

*Soon the King
is Coming!*



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Into the chaos and confusion of our times the Christmas message of hope rings out loud and clear. Jesus came, and Jesus is coming again – this time as King. Soon the King is coming. But are we ready?

In the run-up to Christmas some think of business profits, shopping, gifts, decorations, and celebrations. Others think of Bethlehem asleep, the star in the sky, shepherds in the field and singing choirs of angels.

The real Christmas message goes far deeper. The world is fast approaching the last greatest event: the return of Jesus. He is coming again as King of kings in glory and majesty. Every eye will see Him, the only-begotten Son of the Father and perfect image of God.

*From highest heaven Jesus
our Sovereign comes!
Surrounded by His angels
in glory He appears.
The Bride is filled with yearning,
the King does come!
She hastens forth to join with Him,
He is her only love.*

When will Jesus come? At midnight, when it is completely dark on earth – in the age of death, when creation is dying and falling into decay, when society is being destroyed by war, violence and depravity. While sin reigns, death has its biggest harvest yet.

But when Jesus comes as King, the great reversal will happen. Don't our hearts skip a beat at the mere thought?

What does this reversal look like? When Jesus comes again, He will set everything right. That appeals to us.

Certainly, He is wonderful in counsel. As His plan of salvation continues to unfold, He is leading everything to a successful conclusion. The nations will come under His dominion. Restoration will come to the universe and in the end there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

But there is another aspect to the return of Jesus that we may find challenging even as believers. When Jesus comes again as the Lamb of God, there will be a difference in how people see Him. Some looking at His face will see the wrath of the Lamb. A terrifying moment. The kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else will call to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" (Revelation 6:16–17) Others will see His face radiant with love as the heavenly Bridegroom.

So when Jesus comes again, He will reveal Himself in two ways: To some He comes as the Judge; to others He comes as the Bridegroom. The all-important question is: How will Jesus appear to me personally when He comes again? Will I see the wrath of the Lamb? Or His love and grace?

We may call ourselves believers, but if we have lived only for self, we may find ourselves like the foolish girls standing before a closed door when the Bridegroom returns (Matthew 25).

So how do I know if I belong to the wise girls? Jesus is asking us today, "Do you rejoice to see Me receive honour and glory? Are you grieved to see Me held in contempt? Do you suffer with Me at the falling away of so many today? What stirs your heart? Family and business affairs? Getting on in the world? Making a name for yourself? Or do you care for Me and the concerns of My heart?"

If we want to share in the untold joy of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, we will share here and now in His pain. The true Bride of Jesus does. Treating the future dismissively is not the way – “Oh, everything will work out in the end.”

How do we acquire a single-hearted love for Jesus? It doesn't come automatically. Love for Jesus can only enter a heart that has made room for Him. Everything else has to go. Desire for recognition. Soulish attachments to people and the things of this world. If we want to see love for Jesus grow in us, we need to die to self.

Time is running out. So let us bravely die to self, making room for the love of Jesus in our hearts. This love will draw Him to us when He appears. The Bride of the Lamb only wants Jesus. She serves Him with a sacrificial love. She longs for the day He returns when all the heavens will resound with jubilant songs of praise.

Can we imagine such joy! Surrounded by myriads of angels, Jesus will appear in the clouds of the sky, His face alight with love, His arms outstretched to clasp us to His heart for ever.

Such hope enables us to endure in the sufferings of these end times. It also enables us to strengthen others. The more we love Jesus, the greater the joyful sense of expectancy: Soon the King is coming!

*Nothing more do I seek in a world
about to collapse before my eyes.*

*No more do I hear the cries
of profanity, vice and terror.*

*Silver bells chiming,
singing, ever singing, of heaven,
a world so pure and beautiful
awaiting the bride of Christ.*

*A world of woe and pain she leaves behind.
Transformed by suffering and fit for heaven,
she now dons glorious apparel,
the wedding gown for all eternity.*

*Silver bells chiming,
sweet and sonorous.
Soon the age of suffering will be over,
sadness and woe reversed.*

*You will find yourself in a world
of untold glory, the kingdom
of your risen Lord now reigning
as Son of God on a throne of gold.*

*Singing and rejoicing all around,
in every heart the song of love resounds.
Never will I fathom the glory, Lord,
You've prepared for Your child.*



*In heaven all is love and joy.
Earthly sorrows are no more.
Scent of balsam fills the air,
peace resting like a canopy.*



*No more terror, no more sin and pain.
Oh what glory, Lord, You've prepared.
And here I may dwell, lost in awe and wonder,
gaze at Your glorious countenance
shining like the sun, aglow with love,
filling my heart with rapture.
Lord Jesus, I hear you say:
"Soon you will be here, with Me for ever."*

*Time is short. Persevere.
Eternity is what counts.
Silver bells softly chiming.
Learn the ways of heaven.*

*Be at peace in every situation,
your will surrendered to the Father,
learn to love everyone
as one day in heaven,
learn to love the unlovely when least inclined,
withhold from none your love,
and heaven's gates will open wide
to receive you for all eternity.*

*Make haste, prepare your soul,
the days are evil.
Silver bells ringing: Redeem the time,
get ready for heaven.*

So let us love Jesus really and truly. May He be our first thought upon waking, and last thought at night. And may His name be ringing in our hearts all day long. Then the horrors of our times will not overwhelm us. Jesus Himself, the Source of all joy, will fill our hearts. And as we look forward to His return, we call, "Come, Lord Jesus! Come soon!"

Yes, soon the King is coming. Then everything will change. No more sin, no more tears, no more disease. No more death or mourning. War will cease. Nation will no longer lift up sword against nation. Jesus, the Hope of the world, is coming again. This is the Christmas star that lights up the darkness.

Meanwhile we have work to do. The world is still a battle-field. Let us make every effort to make His name known. Let us live and pray for peace and reconciliation in His name. Soon the King is coming. Jesus promises joy and blessing to the wise and faithful servant whom the master finds working upon his return (Matthew 24:46).

It is our prayer that this message will fill you with hope at the thought of Jesus' return.

May it be a reminder that Christmas is all about loving the One who gave His all for love of us.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas.
We will be praying that wherever you are,
you will experience a special Christmas as never before!

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary



Our
citizenship
is in
heaven.

Philippians 3:20

Knowing that
heaven
is a reality
makes all
earthly sorrow
fade away.

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Based on the writings and talks of Mother Basilea Schlink

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