

# RETURNING KING\*

Jesus Christ has promised to return in His Second Coming to rule on earth as humanity's rightful King.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Isaiah 9:6-7 <b>John 14:1-6</b> <b>Acts 1:1-11</b> Acts 1:9-11 <b>Romans 8:18-25</b> <b>1 Corinthians 15</b> <b>1 Thessalonians 4:16-17</b> <b>Titus 2:11-13</b> Hebrews 9:28 <b>Revelation 19:11-16</b> Revelation 22:12-13	All Glory Be to Christ Come, Christians, Join to Sing Hallelujah! What a Savior <b>I Am Bound for the Kingdom (Larson) SATB</b> I Know Whom I Have Believed <b>I Shall Know Him (Lopez) SATB</b> I Stand Amazed in the Presence It Is Well with My Soul Jesus Shall Reign <b>One Day We'll Stand (Page) SATB</b> Rejoice, the Lord Is King The Solid Rock Victory in Jesus Blessed Be the Name



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308

\* Theme fits into worship series, **Jesus the King (Matthew)**, surrounding Easter.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## ATTITUDE

**Revelation 19:11-16; 22:20** | *How should we think about the return of Christ? Revelation 19 describes what it will look like. He is the majestic King, leading the army. We will be the army coming with Christ. The cavalry is coming. Jesus is coming. He will fix this broken world. How should we feel about the return of Christ? We wait with patience, trust, and thankfulness. We should be encouraged, hopeful, and emboldened as we invest in the future kingdom. Hold the fort. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.*

Revelation 1:5 introduces Jesus by saying, “Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and ruler of kings on earth.”

Jesus emptied himself to become human. Jesus humbled himself to the death of a cross. That’s beautiful. That’s good news. But why did he condescend to us? Philippians says that because of his humble obedience “Therefore God has highly exalted him . . . that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

He is right now building His kingdom by redeeming his sinful enemies. But Jesus will return. And he will not come back as a suffering servant. That part is finished. He comes back as the rightful King. Tom is going to read a passage from Revelation 19 in a few minutes but look at this picture of what Jesus’ return may look like (cue for sound booth).

He will destroy nations. He will judge all injustice. He will invite birds to feast on the flesh of kings. He will throw the enemy into the lake of fire. He who spoke the universe into existence at the beginning will use words to slay the armies of the enemy at the end. That’s awesome! That’s terrifying.

He’s on a white horse: that means he has been victorious. He has conquered sin and death. He is called “Faithful and True.” What is he wearing? A robe dipped in blood!

The Jesus we worship is kind, merciful, loving, and compassionate, but He will return as a righteous tyrant. This is a man I will follow. He is my King. Is He yours? Will you follow Him? Will you submit to His love?

I will leave you with the last words of the Bible: “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (Justin Howe)

**Promotional Post:** Our attitude toward Jesus’ return has everything to do with our relationship with Him. For believers, the fact that Jesus will return to judge and reign should give us hope, patience, encouragement, and excitement!

Join us Sunday to worship the Returning King with great anticipation! These passages can help you prepare to worship with us this Sunday:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## AWAITING THE BABY

*As we wait for Jesus to return, it should be a time of anticipation and expectation for us, but not a time of fear. Compare this expectation to that of a mother expecting a baby. She lovingly prepares for the baby she longs to welcome into her home. She thinks about the baby all the time and wants to be ready for his arrival. There is a certainty that the baby will come, but it is not a certainty that she dreads! Rather she looks forward to it with great anticipation.*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## SERMONS OF ACTS

*The emphasis of many of the sermons in the book of Acts is Jesus' return. Although we don't know when, we do know that He is coming back, and we joyfully anticipate His coming. A good illustration of this concept would be expectant parents waiting for the baby to come or the ancient bride awaiting her bridegroom's return. Neither would know the exact timing, but the event itself was certain and much-anticipated.*

Acts (various)

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

Jesus came to the Jews as their promised King. Some accepted Him. But many rejected. In His victorious resurrection, He proved Himself to be the King of Kings He had claimed to be. And then He left—He ascended to His Father's side. But not before commissioning His apostles to spread His reign through the message of the gospel until His return.

We don't often think of Jesus' return as part of the gospel. But in about half of the gospel sermons recorded in Acts, we hear reference to the future return of Jesus. Peter says in Acts 3 that Jesus will be in God's presence "until the times of [the] restitution of all things." Peter says in Acts 10 that God has ordained Jesus to be the future "Judge of [the living] and [the] dead." Paul tells the pagans on Mars Hill that God "has appointed a day in the which [Jesus] will judge the world in righteousness." And in Acts 24, Paul reiterates: "there shall be a [future] resurrection of the dead, both of the just and [the] unjust."

It seems our world, and even some Christians, have “moved on” from the promise of Jesus’ return. But we can be sure our Bridegroom has not forgotten His Bride. He will return for us, as He promised. Yet He doesn’t return *only* as a Rescuer, to “get us out of here.” He will *ultimately* return to stay—to set things right usher in His eternal reign, with us, over His restored creation. He will return as the King to finish the story of redemption.

So what does it mean to *worship* the Returning King? In our lives, we submit to His will and His way, living as citizens of a greater kingdom. We deny ourselves and follow Him, every day. How do we worship Him together today? Though we don’t see Him today, we proclaim Him to be our King, and ourselves to be His people. And we look by faith with “blessed hope” toward His “glorious appearing.”

[One day, we’ll forget our songs of grief in this life and worship our King forever!<sup>§</sup>]

(Caleb French)

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<sup>§</sup> This final line ties into the choral anthem, “One Day, We’ll Stand” (Page).

