



Preparing For
**CHRIST'S
RETURN**
**STANDING WATCH FOR
HIS SECOND COMING**

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INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 9:28, says, So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

This powerful passage speaks directly to the promise of Christ's return for those who passionately anticipate His coming.

Say this prayer with me, 'I look unto you, Jesus, appear unto me Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.'

The anticipation of the return of Christ is not just a mere hope but a call to action. Just as a family eagerly prepares for the return of a beloved member, we must be prepared and vigilant for the second coming of Christ. The eagerness, cleaning, and preparation that take place in a home to welcome a cherished family member mirror the readiness required for Christ's return.

Looking at the parable of the ten virgins - while all were prepared with lamps, only the five wise virgins carried extra oil. We must also be wise and vigilant, ensuring our readiness for the glorious return of our Lord.

Throughout the scriptures, we find examples of people eagerly longing for and encountering the presence of God. Habakkuk stood watch, yearning for God, and God appeared to him, telling him to record the vision. This longing and readiness for divine encounters are not isolated incidents but foundational to our faith.

The signs indicating the return of Christ are becoming increasingly evident. The Rapture is ever closer, and we must be prepared. Just as in biblical times, Jesus is revealing Himself to many in our present age and preparing His people for this monumental event.

The anticipation of Christ's return should fuel our desire to be vigilant, to gaze up to God with great expectation and yearning for His second coming.

The souls of humanity represent the harvest, and the Holy Spirit is our guide in this journey. We must stand watch in earnest expectations of our Saviour.

The vision of the Rapture remains consistent, and the ultimate destination is the new heaven and earth Christ is preparing. Our journey is led by the Holy Spirit, and we invite you to join us in this remarkable pilgrimage.

I am Tosin O. Israel, and it is my joy to welcome you aboard this journey of spiritual readiness and anticipation.

Call to Salvation:

For those who have yet to embark on their journey with the Lord, please note that salvation is the way to God. At the moment of salvation, your name is written in the Book of Life, erasing it from the books of judgment. The blood of Jesus Christ has made this possible, and it is our responsibility to accept this divine gift.

Let us pray:

- Lord, I receive Your appearance today in Jesus' name.
- I stand watchful, eagerly anticipating Your return in Jesus' name.
- Lord, make me ready for the Rapture, in Jesus' name.

Join us on this journey, as we eagerly anticipate the glorious return of our Lord and Savior. If you haven't commenced your journey with Christ, take that step today. Salvation and readiness for His return are key.

Regards,
Tosin O. Israel



CHAPTER 1:

EAGERLY AWAITING HIS RETURN

The anticipation of Christ's return fills our hearts with a profound longing and a fervent hope. The book of Hebrews 9:28 assures us that those who ardently await the Lord's return will witness His glorious appearance for the second time, free from sin and unto salvation. This promises a reunion with our beloved Saviour, a moment of pure redemption, and the ultimate fulfilment of our faith.

As we journey through life, it's crucial to recognise the significance of eagerly anticipating His return. It's not a passive hope but an active, expectant stance that influences our daily lives and interactions. Just as a child awaits the return of a loving parent, or a friend awaits a reunion, our longing for Christ's return should profoundly shape our thoughts, actions, and spiritual preparedness.

Our hearts yearn for this blessed reunion, and our eagerness to see our Lord should radiate through our lives, transforming our every moment and decision. This anticipation is not merely wishful thinking but a powerful motivator, urging us to live in alignment with the teachings and love of Christ.

This eager anticipation is a beacon of hope in a world filled with uncertainties. It's a light that guides us through the trials and tribulations of life. The words of Jesus in Matthew 24:44 remind us to be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour when we do not expect.

Remember, this eager expectation is not a fear-driven urgency but a hope-filled longing that infuses our lives with purpose, urging us to be faithful and vigilant in our daily walk with Christ.

May your heart be filled with the eager anticipation of His return, guiding every step you take on this incredible journey of faith.

CHAPTER 2:

THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE

In the anticipation of Christ's return, a crucial element that surfaces is the necessity for vigilance. Picture a family eagerly preparing for the homecoming of a beloved member. The house is adorned, cleaned, and filled with delightful aromas as they await the long-awaited return. Similarly, we are called to prepare ourselves, maintaining a constant state of readiness for the return of our Lord.

The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 vividly portrays the importance of vigilance. All ten virgins possessed lamps, signifying their readiness for the bridegroom's arrival. However, only the five wise virgins took extra oil, ensuring their lamps remained lit while awaiting his appearance. The message is clear: mere preparation is insufficient; we must sustain our readiness.

Vigilance, in this context, means more than passive waiting. It's an active state of preparedness, characterized by a consistent, intentional focus on maintaining our spiritual lamps aglow. Just as the wise virgins stored extra oil, we're encouraged to fortify our faith, maintaining a vibrant relationship with Christ through prayer, study, and a lifestyle reflective of His teachings.

The urgency of vigilance is highlighted in the words of Jesus in Luke 12:40, where He advises us to be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour we do not expect. This underscores the necessity for a continuous state of preparedness, leaving no room for complacency or spiritual slumber.

Our world often distracts us, drawing our attention away from the eternal perspective. Yet, our readiness for Christ's return demands a focused and unwavering commitment to spiritual preparation. Just as a soldier remains vigilant at his post, we too must stand watch, guarding our hearts, minds, and souls against the lures of this world.

REVELATION:

Jesus said, "Live prepared. I am coming, but you need to prepare your people to stand upon the watch, wait, and continue to look up, keep your gaze up," He said. Then I rushed into my house to prepare everyone in my circle. I also picked up the phone to call my people and prepare them.

"Leave the confines of your rooms and stand outside on the blocks, keep looking up, Jesus is almost here."

We all gathered outside, gazing upward when the trumpet sounded. We were taken up, and we were filled with joy to have made it. Many people were in tears, expressing regret for not believing.

The story continued for everyone who ascended. More assignments were given. But many husbands made it without their wives, and wives without their husbands, as well as singles. The experience was powerful, but it wasn't the end.

I opened my eyes from the vision, grateful that we were ready to continue proclaiming the second coming of the Lord.

The experience of seeing and hearing Him here on earth will not end here but will transition into a new life in God.

Standing out to watch means opening our hearts in readiness to receive the Lord, being intentional, not feeling unconcerned, but being prepared for the new life that Christ has prepared for you.

The three (3) steps to Rapture:

The first Rapture is the general one where Jesus will appear to separate the obedient from the disobedient.

The second Rapture is the Personal Rapture. This is when Jesus is preparing us for the homecoming; when the assignment is over, and you will have to answer the call of the Father. He will call you to come up, the time when you will have to give an account of how you lived on the earth.

The third one is the time of elevation in life and ministry, where God will come to manifest His exploits.

May God open the eyes of His people to understand these three stages!

The Need for Vigilance

Vigilance calls for an examination of our lives, a regular assessment of our spiritual state, and a deliberate effort to remain steadfast in our faith. It involves an intentional pursuit of righteousness, a continual turning to Christ for guidance, and a lifestyle that mirrors His teachings.

Our journey toward vigilance is not solitary. As fellow believers, we stand together in this pursuit. The shared encouragement, support, and fellowship serve as fortifying elements in our commitment to remain vigilant.

May we heed the call to vigilance, ensuring our lamps are continually burning, and our hearts are ever prepared for the imminent return of our Savior.

CHAPTER 3:

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PREPARATION

In the Bible, we encounter inspiring stories of individuals who exemplified remarkable preparation and a longing for encounters with God. These stories serve as guiding lights, illuminating our own journey of readiness for the glorious return of our Saviour.

One such example is the prophet Habakkuk. His fervent yearning and watchful anticipation for God's response to his questions demonstrate a profound eagerness for a divine encounter. His unwavering faith in God's faithfulness and his willingness to persistently seek divine revelation serve as an inspiration for us as we await the fulfilment of Christ's promise of return.

Habakkuk proclaimed, "I stand upon the watch," meaning he's a watchman who had cleansed himself, prepared, and taken a stand to receive God's message. While steadfast in his watch, Habakkuk heard from the Lord. God spoke to him, instructing him to write down the vision for an appointed time, in a clear and understanding way, for those who would read it, so they could run with it.

Habakkuk 2:2

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

This shows how God visits mankind, especially when they are rightly positioned to receive Him.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. The pure in heart are those who can produce for God.

The question arises, "Who is this that sets their heart with zeal?" It is clear that God recognises our zeal for Him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 - "But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul."

Jeremiah 24:7 - "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart."

Consider Peter, a disciple of Jesus, who ardently awaited and experienced the risen Lord. Despite his initial doubts and denials, Peter's encounter with the resurrected Christ transformed him into a fervent preacher, boldly proclaiming the Gospel. His example teaches us the significance of being prepared and expectant, ready to encounter the living Christ in our lives.

The account of the 500 disciples witnessing the resurrected Jesus, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:6, further illustrates the tangible experiences of many encountering the risen Lord. Their encounter with the living Christ fortified their faith, providing us with assurance that our readiness for His return is not in vain.

Paul, too, experienced a transformative encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. His radical transformation from a persecutor of Christians to a fervent apostle demonstrates the profound impact of an encounter with the living God. Paul's life stands as a testament to the power of readiness and the transformation that awaits those who earnestly seek and await the presence of the Lord. The common thread in these biblical examples is the earnestness and yearning for divine encounters. These encounters were not isolated incidents but were pivotal in the lives of these individuals, transforming them and shaping their faith journeys.

By drawing from these biblical examples, we learn that our preparation and anticipation for Christ's return are rooted in the longing for encounters with the living God. These encounters not only affirm our faith but also empower us to live with hope and purpose in anticipation of the Lord's second coming.



CHAPTER 4:

SIGNS OF HIS RETURN AND THE RAPTURE

The anticipation of Christ's return is intertwined with the signs that indicate the imminent manifestation of His second coming. The Scriptures reveal various indicators that herald His arrival, emphasizing the importance of understanding these signs and preparing our hearts for His return.

Biblical Signs of His Return:

The apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, introduces the concept of the Rapture—the moment when believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This concept inspires hope and assurance that believers will be united with Christ, emphasizing the sudden and miraculous nature of this divine gathering.

In Matthew 24, Jesus Himself delineates a series of signs that will precede His return. These signs include wars and rumours of wars, famines, earthquakes, and an increase in lawlessness. They serve not to instill fear, but as an alert for us to be watchful and recognize the nearing fulfilment of Christ's promise to return.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, prophets and apostles foretold of these signs. Old Testament prophecies like those in Daniel and Isaiah, alongside New Testament writings, underscore the significance of these signs in indicating the approaching return of our Lord.

Though the exact hour remains unrevealed, the signs presented by Christ Himself and reaffirmed in various scriptures point to the imminent nature of His return. This calls for an attitude of constant vigilance and preparedness, living each day as if it might be the day of His appearance.

The relevance of these signs in the current global context is striking.

As we witness global unrest, natural disasters, moral decay, and societal turbulence, these signs bear resemblance to the prophesied indicators in Scripture.

It's crucial for believers to discern the alignment between these present occurrences and the signs foretold in the Bible.

The correlation between the signs outlined in Scripture and the current state of the world is an undeniable reality. Consider the parallel between the unrest, natural calamities, moral decay, and societal upheavals prevalent in today's world and the prophesied indicators in the Bible. This alignment urges us to reflect on the urgency of the times and the significance of these signs in heralding the Lord's return.

The signs are not isolated events but interwoven facets of a larger picture, a mosaic portraying the unfolding of divine prophecy. As these signs manifest around us, they echo the words of Christ and the messages conveyed by the prophets of old, serving as an unmistakable call to be vigilant, discerning, and prepared.

Understanding these signs should fuel our anticipation and preparedness. The signs aren't meant to instill panic, but rather to prompt us to live in an ongoing state of readiness, aligning our lives with the teachings of Christ, and remaining watchful for His imminent return.

Living in this state of alertness and preparation doesn't immobilize us; rather, it empowers us to live purposefully, infused with hope and assurance. This state of expectancy motivates us to live our lives aligned with God's principles, being faithful stewards of His love, grace, and truth in a world yearning for light.

The signs foretelling Christ's return serve as guiding lights, illuminating our journey of faith, hope, and readiness. They beckon us to a life of purpose, dedication, and vigilance, fueling our anticipation of the climactic moment when our Savior returns to gather His beloved.

CHAPTER 5:

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

As believers, we are called to journey together, supporting and encouraging one another on this path of readiness and expectation.

The Power of Community:

Our shared anticipation creates a bond that unites us in our faith. Just as Christ gathered disciples to journey together, we are called to walk alongside our fellow believers. The mutual support, fellowship, and shared experiences strengthen our resolve and sustain our hope for His return.

In moments of uncertainty and waiting, the presence of a supportive community becomes a source of encouragement. We uplift each other, reminding ourselves of the promises of Christ and fortifying one another's faith through fellowship and prayer. Our journey together is marked by learning from one another's experiences and insights. Each person's unique walk with Christ contributes to the collective understanding of readiness. We share our discoveries, challenges, and victories, enriching each other's preparation for the Lord's return.

Prayer becomes a vital tool in this shared journey. Through prayer, we intercede for one another, lifting each other up in times of need and gratitude, strengthening the fabric of our community and reinforcing our collective faith in preparation for Christ's return. Within our community, we provide accountability, gently guiding and supporting one another in remaining steadfast and vigilant. Through accountability, we ensure we do not waver in our preparedness for His return.

This communal journey of anticipation enriches our faith, offers encouragement in times of doubt, and sustains our hope as we eagerly await the return of our Lord. Just as the early believers journeyed together, we, too, are called to walk alongside one another in unity, love, and anticipation.

CHAPTER 6:

THE CALL TO SALVATION

The call to salvation stands as the foundational invitation to begin this profound journey of readiness and anticipation for the return of our Lord. The essence of salvation lies at the heart of our preparedness, transforming our lives and securing our place in the Book of Life.

Salvation isn't just a concept but a life-altering decision. It marks the pivotal moment when one's name is inscribed in the Book of Life, securing eternal life and erasing it from the books of judgment. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the gates to salvation stand open to all who accept this divine gift. Salvation is not earned through deeds or achievements but received through faith. It's a gift freely offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior (John 3:16). It's a conscious decision to embrace the love, forgiveness, and grace extended by God through His Son.

This divine act transforms our lives, washing away our sins and providing a new beginning. It sets us on the path of righteousness, guiding our steps toward spiritual growth, and preparing our hearts for the return of our Savior.

The urgency to embrace this gift arises from the uncertainty of time. The call to salvation is not to be delayed or taken lightly. The immediacy of this decision ensures our preparedness for Christ's return. The call to salvation is extended to all who are yet to embark on this journey with Christ. It's an invitation to receive the grace and mercy of God, to be part of His family, and to be assured of a place in the eternal kingdom.

Embracing salvation is the pivotal step toward readiness for the return of our Lord. It initiates our journey, laying the foundation for spiritual preparedness and an eager anticipation for the promised return of Jesus Christ.



CHAPTER 7:

THE URGENCY OF ACCEPTING CHRIST

The urgency of accepting Christ as Lord and Savior lies at the heart of our readiness for His imminent return. It's not merely a suggestion but a necessity that profoundly shapes our present and eternal destinies. It rests on the immediacy of the decision. The uncertainty of time necessitates an immediate response to His call. Delaying this decision may risk missing the opportunity to partake in the salvation and eternal life promised through Christ.

Accepting Christ is not just a one-time event but a decision that bears eternal significance. It secures our place in the Book of Life, guaranteeing eternal fellowship with God and safeguarding us from eternal separation. This decision brings about a transformative change in our lives. It marks the commencement of a new journey, a life guided by the teachings of Christ. It leads to spiritual growth, a reformation of character, and a renewed purpose.

The acceptance of Christ acknowledges our need for the grace and mercy extended to us through His sacrifice. It signifies the acceptance of His gift of salvation, acknowledging our dependence on His redemptive work on the cross.

Embracing Christ reflects our readiness and anticipation for His return. It shapes our daily lives, infusing our actions, thoughts, and decisions with the hope and assurance of His coming. It is about living a life aligned with the teachings and values of Christ, shaping our character, relationships, and purpose in anticipation of His return.

May the urgency of accepting Christ resonate in our hearts, guiding our steps and shaping our lives in preparation for the magnificent return of our beloved Lord.

CHAPTER 8:

LIVING IN ANTICIPATION

Living in anticipation of Christ's return involves more than mere acknowledgement of His promised coming. It calls for a deliberate, intentional way of life characterised by certain attitudes and practices. These practical steps aid in shaping our mindset and actions as we eagerly await the return of our Saviour.

Living with an eternal perspective involves recognising that our time on earth is but a small part of our existence. It means prioritising spiritual growth and investing in the eternal rather than solely focusing on the temporal. This perspective directs our decisions, guiding us to live in alignment with the values and teachings of Christ.

Developing a profound relationship with Christ goes beyond mere acknowledgement of His existence. It entails daily communion with Him through prayer, consistent study of the Scriptures, and an openness to His guidance through the Holy Spirit. This intimacy cultivates a deeper understanding of His character and a closer bond with the Saviour.

Anticipation involves actively serving others and demonstrating compassion, mirroring Christ's love. It's engaging in acts of kindness, supporting those in need, and sharing the message of hope found in Christ. This outward expression of love and service embodies the essence of Christ's teachings.

Remaining watchful requires a keen awareness of the signs of His return while maintaining a prepared heart and spirit. This vigilance prompts us to align our lives with the teachings of Christ, ensuring that our actions and thoughts reflect a readiness for His imminent return.

Living in anticipation means embracing hope and offering encouragement to fellow believers.

It involves lifting one another's spirits, strengthening our collective faith, and sharing the assurance of Christ's return, fostering an atmosphere of unwavering hope among believers.

Readiness isn't a one-time event but an ongoing state of being. It's a continual commitment to maintain a heart and spirit prepared for Christ's return, shaping our decisions and actions each day in expectation of His imminent arrival.

Anticipating Christ's return entails practising forgiveness and demonstrating love to others. It's a reflection of Christ's love and forgiveness extended to us, urging us to share that same love and forgiveness with those around us.

Being ambassadors of Christ means representing His teachings, values, and love in our daily lives. It's about living in a way that reflects the principles and character of Christ, acting as His representatives on Earth.

Living in anticipation involves gratitude and worship. It's about acknowledging the blessings and goodness of God in our lives and responding with heartfelt worship, expressing thankfulness for His grace and faithfulness.

Each of these aspects shapes a lifestyle characterised by anticipation and readiness for the return of Christ, influencing our interactions, decisions, and spiritual growth as we eagerly await His promised coming.

CHAPTER 9:

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY

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Living in anticipation means embracing hope and offering encouragement to fellow believers.

PRAYERS

- I take my stand on the watch, to see and receive the visitation of Jesus.
- Lord prepare me, a sanctuary, pure and Holy, tried and true in Jesus' name
- Holy Ghost, come upon me and lead me to the room of preparation, I open up to you Holy Ghost, and incubate me with your presence.
- I'm prepared and renewed by the blood of Jesus Christ today
- Crucify my flesh, Lord, circumcise, my heart Lord and open my eyes to you, Jesus, in Jesus' name.
- Father Lord in Jesus name, help me find your way,
- I look unto the Lord for the second coming of our Lord Jesus, in Jesus' name.
- Lord, I give you my heart, I surrender my all, Jesus, open my eyes to see and understand your will in Jesus' name.

May your heart be filled with the resolute anticipation of His coming, and may you actively embrace this transformative journey, shaping your life with purpose, faith, and a burning hope for the glorious return of our Saviour.



Preparing For
**CHRIST'S
RETURN**
**STANDING WATCH FOR
HIS SECOND COMING**

ABOUT THE BOOK

In a world marked by uncertainty and change, the promise of Christ's Second Coming offers profound hope and inspiration. *Preparing for Christ's Return: Standing Watch for His Second Coming* delves into the timeless message of readiness for this monumental event.

This book draws from biblical examples and insightful teachings to guide you on your quest for spiritual enlightenment. It explores the essential principles of standing watch, unwavering faith, and living with divine anticipation. You will gain insights into the essentials of readiness, the significance of salvation, the urgency of accepting Christ, and practical steps for living in anticipation.

This book is more than just words on paper; it's an invitation to a life-transforming experience that will leave an indelible mark on your heart and the hearts of those you encounter. Embrace the promise of Christ's return and prepare yourself to stand watch with unwavering hope.