A Waiting time

- 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).
- 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.
- 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).

B The Second Coming

- Matthew 24:29-31 summarizes the main events of this great event, the scene of which is complemented by other passages:
  - 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)
- At that moment, when the trumpet sounds, when every eye sees Jesus and we the redeemed behold his face, we will know that the waiting, along with every persevering prayer, every moment of communion with him, every bold testimony given about him, and every trial were worth it and not in vain.

C Arriving home

- 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.

D What will we do in eternity?

- 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).

E Our responsibility

- 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.