

# Contents

Introduction	5
1. The King Returns for Us	7
2. The King Judges Us	15
3. The King Marries His Bride	23
4. The King Tolerates a Rival	31
5. The King Judges Those Left Behind	39
6. The King Destroys Nations	47
7. The King Returns to Conquer	55
8. The King Reigns in His Kingdom	63
9. The King Judges Unbelievers	71
10. The King Invites Us to Reign with Him	79

Chapter 1  
DVD Session 1

## The King Returns for Us

### *A Summary from the Book*

FOR MANY OF US, the return of Jesus often seems theoretical, far off, and quite irrelevant to our daily lives. We think that prophecy is something that can only be understood by mature Christians, and that new believers need other kinds of doctrine.

But Paul the apostle strongly disagreed with that notion. Instead, he taught that *prophecy is intended for every believer because the return of Jesus is to be our focus and hope*. When Paul spoke to new believers, he taught them about the return of Jesus. For this church planter, prophecy was the heartbeat of his life and ministry.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, Paul taught them (and us) that there would be an entire generation of Christians alive at the return of Jesus. He described this event in 1 Corinthians 15:51–52: “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” When he wrote that we shall not all sleep, he was referring to death: not all Christians will die, they will be instantly translated

## THE KING IS COMING STUDY GUIDE

into heaven when the rapture happens.

The Latin word for “caught up” is *rapturo*, from which we get the word “rapture.” The day is coming when living Christians, like iron filings attracted to a magnet, will be “caught up” to be with the Lord and each other forever. The return of Jesus will draw only those who know Him into the clouds to meet Him in the air.

Paul also wrote that when Jesus comes in the rapture, He will bring with Him “the dead in Christ”—the souls of all those who have died and are presently in heaven will return with Him. The apostle taught this because there were believers who were worried about whether their dead loved ones would be disadvantaged, or miss out, at the return of Christ.

But in fact, the dead have a slight advantage over the living. They will be the first to be raised, then the living will be transformed, and *together* we will all go to meet King Jesus. “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together [raptured] with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The Lord is going to return from heaven, the believers will be snatched away, and the dead in Christ will rise. The implications for us are momentous. As we progress in our study, we will learn what happens to those who are left behind, and that the difference between the “two eternities” is beyond human imagination.

## ENGAGING THE TOPIC

Complete the statements on the next page after reading the book and the above summary. Then, during your class or small-group meeting, watch the DVD, session 1.

Chapter 1: The King Returns for Us

1. Prophecy is intended for every believer because the return of Jesus is to be our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Latin word for “caught up” is *rapturo*, from which we get the English word \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When Christ returns for His church, the souls of the dead in Christ will be joined to their newly \_\_\_\_\_ bodies.
4. For Christians, deaths on Earth are never \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Paul taught that there would be an entire \_\_\_\_\_ of Christians who would be \_\_\_\_\_ at the return of Jesus.
6. The anticipation of Christ’s return should motivate the believer to \_\_\_\_\_ living.
7. The return of Jesus also should motivate us to be busy \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.











## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Jesus will return as He promised: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:3). This is a future promise from our Savior and King that we may lay hold of today. To leave our earthly realm and enter the eternal realm will be an experience beyond our greatest expectations. What a time of reunion that will be!

How much thought do you give to Jesus’ return? When Jesus comes for His church, we will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). For the first time, those of us living on Earth will see Jesus in all His glory. Paul said that a special reward was awaiting him and all those who long for the Lord’s appearing (2 Timothy 4:8). As a believer, how prepared are you to meet your Savior?

“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:3). John presents the return of Christ to change us, to help us reorder our priorities. It is a motivation to holiness, a motivation for us to be busy serving the Lord, doing those things that please Him. Our anticipation of this event should motivate us to holy living. “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:17).

### Engaging the Topic answers

1. Focus, hope 2. Rapture 3. Resurrected 4. Permanent 5. Generation, alive 6. Holy 7. Serving