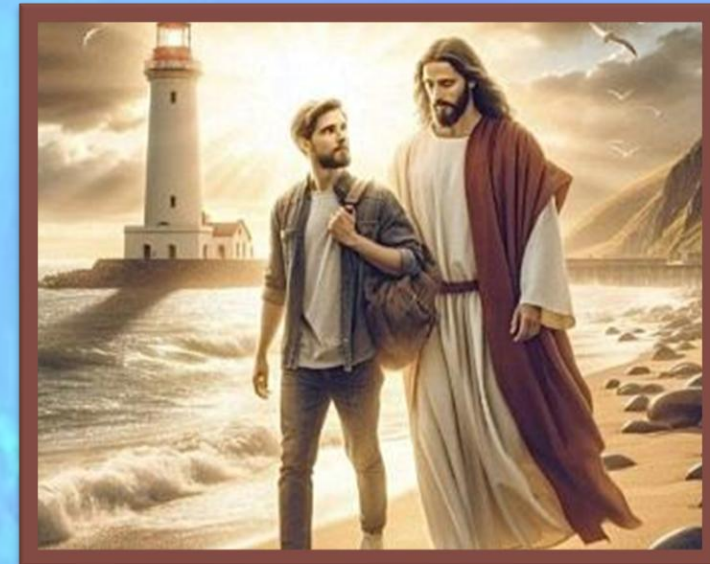
"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?." (John 14:2)

In Heaven there is a place that Jesus has prepared for us, a city to live in: the New Jerusalem (Jn. 14:2; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:10).

This city, along with its inhabitants – us – is called "the bride of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:2, 9; Rev. 19:7-8).

The first event we will attend in our new home will be unforgettable: the wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

But to become the bride of Christ, we must first be His bride on this earth. We must have a close relationship with Jesus now. To know Him. To talk to Him every day. To trust Him. To long for the day when we will live forever with Him.



WHAT WILL WE DO IN ETERNITY?

"For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17)



The greatest blessing we will have in Heaven will be seeing Jesus and being able to thank Him for what He has done for us.

But we will not always live in Heaven. A time will come when we will descend to Earth, our final home (Rev. 21:1-3; Ps. 37:9). Although evil will no longer exist there, Jesus will still be our Shepherd, tenderly caring for us (Isa. 25:8; Rev. 7:17).



Of course, it won't be an idle life. Just as God gave man a job when he created him, each of us will have a purpose there. We will be able to expand our knowledge and continually discover new wonders.

Contrary to what happens now, then our thoughts will be 100% directed towards God, whose love will flood every fiber of our being (Rev. 14:1).



OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."

(Revelation 22:17)

In the New Jerusalem—our eternal home—a river of the water of life flows from the throne of God, nourishing the tree of life (Rev. 22:1-2). Abundant life, eternal life.

Reaching Him is free. Jesus paid the price. We responded one day to the call of the Holy Spirit and know how to get there, but others still don't know the way.



We have a responsibility toward those who long for eternal life but do not know how to obtain it. We must proclaim aloud: "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (Rev. 22:17).

Until the time comes when we can drink that water, let us not grow weary of waiting. Let us keep the longing alive. Come, Lord Jesus.

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.”

EGW (The Great Controversy, p. 678)