

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: The Return - Part 1

Main Idea

Have you ever thought about what it truly means to be ready for something? We prepare for big moments—weddings, careers, even retirement—but what about the return of Jesus? Throughout Scripture, we see a clear picture of Christ's return, not as a distant theory but as a promise that should shape the way we live today. From the prophecies of Daniel to Jesus' own words in the Gospels, the Bible calls us to be watchful, faithful, and expectant. His return isn't just an event in the future—it's a reality that should transform our present.

As we dive into this discussion, we'll explore what it means to live in readiness, why Jesus' role as righteous Judge matters, and how our faithfulness today impacts eternity. Let's lean in, reflect, and allow this truth to shape the way we follow Him.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done."

REVELATION 22:12

Make It Practical

Jesus is Coming Again

- Scripture affirms that Jesus will return in power and glory (Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:7).
- His return is a promise that should shape how we live today (John 14:3, Acts 1:11).

Jesus is the Judge of All

- Righteous Judge of the Earth – He rules with justice and righteousness (Revelation 5:9-10, Revelation 19:11-16).
- Righteous Judge of Unbelievers – Those who reject Him will face eternal separation from God (Revelation 20:11-15, Acts 10:42).
- Righteous Judge of Believers' Works – Our faithfulness will be tested and rewarded (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Romans 14:10).

Living in Readiness for His Return

- We prepare by living faithfully, obeying His Word, and keeping an eternal perspective (2 Peter 3:9, Hebrews 12:2).
- Our actions today impact eternity—faithfulness, generosity, and endurance matter (Matthew 6:6, 17-18; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
- Jesus' return is not meant to bring fear but to encourage us to live with purpose and expectation (Revelation 22:12).

Talk About It

Living in Readiness – “If we really want to be ready for His return, we need to be living in the reality of Who He is.” What does it look like to live in readiness for Christ’s return in your daily life?

Jesus as the Righteous Judge – The sermon highlighted that Jesus will judge righteously unbelievers and believers alike. How does understanding Jesus as righteous Judge shape your perspective on personal accountability and the way you share the gospel with others?

Eternal Rewards – Scripture teaches that our works will be tested and rewarded (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). How does this truth impact the way you serve, give, and remain faithful in difficult seasons?

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we need to be living in the reality of Who He is.**

Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the promise of Your return and the hope it gives us. Help us to live each day with readiness, faithfulness, and a heart fully devoted to You. Strengthen us to stand firm in truth, to serve You with joy, and to share Your love with others. May our lives reflect Your glory as we await the day when we see You face to face. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Next Steps

- Live with Readiness – Evaluate your daily life and ask: Am I living in a way that reflects my anticipation of Christ’s return? Make intentional choices that align with His calling.
- Deepen Your Devotion – Spend time in personal prayer and Scripture, focusing on passages about Jesus’ return (e.g., Matthew 24-25, Revelation 19-22). Let His Word shape your priorities.
- Share the Gospel Boldly – Recognizing Jesus as Judge should stir urgency in sharing His love and truth with those who don’t yet know Him. Identify one person you can encourage or witness to this week.
- Serve with Eternal Perspective – Whether it’s at church, the workplace, or your community, serve as if you are working for the Lord, knowing He rewards faithfulness (Colossians 3:23-24).
- Examine Your Heart – Ask God to reveal any areas where you need to grow in faithfulness, obedience, or surrender. Repent, refocus, and realign your life with His purpose.