Many believers are uncertain about how Jesus' return will unfold. Understanding His coming involves recognizing three main stages, each with a distinct purpose in God's redemptive plan.

1. The First Coming

Jesus' first coming was His incarnation—being born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-35). During this time, He lived a sinless life, preached the Kingdom of God, performed miracles, died on the cross for our sins, and was resurrected on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Finally, He ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:9). This event fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and secured salvation for all who believe.

> "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." *(John 1:14)*

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2. The Second Coming (The Rapture)

The second coming, often understood as the *rapture*, is when Jesus will return to gather His Church. This event does not involve Him fully descending to earth but appearing in the clouds to take

believers—both those alive and those who have died—up to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

> “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command... and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive... will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” *(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)*

After this, believers will be with Christ in heaven for a period, commonly understood as the seven-year tribulation period (Revelation 6–18), where God’s judgment unfolds on earth.

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3. The Third Coming (The Visible Return and Millennial Reign)

The third coming refers to Jesus’ visible return to earth with His saints (the raptured believers) to:

- Judge the nations (Matthew 25:31-32),
- Defeat the forces of evil in the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21),
- Establish His millennial kingdom, a thousand-year reign of peace centered in Israel (Revelation 20:1-6).

This is the coming that *“every eye will see”* (Revelation 1:7), and Jesus will set up His throne in Jerusalem, making Israel the capital of His earthly kingdom.

> “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him…” *(Revelation 1:7)*

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