

**Russell Kelfer**

# **In the Twinkling of an Eye**

**# 932-B**

**Series: Living the End Times:  
Once the King Has Come**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# In the Twinkling of an Eye

*Our Father and our God,*

*Help us to silence our hearts. Shut out all of our random thoughts, fears, anxieties, and frustrations. Remove from us those thoughts in our heart that interfere with the faith that allows us to rest in You. May each one of us, Father, at this very moment, take a deep breath and say, “Dear Lord Jesus, You take over.” I pray, Father, that You will teach, even this moment and this hour, through me, in spite of me, because of You and to Your glory.*

*We pray now, that this time we spend together would focus our eyes heavenward and give our hearts great joy.*

*In Jesus’ name,*

*Amen.*

## THE MYSTERY

Imagine with me for a moment that for the first time in your life you have found a copy of the Bible. And imagine with me that the copy you found contains everything from Genesis 1, through I Corinthians 14, no more, no less. With an insatiable hunger, you begin to read and read, and you read it from cover to cover. You learn everything you need to know about creation, about the fall of man, about the flood, the patriarchs, the law, the wilderness wanderings and the words of the Prophets.

And then you begin to find everything you need to know about the birth of Christ, the life of Christ, the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the ascension of Christ. You know from John 14, that He is coming again to take us home. You know from Matthew 24 and 25 that He is coming *with* us to set up His millennial reign.

But there is one thing you won’t know without I Corinthians 15. Because there, Paul, in verse 51, you remember, makes this astonishing statement. He says,

“Behold, I show you a mystery:”

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In other words, Paul says, “Listen, I’m about to unveil a secret. I’m going to tell you something you never knew before.” And this is what he told us:

...We shall not all sleep [that’s a good key verse for this Sunday school class, we shall not all sleep], but we shall all be changed—

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed—

(I Corinthians 15:51,52 NKJV)

Paul said, “Here’s a mystery that’s never before been revealed.” Jesus is coming again? No, we knew that. That’s not the mystery. The dead will be raised incorruptible? We knew that. That’s not the mystery. Here is the mystery—*we shall not all sleep*. It’s possible, beloved, to go to heaven without dying. That’s the mystery. Not everybody will die, but everybody will be changed.

You say, “Is Paul talking about Enoch?” No. “Elijah?” No. “Well, who is he talking about?” Maybe you. Maybe me. We don’t know for sure, but we do know that *a whole generation of Christians will not die*.

Paul was unveiling for us an incredible mystery; the mystery that Jesus would come for His church at a time in history when the church was still functioning and alive; that a whole congregation of Christians would never have a funeral service, never have a death certificate, never have to be buried in a grave. They would be going about the Master’s business, living their lives as generations before had lived their lives. And suddenly, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, in a swift second, in an instant so quick it could not be measured, a whole world of Christians will vanish. Paul said, “Now tell me, is that a mystery or is that a mystery?” The Bible is a mystery book.

In Matthew 13:11, we read that the introduction of this age is a mystery.

We read in Romans 11:25, that Israel’s blindness to the gospel is a mystery.

We read in Ephesians 3, that the formation of the church was a mystery.

We read that the entire program of salvation in I Corinthians 2, is a mystery.

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The relationship of Christ to redemption is a mystery, according to Colossians 2.

The incarnation itself, according to I Timothy 3, is a mystery.

The development of evil until the revealing of the man of sin, according to II Thessalonians 2, is a mystery.

According to Revelation 17, the development of this apostate religious system is referred to as a mystery.

Secrets revealed at the proper time, these are the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Now, in I Corinthians 15, Paul drops a theological nitrogen bomb, which has exploded a myth that had been plaguing the early church. In the process, he multiplies the hope of every generation of Christians ever to walk the face of the earth. Because not only will every generation of believers be changed in the twinkling of an eye, *one* generation of Christians, in that same twinkling of an eye, will be translated from one realm to another. Without having ever walked through the corridor of darkness, they will instantly be translated immediately into the realm of light.

Don't you get excited about that? Even at 8 o'clock in the morning, don't you get excited about that? It could well be today. And as the pages of the calendar have turned from age to age, the promise, beloved, has not waned in its significance, but with every generation that passes, with every new decade, with every new sign that comes to pass, the mystery becomes more exciting because there is more significance. Every generation can triumphantly shout more than the generation just passed, that they are more likely to be the "Age of the Translated Saints."

Israel back in their land, nations rising up against nations, famines, earthquakes, plagues abounding, perversion and immorality a lifestyle, false Christs and false Messiahs appearing on every hand, the preaching of the Gospel by satellite throughout the world—is it any wonder that the spiritual blood pressure of this generation of Christians is rising with every heartbeat of the latest news? So, the mystery Paul spoke of in I Corinthians 15, could never be more relevant. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, every one of us, everyone who has been born again by the blood of Jesus Christ could be, in the twinkling of an eye, in His presence.

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So, keep your Earle Stanley Gardner, your Agatha Christie, and your Rex Stout thrillers. God just told us about a mystery to supersede all other mysteries. It's called, "In the Twinkling of an Eye." In case you haven't guessed, that's the title of this lesson. It's the second in this series, "Once the King Has Come." In a prior lesson, we outlined the series for you, and gave you a preview of what was to come. And there's no need to review the preview, so we'll embark on our journey, this morning, through the pages of prophecy by looking specifically at what will take place as Christ returns. Our lesson for today involves just three parts.

I- The Mystery

II- The Miracle

III- The Message

### THE MIRACLE

Now, as we have seen, the mystery of Christ coming for us is that we shall not all sleep. A whole generation will pass from one form of life to another. That's the mystery. But the mystery is just part of the story. It is the miracle of His coming that staggers us. And it's unfolded in a series of statements that leave us in no doubt as to everything we need to know about what will happen, and how.

God just doesn't tease us with tantalizing tidbits of information and then leave us to wonder. God delights to tell us all we need to know to be intelligent saints. And yet, He withholds delightfully just enough to create an element of faith. In this particular instance, He has given us a series of facts that we can literally rest our hope on.

So, if you will—turn to I Thessalonians 4. We will take it a word at a time, a phrase at a time, this morning, and see what the promise entails. We will see, if you will, everything we can determine about the rapture of the church. Now, while you are turning there, let me remind you, there are 774,747 words in the King James version of the Bible, and the word *rapture* is not one of them. But then, of course, neither are the words, *Trinity*, *demon*, *Bible*, or *grandfather*, which doesn't mean that the Bible doesn't speak about the Trinity or demons or the Bible or grandfathers. It means that the English word, as we use it today, was not used then.

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The word *rapture* actually comes from a Latin word, *rapere*, meaning *to be caught or snatched up*. If you would prefer using a Greek word, you might settle on the word, *harpazo*. But, the meaning of the word has come down through the centuries so clearly with that word *rapture*, that we won't break precedent today and do otherwise.

The miracle of the rapture of the body of Christ—Paul says, “I want you to understand it. I'm going to explain it clearly in I Thessalonians 4.” So, let's begin by accumulating all the information we can. Let's begin reading at verse 13.

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, [who have died as Christians] lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

And then, we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV)

So, we are going to look at some facts. We're going to begin reading in verse 13 (see above).

Fact 1- According to Paul, God expects us to understand what's about to happen. Paul says, “Gang, I don't want you to be in the dark. This is not one of those things you are to wonder about.” *I would not have you to be ignorant.* Now Paul uses this expression, interestingly enough, four times in the New Testament. Peter and others use it as well. In I Corinthians 10, he says, *don't be ignorant of these Old Testament examples and their significance to your life.* In Romans 11, he says, *don't be ignorant with regard to the restoration of Israel.* In I Corinthians 12, he says, *don't be ignorant about your spiritual gift.* And now, in I Thessalonians 4, he says, *I don't want you to be ignorant about the rapture. I want you to understand.* So that's

fact number one.

Fact 2- We are not to be overcome with sorrow when Christians die. Here Paul contrasts the attitude of a believer when another believer dies with those who have “no hope.” Nonbelievers, Paul says, have a reason to grieve. A stark reality death is, to the non-Christian. But to the Christian, *to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord* (II Corinthians 5:8). The day is coming, Paul says, when those who are “asleep” in Christ, those who have died and are now with Him, in the twinkling of an eye, will receive their resurrection bodies and be reunited with us.

Fact 3- As surely as we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we are to believe that God will bring with Him those who died in Christ, (verse 14). So, maybe we don’t understand just *how* it’s going to happen, but we can be assured it *will* happen just as sure as we are that Jesus died and rose again. When Jesus comes *for* those who are still alive, He will bring *with* Him those who have already died as Christians. They will receive their resurrection bodies in the twinkling of an eye.

Fact 4- These promises are guaranteed by God Himself.

Verse 15a,

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord,

In other words, this is not an interpretation by Paul of what might happen. It is a word of God that cannot fail. It must happen, or God isn’t God. It’s an absolute.

Fact 5- Some people will still be alive when Christ returns for the church. Paul begins, *we who are alive and remain*—either he was inferring that he hoped it would be in his generation, or he was speaking for the church at large, as a whole, through the ages. But he is repeating the mystery that he revealed in 1 Corinthians 15. He is saying there’s a whole generation of people, maybe us, who will not die.

Fact 6- Those who are alive at the rapture, will not precede those who have already died. Apparently, Paul was comforting some whose loved ones had already departed and who were fearful they might be overlooked at the rapture. And he says, *we who are alive and remain will not precede those who are asleep.*

Fact 7- Jesus is coming for us Himself. Now don’t you get excited about that? Verse 16 says,

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For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven...

Paul is reaffirming the promise that Jesus gave us in John 14, where he said:

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.  
(John 14:2,3 NKJV)

So, the King isn't *sending* for us; the King is *coming* for us. His sheep know His voice and they follow Him, and He calls them by name. God isn't issuing a general call at the rapture. He is issuing a general call today that whosoever will, may come. But when He comes for those who have said, "Yes," to His invitation of grace, He's coming only for His own, and He is coming personally. There will be no mistakes. If He assigned the task to us, we would take some who weren't His and leave some who were. Right?

The illustration has been given of a huge magnet that passes over a large floor strewn with particles of metal mixed with wood shavings. To us, many of the tiny, little wood particles look like metal, but they're not. To us, many of the metal particles are rusted and covered over and their real identity is hidden. But the magnet makes no mistakes. No matter how rusty or unused, any particle that is really metal, the magnet will never leave behind. And any particle that is not metal, no matter how shiny it looks, will be left behind. The magnet only draws its own kind. And beloved, when Jesus Christ comes again, He will make no mistakes. Those who belong to Him, He will come for personally. Those who are not His, He will not take. Jesus is coming for us personally.

Fact 8- Jesus will descend from heaven with a shout. One commentator wrote this: "Anytime in Scripture Jesus shouted in the New Testament, a resurrection took place." Have you ever thought of that? John 11:

...He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"  
(John 11:43 NKJV)

Matthew 27:

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top



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to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,  
and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints  
who had fallen asleep were raised;

(Matthew 27:50-52 NKJV)

When God shouts, death is done. Every time you hear someone shout from now on, you think about that verse.

Fact 9- Jesus will be accompanied by an archangel. After He shouts in victory, the voice of the archangel will be heard. Now, I don't believe anyone who is not a believer will hear either one. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and they follow Me," (John 10:27). To the unbeliever, it may sound like thunder, we don't know. But we will clearly hear His voice, followed by the voice of maybe Michael or Gabriel. Just as an angelic messenger announced His first coming, one will herald His coming again.

Fact 10- Then the trumpet of God will sound. I can kind of hear it, can't you? Dr. Pentecost in his book, Prophecy for Today, makes an interesting observation. He says, "In the Old Testament, the trumpet was used for two things: to summon to battle and to call to worship." He suggests that in this I Thessalonians passage, it means both things; one directed to the angels and one directed to the church. "The angels," he declares, "when the trumpet blasts, will be told, prepare for battle because no doubt the Satanic host will muster all of its power to try to prevent this great event from taking place. And the angelic hosts will be on call. But to us, when the trumpet blasts, it will mean come worship." In Numbers 10 we read,

And the LORD spoke to Moses saying:

"Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.

When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.

(Numbers 10:1-4 NKJV)

Dr. Pentecost concludes that, "At the rapture, only one trumpet is sounded, indicating that in God's sight, all of his children are princes."

So, the Lord will descend. He will shout His victory cry. The archangel will follow suit. The trumpet will sound. Now aren't you

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getting just a little excited? You ought to never hear a trumpet again, the rest of your life, without looking up.

Fact 11- The dead in Christ will rise first. Those who have died from Pentecost to the rapture will receive their resurrection bodies. And as with everything God does, it will be done orderly. Not some of the dead in Christ, not a few of them, not maybe them, but in orderly, perfect fashion, God will speak and they will respond to the one voice death cannot silence.

Fact 12- Then, here we go, the living saints will be raptured in the twinkling of an eye. If you are still living on that day, you may be instantly swept into the arms of Jesus. Not maybe, but for sure. You have a written guarantee from a God who has never lied, that when this happens, it will happen and if you are here, it will happen to you. Maybe this afternoon. Maybe tonight. Maybe tomorrow. Maybe not, but it could. That's the issue, and eventually it will. That's the assurance.

Fact 13- We will meet the Lord in the air. Jesus isn't coming to earth yet, later, but not yet. But we'll instead be magnetically drawn up into the clouds to meet Him. Do you believe that? I don't see how you stay in your chairs if you believe that! Doesn't it make you want to stop and just sing it. I can't sing so, don't worry.

“Oh, that will be, glory for me,  
Glory for me, glory for me.  
When by Thy grace I shall look on His face,  
That will be glory, be glory, for me.”

Fact 14- We'll never again be separated from Jesus. Never!

And so, shall we ever be with thge Lord.

(I Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV)

Just as today, nothing can separate you from the *love* of God; so, then nothing can separate you from the *presence* of God. Forever and forever and forever, and for a few million more forevers, you'll never again be separated from Him.

Fact 15- Then Paul gives us fact 15, the understatement of the century. This ought to be a source of great comfort. Verse 18,

Therefore, comfort one another with these words. (NKJV)

What Paul is saying is, that this passage should be read over and over and over in the church as a comfort to Christians who

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are getting beaten in the battle; who are worn and tired and weary. Comfort us! He said, “I don’t want you to be ignorant, beloved. And I don’t want you to be sorrowful.” God has given you His Word.

A whole generation of Christians will suddenly hear the voice of Jesus; suddenly hear the sound of an archangel. They will suddenly hear the trumpet of God calling us to worship. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, everything will change. Everything you have waited for and everything you have prayed for will be changed. First, our departed Christian friends and relatives will receive their resurrection bodies. Then, we who are alive, if we indeed are alive at that time, will be raptured, and swept off our feet into the heavens to meet the Lord Jesus, and ever and ever and ever be by His side.

Now that’s comforting. You may be like I am, sometimes you wake up in the morning and problems beset you, and you think, *there is nothing that would comfort me today*. Then try reading IThessalonians 4. God says it will comfort you, and always does.

Fact 16- The rapture is going to come like a thief in the night. Now, I don’t have to remind you that thieves don’t give a lot of warning. And thieves in the night give even less. Paul goes on:

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 NKJV)

Paul says, “Don’t expect God to give you some inside scoop about the day or the hour. It will happen suddenly, when you least expect it.”

Fact 17- The world won’t be expecting Him at all.

For when they say, “Peace and safety!” [everything’s a-ok; things are getting better; there’s peace in the world] then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

(1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV)

In other words, God’s judgment through the tribulation is about to come upon man, and man in his self-centered ignorance thinks he’s finally gotten the world under control.

Fact 18- Though we may be surprised, we shouldn’t be caught off guard.

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But you, brethren, [that's us] are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. (I Thessalonians 5:4-6 NKJV)

Paul says, “Gang, we don’t need to be overcome with fear at the thought of His coming.” The thief only overtakes those who are unprepared. We don’t know the hour, but we know it’s going to happen so, we are ready. Like a thief in the night He will come, but we will be ready and we’ll be excited.

So, that’s the miracle of the rapture. God has told us everything we need to know. He says He doesn’t want us to be ignorant. He wants us to be ready.

### THE MESSAGE

What’s the message of the rapture then? What is God trying to tell us by giving us such a detailed explanation? I believe there is one statement in particular, that God is making about Himself in this passage. I’d like us to focus on that as we close, and that statement is this—*we belong to a God of infinite patience*. Turn with me if you will to 2 Peter 3.

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), [I want to remind you, Peter says, of something you’re already supposed to know.]

that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, [minding their own business] walking according to their own lusts, [looking after their own interests]

and saying, [Hey, come on. Give me a break—loose translation.] “Where is the promise of His coming? [I mean, for generations everything has gone on the same.] For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” [They say, “Sure, He’s coming back.” Smile.]

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

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by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. [They forgot that.]

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. [It's going to happen.]

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, [don't be ignorant; there's that phrase again] that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

I would underline the words any and all, in verse 9. He doesn't want any to perish; He wants all to repent.

But [don't you forget it] the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.  
(II Peter 3:1-10 NKJV)

Peter says, "I wrote this letter to remind you that God always keeps His Word. And I want to warn you that the closer it gets to His coming, the more people will scoff and laugh. They not only won't preach about it anymore; they'll laugh about it. They'll make light of it. They'll use man's kind of logic and say, 'Look how long it's been. If it was going to happen, it would have happened. Live for this world. Redesign the gospel for this world. Change the promises to this world.' What fools," Peter said. "Nothing has changed. Are they ignorant of creation? Are they ignorant of the flood? Are they ignorant of the patience of God? God hasn't forgotten what He said He would do." You say, "Well why hasn't He shouted yet? Why no trumpet? Why no angel? Why no magnetic force lifting us to the heavens to meet Jesus? Has He forgotten?" "Oh, beloved," Peter says. "He hasn't forgotten."

Then why the delay? Verse 9 tells us, it's *because of His incredible patience*. He just does not will that any should perish. So, He waits, and He waits, and He waits, and He waits until every one who will come, has come. But, beloved, when the last born again one is in the ark, ushered safely into eternity through faith in Christ; when the last one who will say, "Yes," has said, "Yes," in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, so fast we cannot grasp it, He will come! Count on it. Look for it.

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So, my friend, what's happening today is that while the world is laughing and deriding the gospel of the last days, and even the organized church to some degree ignores the truths of the rapture; even as the church has been lulled to sleep by the delay in His coming, Peter is saying, "The very delay itself, is a sign." It's a sign of the kind of God we have. He loves us so much. Not only did He die to reconcile us to Himself; not only does He ever live to make intercession for us, but in patience He waits. And though He would, no doubt, hasten that day when sin is done away with and His Son's bride is swept into heaven for a grand celebration, He's so patient, that for *one*, He waits. For a moment, He'll leave the ninety-nine and go for the one. Still, He'll sweep the whole house looking for that one lost coin. So deep is His love, so infinite His patience, He waits and He waits and He waits.

I have to ask in a group of this size, could He still be waiting for you? Could you be the one, or maybe one of the ones who has, even in the midst of a Christianized activity, never stopped and said, "Yes," to the person of Jesus Christ—never given your life to Him and been born again? Maybe again and again you've postponed saying, "Yes," because like the rich man of old, you said the cost was too high. Beloved, until you count the cost of saying, "No, you haven't counted the cost at all.

So, if you are here this morning, or listening, in the name of Jesus Christ, I invite you. In the name of the One who died for your sins on a Roman cross, and was buried in a borrowed tomb, and gloriously resurrected the third day according to the Scriptures; the One who is, at any moment, going to open His arms in the heavens, open His voice in the heavens, and shout and we'll be raptured to be with Him, in the name of that Jesus, who would have had you come long before now. And He would have come long before now, were He not so patient. I invite you, this morning, to trust Him. The Scriptures say, He died for you, to live in you. Ask Him. Right now, He would come *to* you, and very shortly, *for* you.

Beloved, the mystery is that an entire generation of Christians will not die. The miracle is that *the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. And then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. So, shall we ever be with the Lord.* And the message is, He would have done it long before now,

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were it not for His infinite patience and love. He wills not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

What a God we serve. He's so patient that He'll suffer abuse and scoffing, and unbelief, rather than come one second too soon. But, beloved, when the moment is right, make no mistake about it, Jesus will come. And make no mistake about this, when He does, He will do it in the twinkling of an eye.

### IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE

In but the twinkling of an eye  
Our blessed Lord will come,  
So quickly, human eyes won't see  
Just what the Lord has done.

But we who know and love Him  
Will hear His voice at last,  
A shout of triumph from the King  
And then, a trumpet blast!

And in a grand, majestic plan  
Those first who sleep will rise,  
Then we who still alive remain  
Will meet them in the skies.

And as we're swept on Heaven's wings  
In our terrestrial ride,  
We'll know without a doubt we'll be  
Forever by His side.

No more will Satan hassle us,  
No more will sin destroy.  
No more will death its ugly sting  
Be able to employ.

"Hosanna, praises to the King!"  
With victory we will cry,  
For Jesus came and swept us up  
In the twinkling of an eye.

In the Twinkling of an Eye

Let's pray,

*Our gracious God,*

*Part of us wants to say, "Oh, Lord Jesus, come." And part of us wants to plead, "Oh, Lord, we want You to wait even as You will, until everyone who will come, has come. But oh, Father, You have reminded us, this morning, You will come in the twinkling of an eye.*

*Some of us walk this earth with heavy hearts, dismal futures, and broken dreams. And many wonder, "Is it worth it?" Oh, Father, remind us this morning, this world is not our home. One day very, very soon, everything will change. Father, restore to the church at large, and to our own personal hearts, the hope of His coming. Recapture in our spirits, a vision of heaven. Remind us that the rewards we receive then, are the only rewards that will last, and take us from this place with a whole new perspective for the days that lie ahead.*

*And, Father, if there be even one who, this morning, has opened the door of his or her heart and said, "Yes, I want to be a child of God," we pray that Your Spirit would, this very moment, grant them assurance and comfort and hope. We praise You, even as the angels in heaven rejoice this moment.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen.*

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