

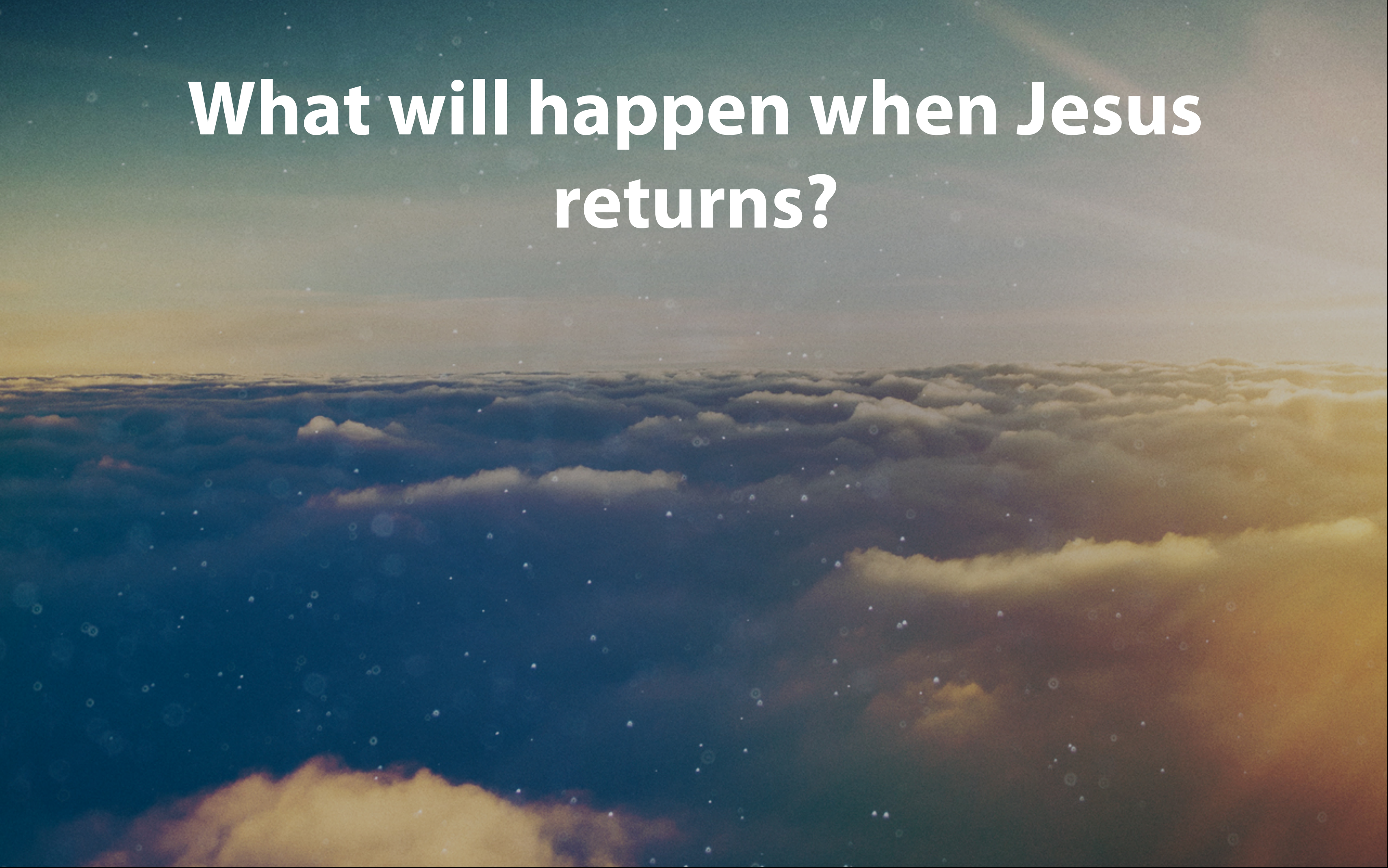


LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**What will happen when Jesus  
returns?**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**Eschatology - The study of future events.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NLT)

**And now, dear brothers and sisters,  
we want you to know what will  
happen to the believers who have  
died so you will not grieve like  
people who have no hope.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NLT)

**For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.**



## 1 Thessalonians 4:15 (NLT)

**We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:16a (NLT)**

**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:16b (NLT)

**First, the believers who have died will  
rise from their graves.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 1 Thessalonians 4:17a (NLT)

**Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.**





**1 Thessalonians 4:17b (NLT)**  
**Then we will be with the Lord  
forever.**





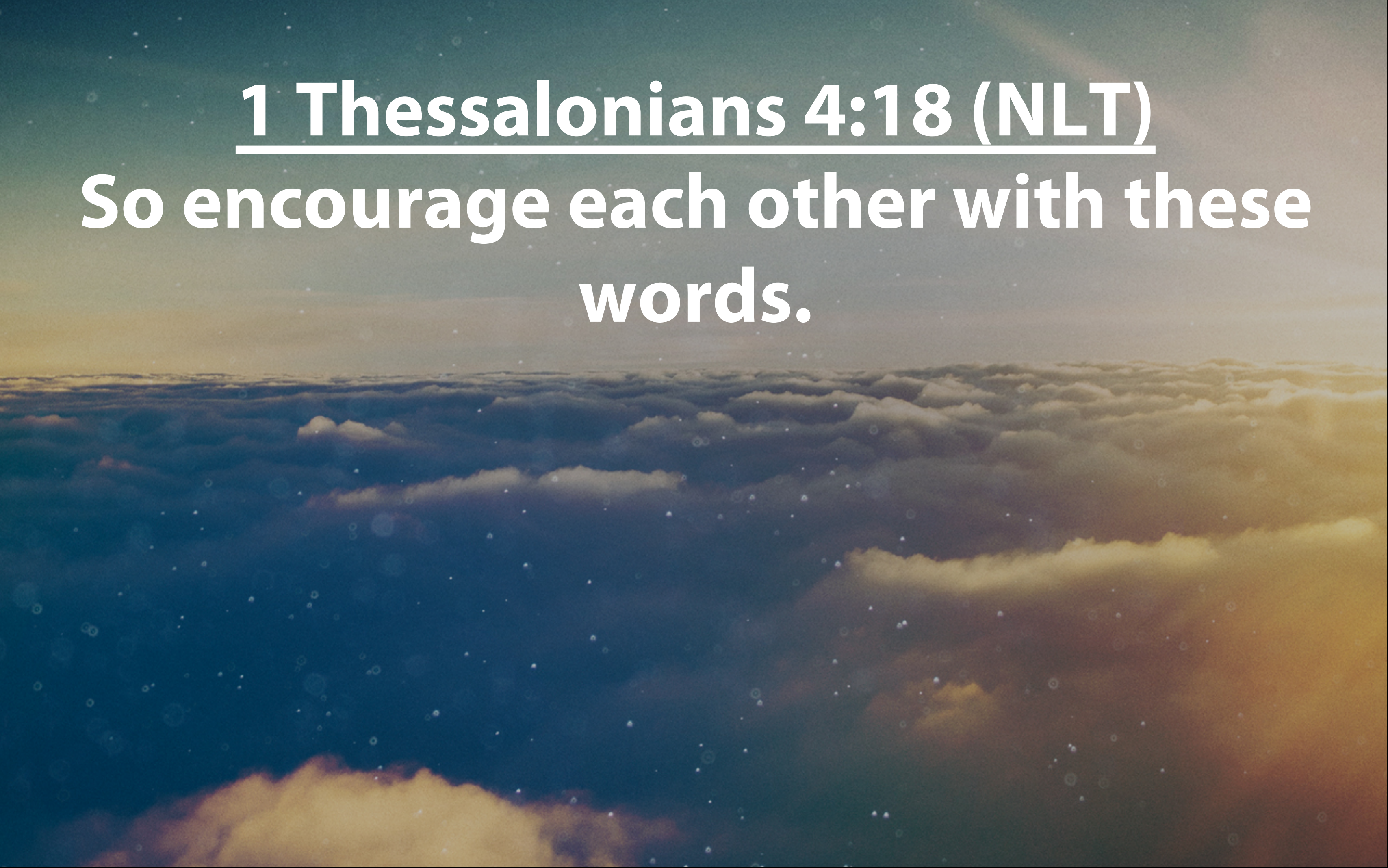
LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



# 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NLT)

**So encourage each other with these words.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**1. There will be a personal, visible,  
bodily return of Jesus.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**1 Thessalonians 4:16a (NLT)**

**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:16b (NLT)

**First, the believers who have died will  
rise from their graves.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**John 14:3 (NLT)**

**When everything is ready, I will come  
and get you, so that you will always  
be with me where I am.**



**Revelation 1:7 (NLT)**

**Look! He comes with the clouds of  
heaven.**

**And everyone will see him—**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



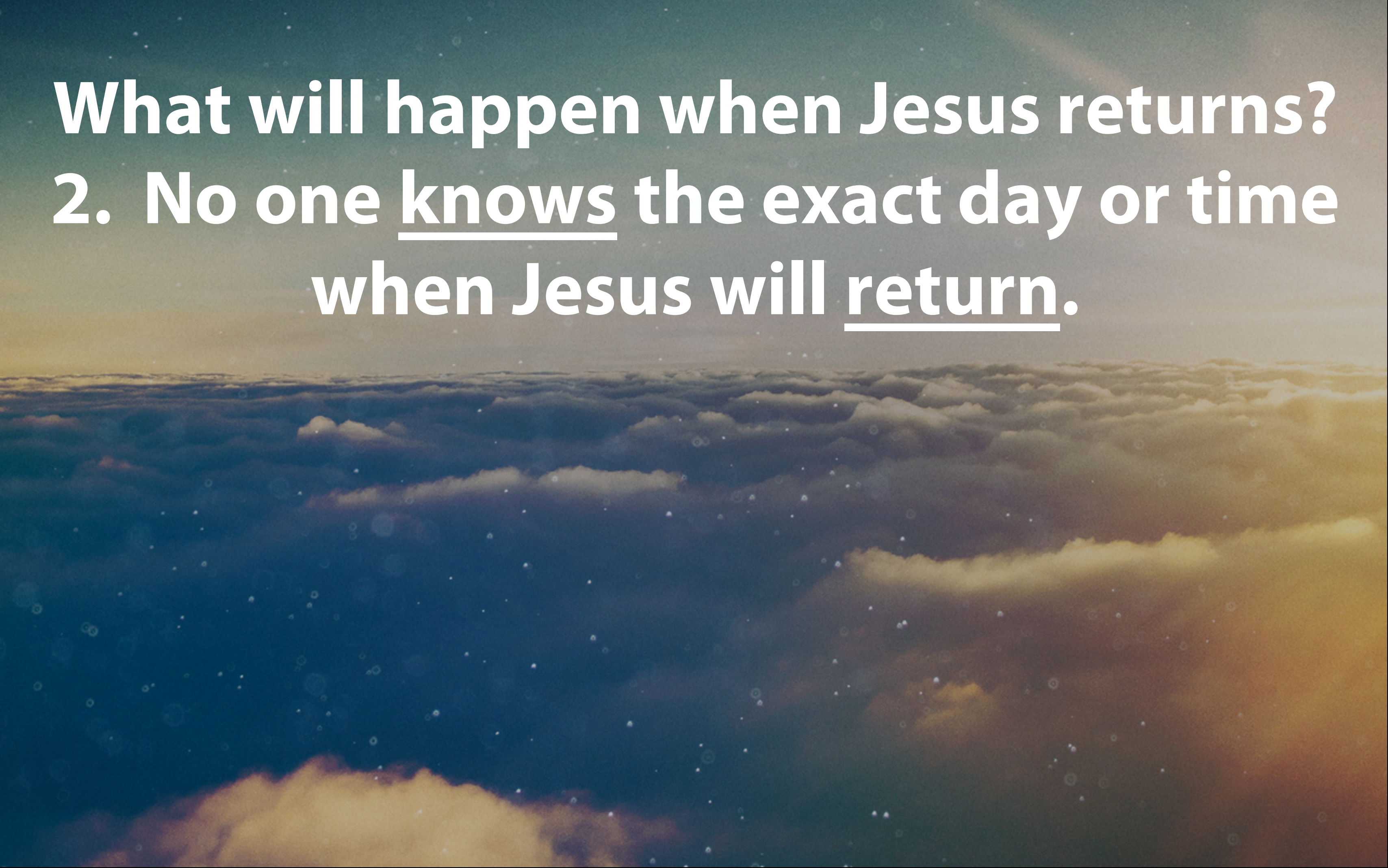


**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**1. There will be a personal, visible,  
bodily return of Jesus.**



**What will happen when Jesus returns?**  
**2. No one knows the exact day or time  
when Jesus will return.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**Mark 13:32 (NLT)**

**“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.**



**Mark 13:33 (NLT)**

**And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!**

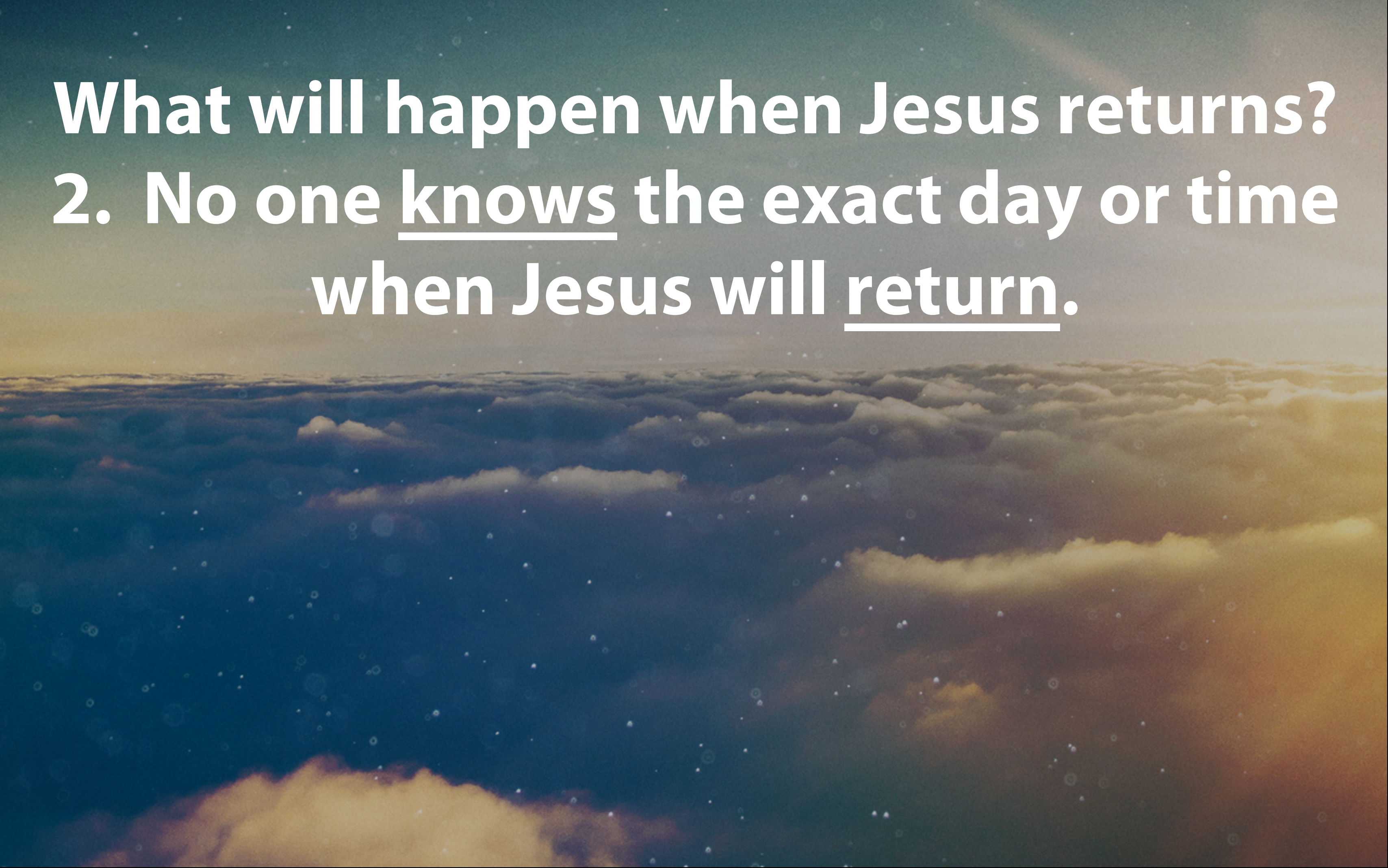




LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —





**What will happen when Jesus returns?**  
**2. No one knows the exact day or time**  
**when Jesus will return.**



**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**3. The Bible lists signs that will  
precede Jesus' return.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



# 1 Thessalonians 5:1 (NLT)

Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you.



**1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NLT)**

**For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.**



## 1 Thessalonians 5:3a (NLT)

**When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin.**



**1 Thessalonians 5:3b (NLT)**  
**And there will be no escape.**





**1 Thessalonians 5:4 (NLT)**

**But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## Matthew 24:28 (NLT)

**Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



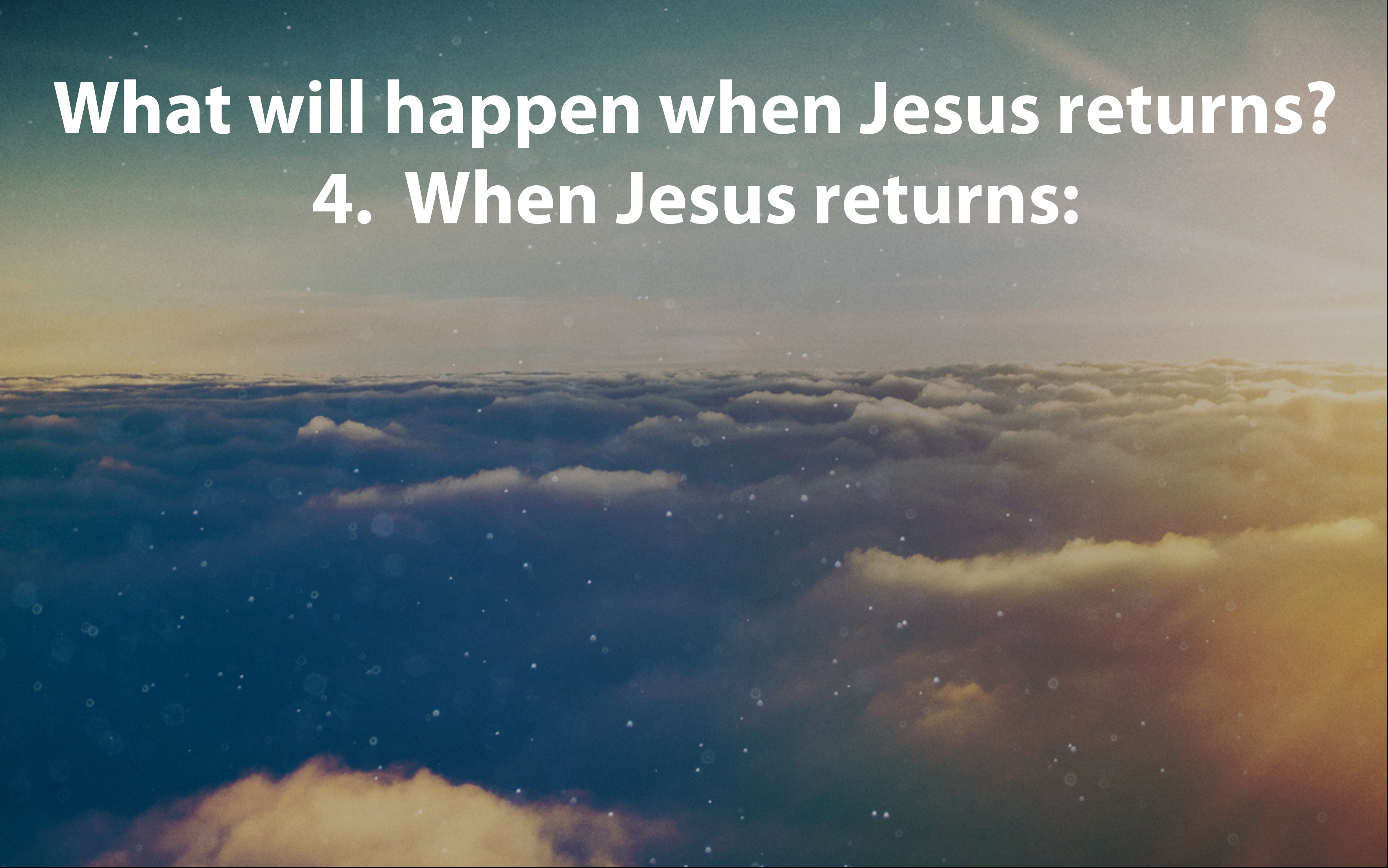
**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**3. The Bible lists signs that will  
precede Jesus' return.**

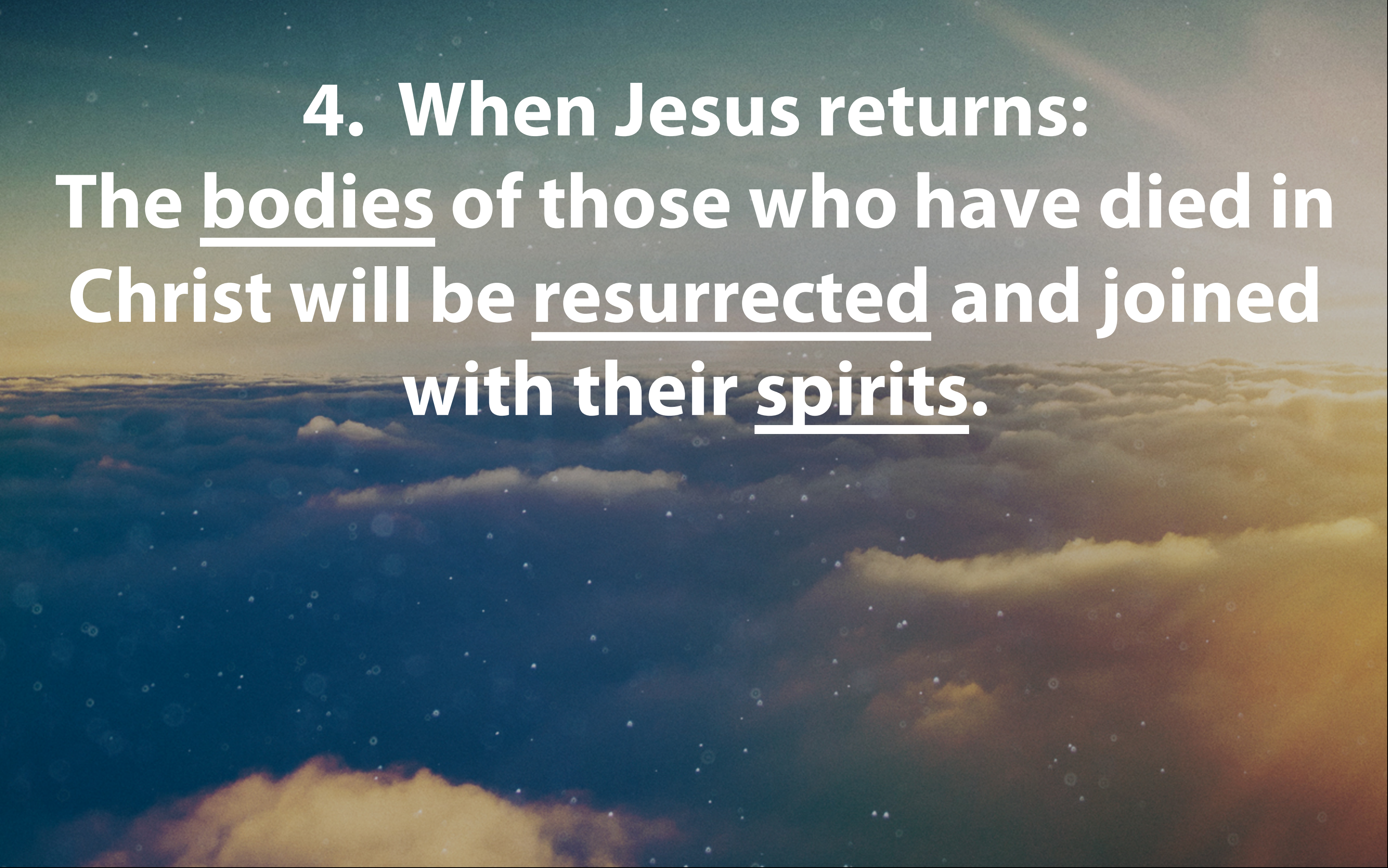


**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**4. When Jesus returns:**







**4. When Jesus returns:  
The bodies of those who have died in  
Christ will be resurrected and joined  
with their spirits.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NLT)

**For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.**



**1 Thessalonians 4:16a (NLT)**

**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:16b (NLT)

**First, the believers who have died will  
rise from their graves.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NLT)

**Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.**



**Luke 23:43 (NLT)**

**And Jesus replied, "I assure you,  
today you will be with me in  
paradise."**



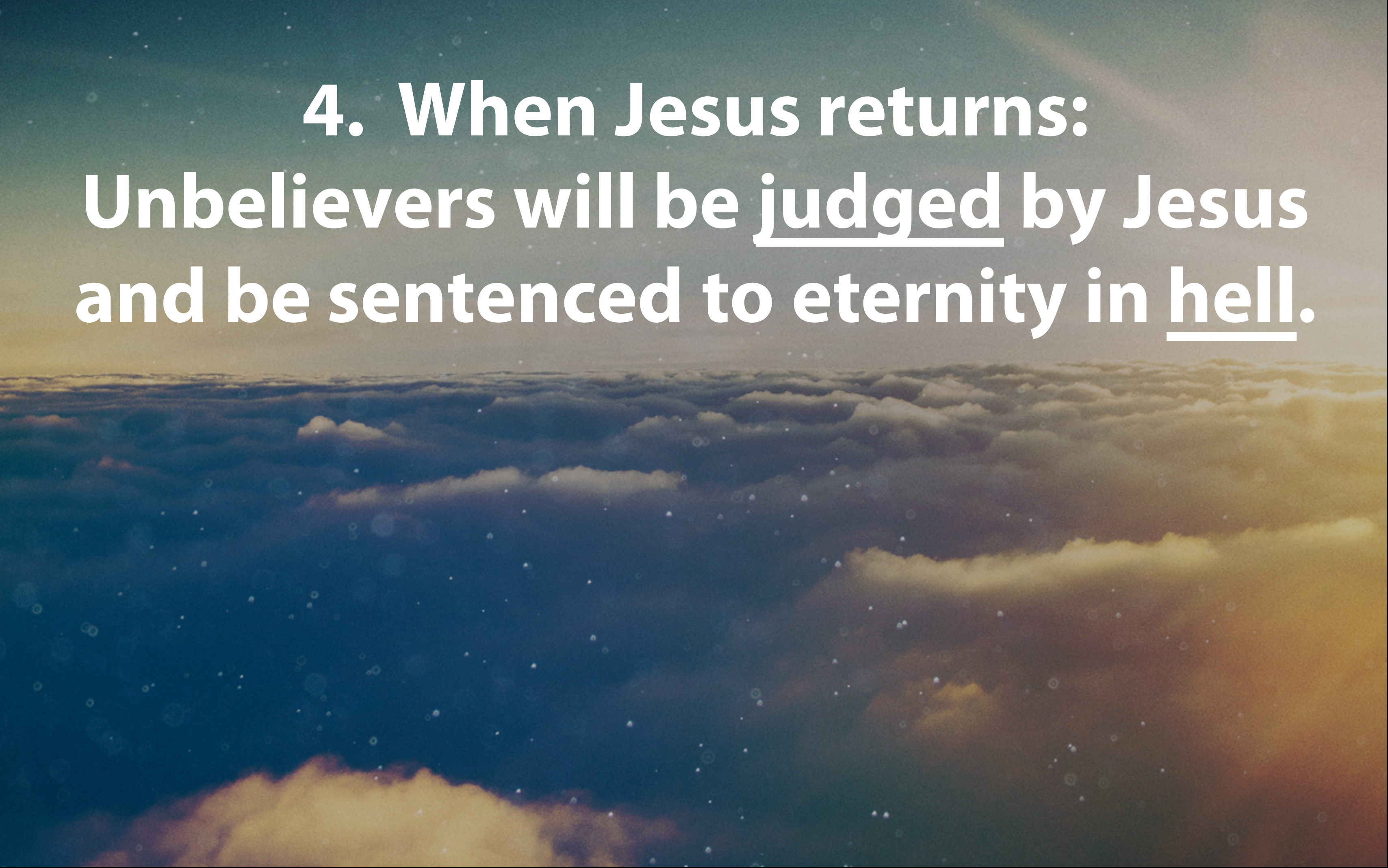


LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**4. When Jesus returns:  
Unbelievers will be judged by Jesus  
and be sentenced to eternity in hell.**

The background of the image is a dramatic sky. The top portion is a dark, deep blue, transitioning into a lighter, hazy blue. Below this, there is a thick layer of white, fluffy clouds that stretch across the horizon. The bottom portion of the image is a warm, golden-orange color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Scattered throughout the sky are numerous small, white, star-like specks, giving it a celestial or ethereal appearance.





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**John 5:28 (NLT)**

**Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son,**



**John 5:29 (NLT)**

**and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.**



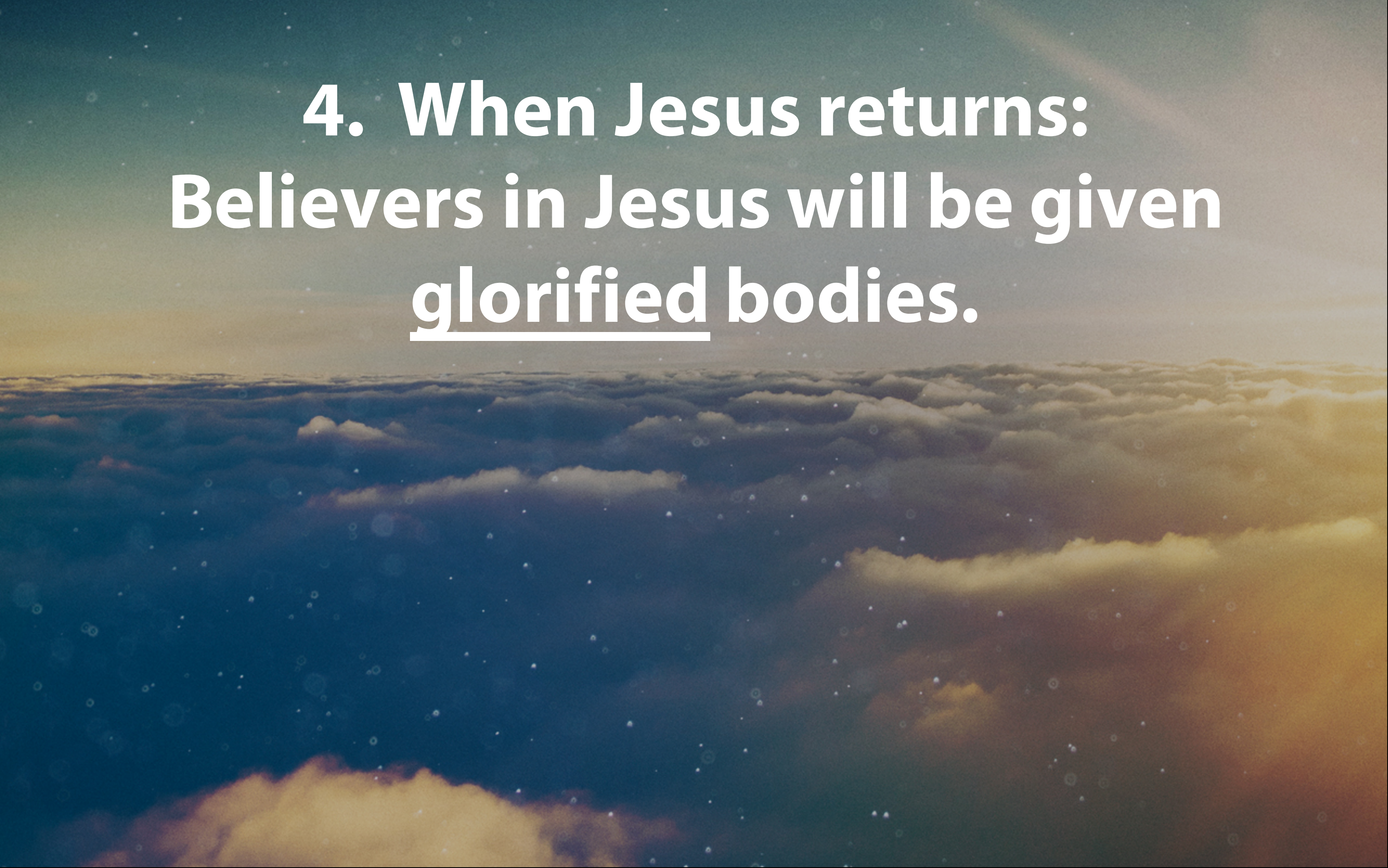


LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**4. When Jesus returns:  
Believers in Jesus will be given  
glorified bodies.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**1 Corinthians 15:42 (NLT)**

**It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.**



## 1 Corinthians 15:43 (NLT)

**Our bodies are buried in brokenness,  
but they will be raised in glory. They  
are buried in weakness, but they will  
be raised in strength.**



# 1 Corinthians 15:44 (NLT)

**They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.**



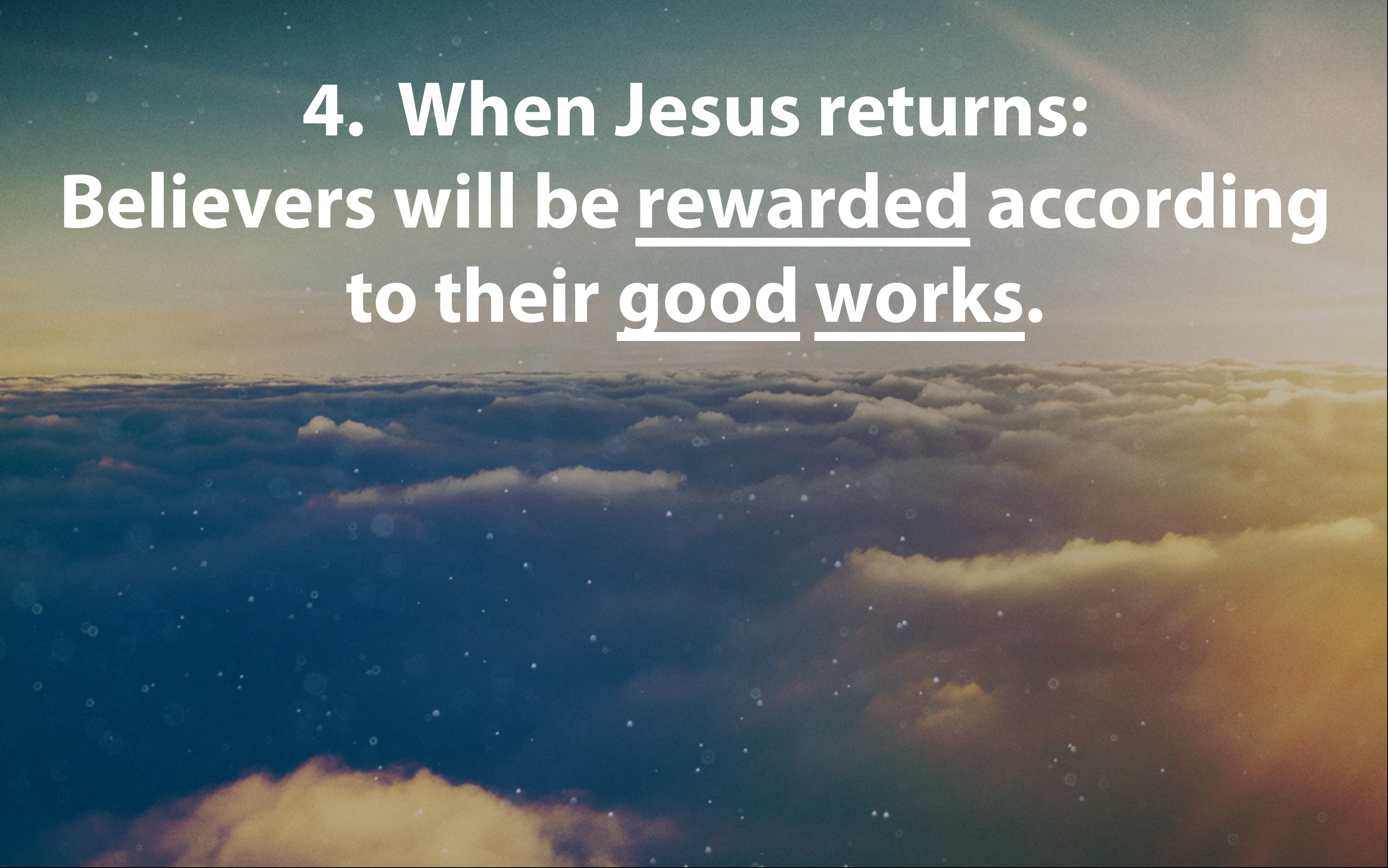


LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**4. When Jesus returns:  
Believers will be rewarded according  
to their good works.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## Revelation 11:18 (NLT)

**...It is time... to reward your servants  
the prophets, as well as your holy  
people, and all who fear your name,  
from the least to the greatest...**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —





**Crowns In Heaven:**  
**1. Crown of Life**  
**James 1:12**





**Crowns In Heaven:**  
**2. Incorruptible Crown**  
**1 Corinthians 9:24-25**





**Crowns In Heaven:**  
**3. The Crown of Rejoicing**  
**1 Thessalonians 2:19**





**Crowns In Heaven:**  
**4. The Crown of Glory**  
**1 Peter 5:1-4**





**Crowns In Heaven:**  
**5. The Crown of Righteousness**  
**2 Timothy 4:6-8**



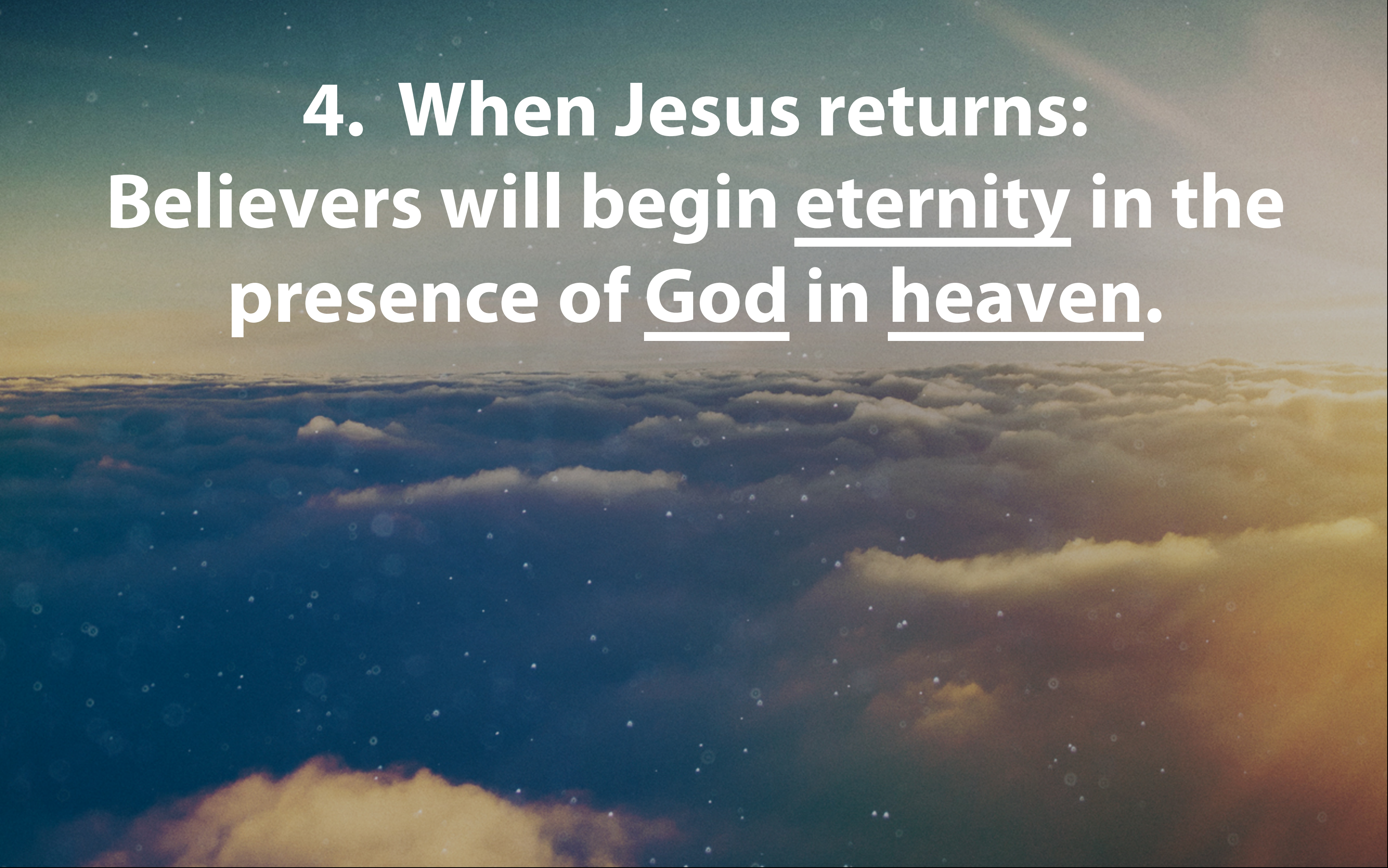


LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**4. When Jesus returns:  
Believers will begin eternity in the  
presence of God in heaven.**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



# Revelation 21-22







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**What will happen when Jesus returns?**

**5. Christians differ over exactly how  
Jesus' return will take place.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



# Revelation 20







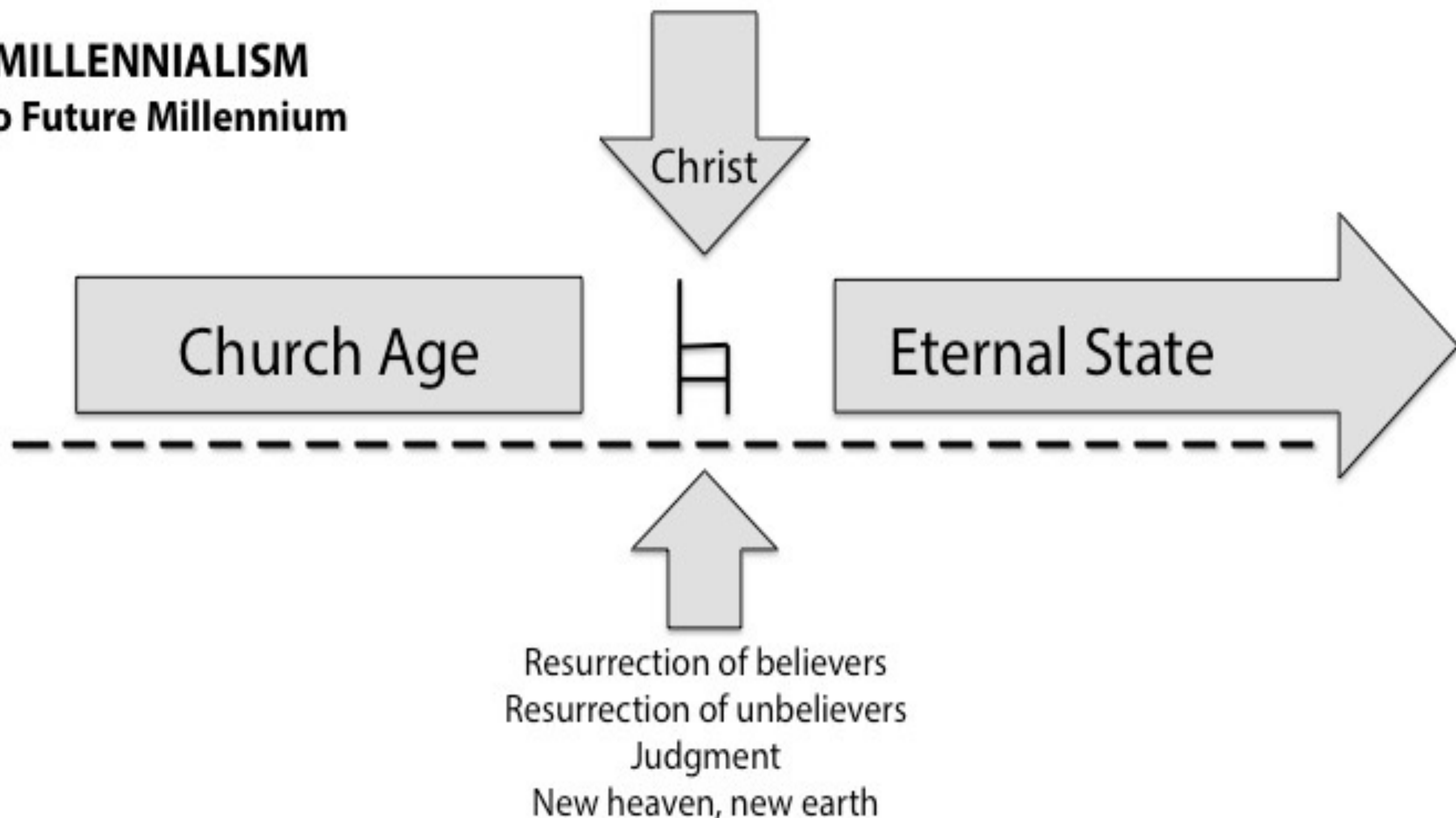
LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**1. Amillennialism.** The first view to be explained here, amillennialism, is really the simplest.

**AMILLENNIALISM**  
**No Future Millennium**

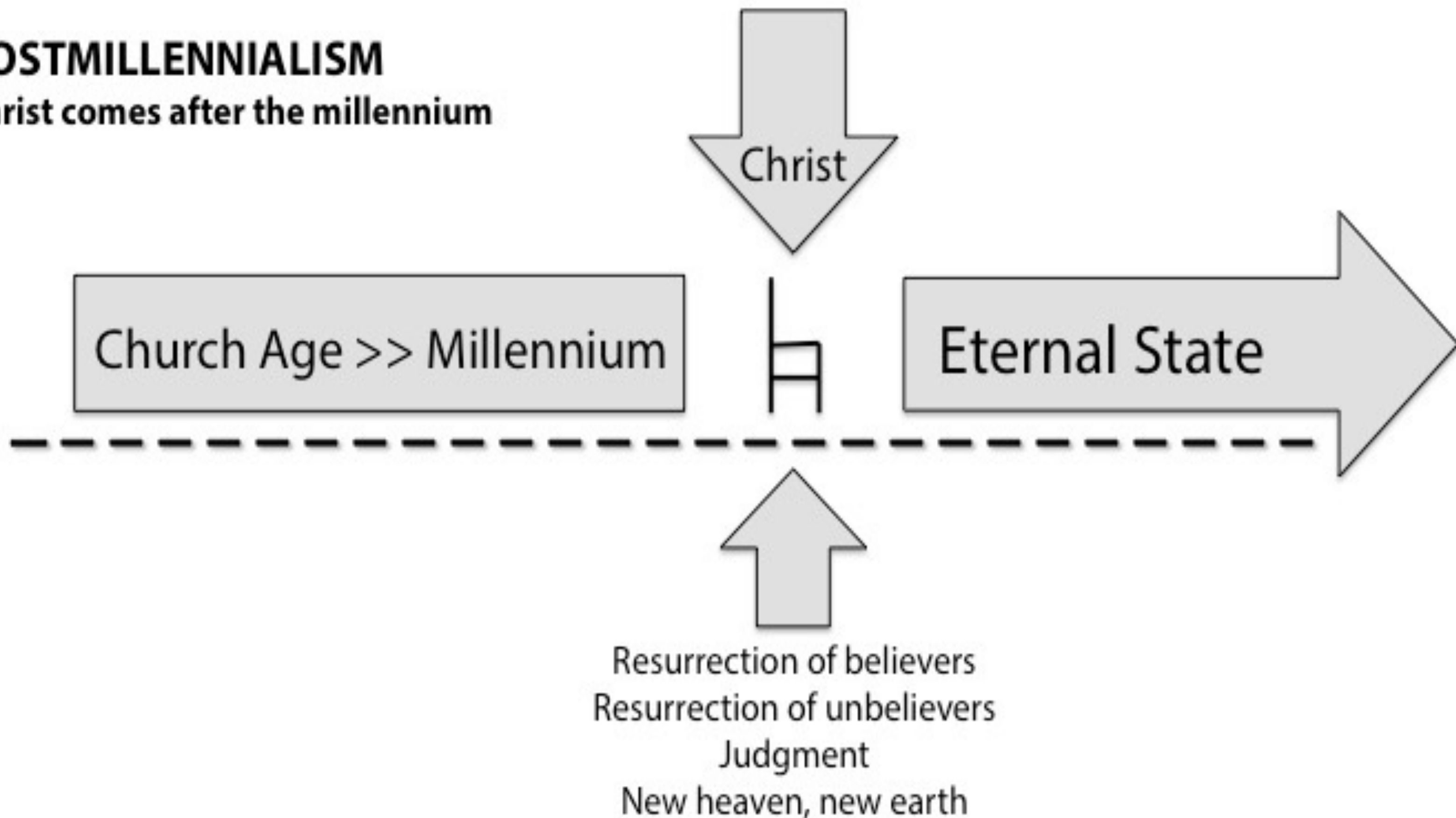




**2. Postmillennialism.** The prefix *post-* means “after.” Christ will return *after* the millennium.

## POSTMILLENNIALISM

Christ comes after the millennium

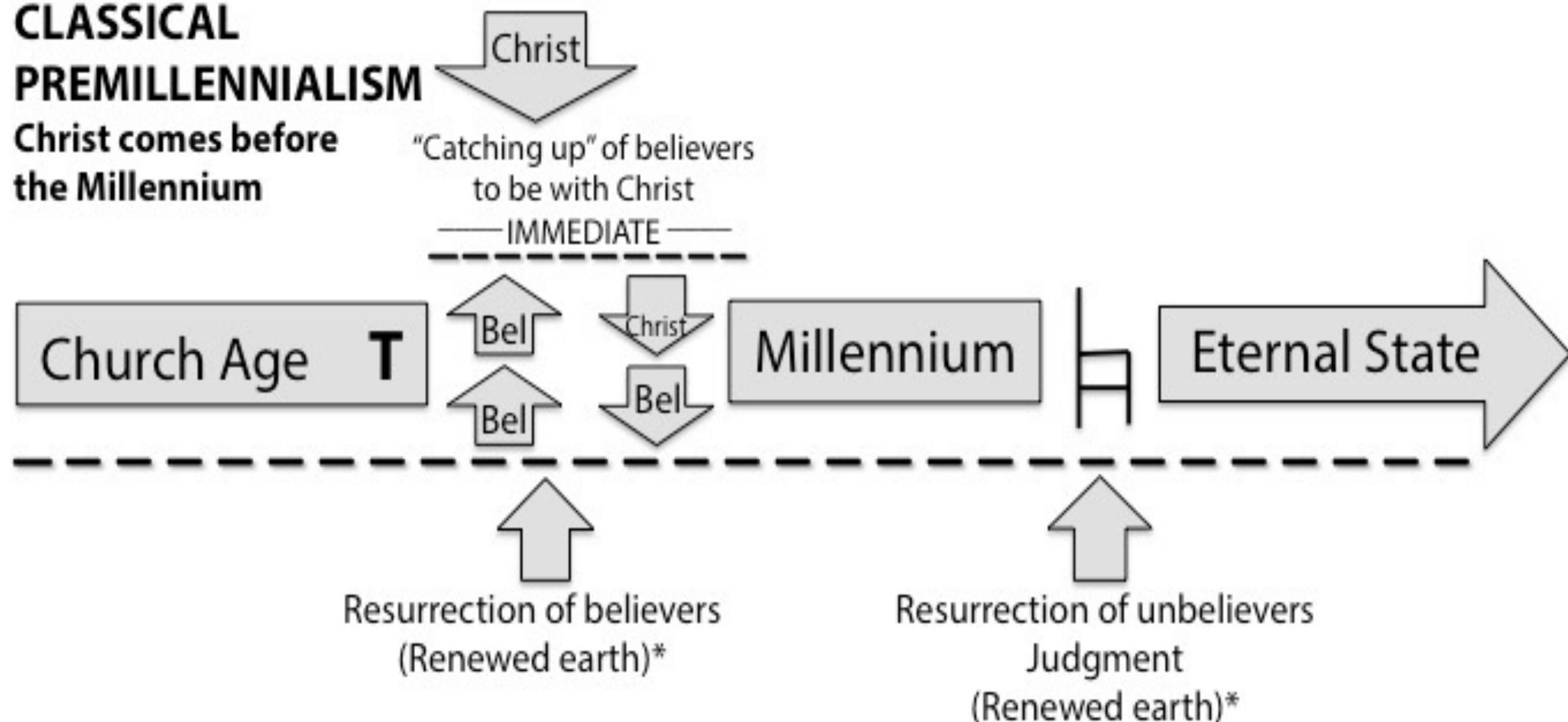




**3. Premillennialism.** The prefix *pre-* means “before,” and the “premillennial” position says that Christ will come back *before* the millennium.

## CLASSICAL PREMILLENNIALISM

Christ comes before  
the Millennium



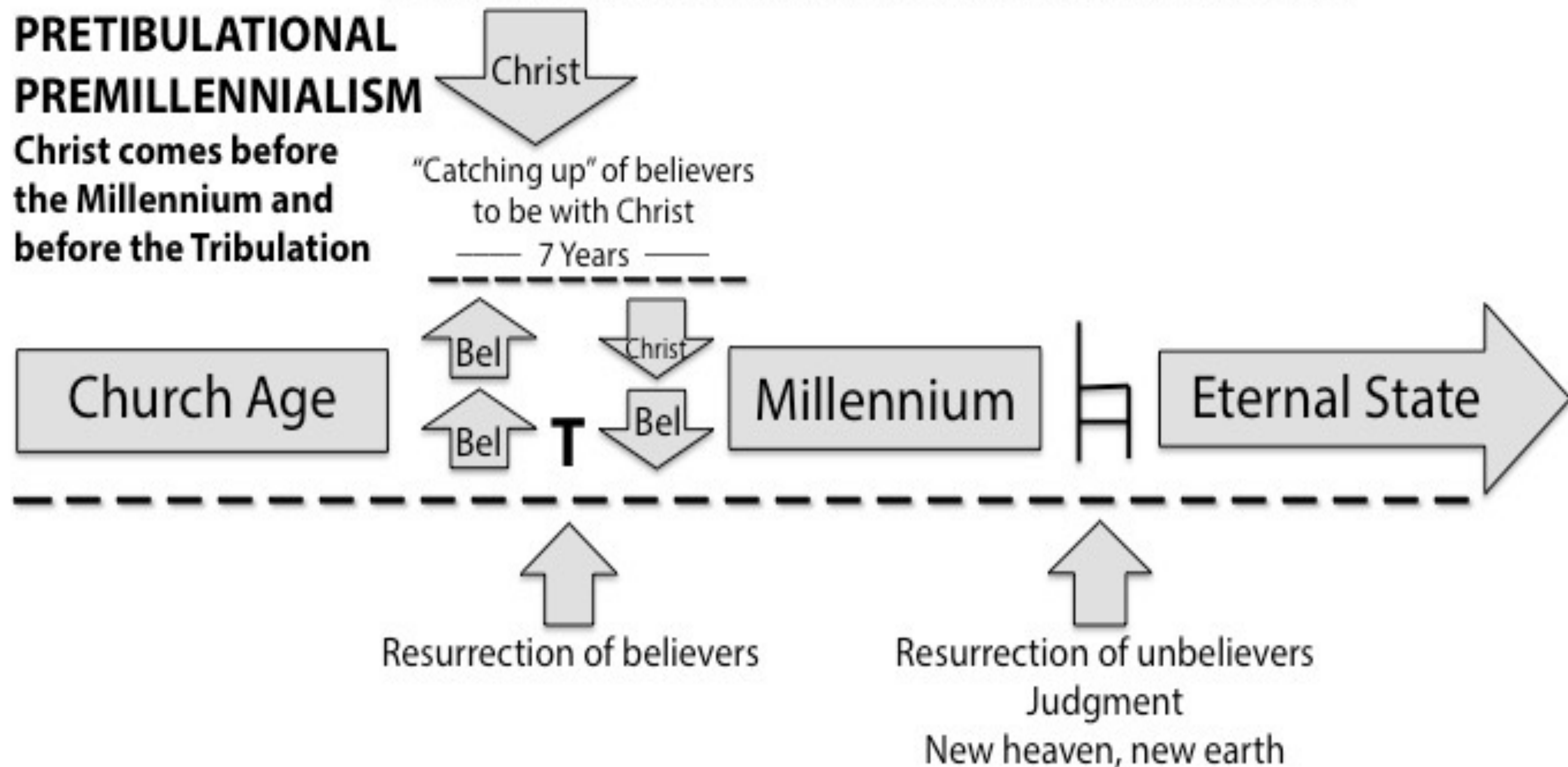
\*Classical Premillennialists differ over whether the renewed earth will begin in the millennium or the eternal state.



**4. Premillennialism.** The prefix *pre-* means “before,” and the “premillennial” position says that Christ will come back *before* the millennium and tribulation.

**PRETIBULATIONAL  
PREMILLENNIALISM**

**Christ comes before  
the Millennium and  
before the Tribulation**







LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



## 1 Thessalonians 4:17a (NLT)

**Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.**





**1 Thessalonians 4:17b (NLT)**  
**Then we will be with the Lord  
forever.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —





**Our response to the reality that Jesus  
is returning:  
1. Be ready.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**Matthew 24:42 (NLT)**

**“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.”**



## Matthew 24:43 (NLT)

**Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into.**



**Matthew 24:44 (NLT)**

**You also must be ready all the time,  
for the Son of Man will come when  
least expected.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**Our response to the reality that Jesus  
is returning:**

**2. Invest in eternity.**



**Matthew 6:19 (NLT)**

**“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.**



**Matthew 6:20 (NLT)**

**Store your treasures in heaven,  
where moths and rust cannot  
destroy, and thieves do not break in  
and steal.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**Our response to the reality that Jesus  
is returning:**

**3. Be His witnesses.**



## Acts 1:6 (NLT)

**So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”**



Acts 1:7 (NLT)

**He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know."**



Acts 1:8a (NLT)

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.**



Acts 1:8b (NLT)

**And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**



**Acts 1:9 (NLT)**

**After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.**



**Acts 1:10 (NLT)**

**As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.**



Acts 1:11a (NLT)

**“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven?”**



**Acts 1:11b (NLT)**

**Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”**

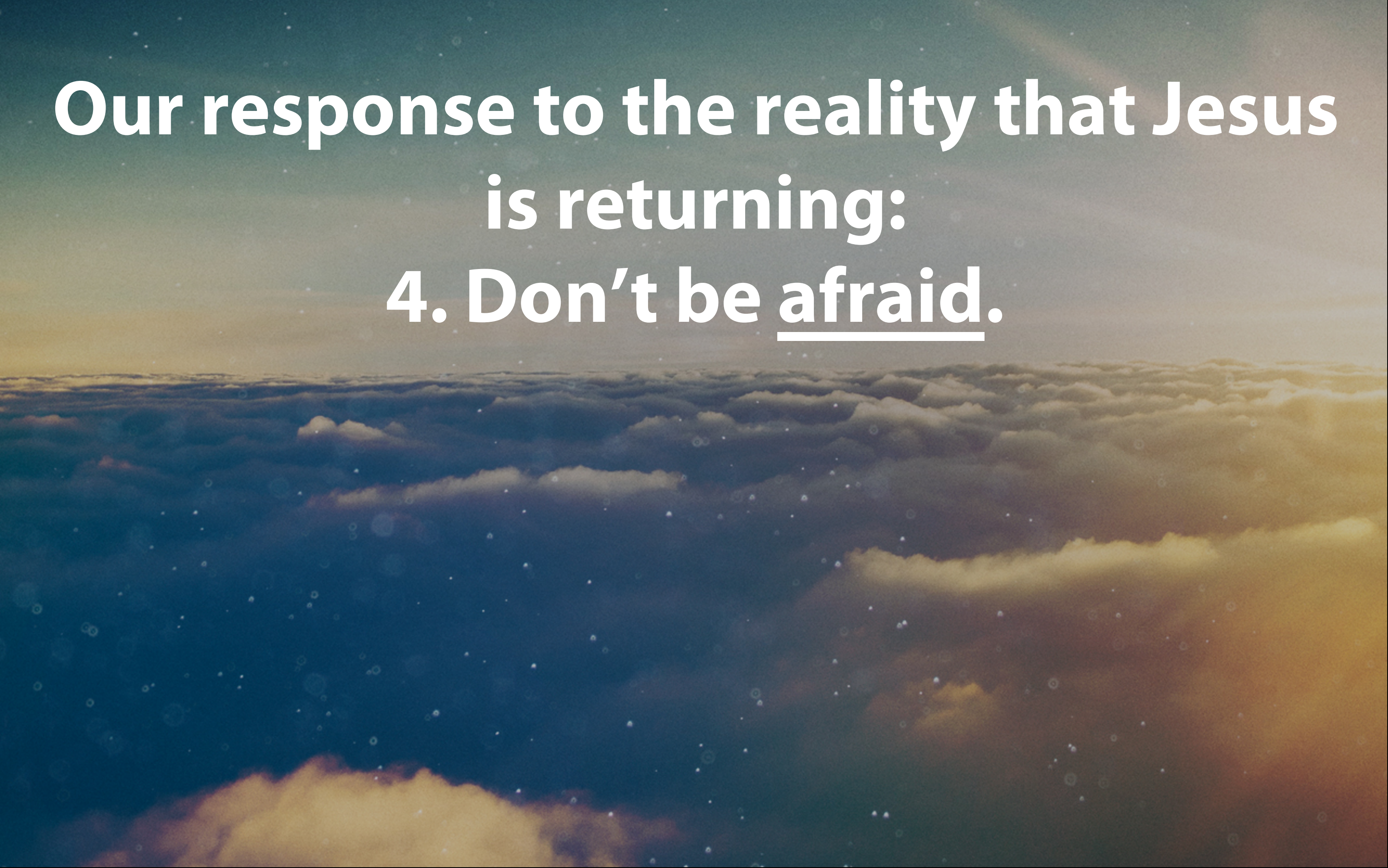




LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —





**Our response to the reality that Jesus  
is returning:  
4. Don't be afraid.**



# 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (NLT)

**So encourage each other with these words.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —