This is a simple message which has three main points:

- 1. Jesus Christ is coming back to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords for 1,000 years
- 2. God does not want us to be ignorant about the second coming of Christ and He wants us to watch and prepare for it.
- 3. God wants us to share the good news of the second coming as we have shared the good news of his first coming.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

I Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

God has a habit of telling the world and His faithful followers what he is going to do and when he is going to do it. The nature of prophecy in the bible is to reveal the plans of God.

Genesis 1:14

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

Starting in the book of Genesis, God has been declaring His purposes and His plans to us through the Word written in the heavens, The Word written in the scriptures, the Word in the flesh, Jesus Christ, and by the mouths of His prophets and apostles through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 8: 3,4

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

The reference in Genesis 1:14 to "days and years" certainly has a literal meaning as the Sun and the Moon do allow us to separate the days from each other and the years of time. The verse can also have a prophetic meaning as well when we are consider other scriptures regarding "the day of the Lord", "the last days", "a day is as a thousand years". As we plan our lives and set our course based on the Sun and the Moon, we can also chart a spiritual prophetic journey led by the spirit of God through His word in the heavens telling us the "signs of the times."

Ps lams 19:

1. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The First Coming of Christ

From the day after the fall of man, God already had a plan and told Adam and Eve that one would

come who would bruise the head of the serpent who had deceived them in the garden. He already had a plan and He shared the germ of that plan, not only with Adam and Eve, but the serpent who caused all the problems in the first place.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

As the time of the first coming of Jesus Christ drew near, God reached out to many faithful ones to make sure they knew about the event.

Consider:

- An angel appeared to Mary
- An angel appeared to Joseph
- *Mary's cousin Elizabeth proclaimed the event through the Holy Spirit*
- Zechariah the father of John the baptist had a revelation
- John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ
- The shepherds in the fields were told of the birth
- The Wise men from the east saw the event recorded in the heavens

Luke 2:

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

The Second Coming of Christ

Acts 1:

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Notice that as soon as Jesus went up to heaven, God started to proclaim that he was coming back.

One thing to think about is that in the Old Testament there were over 300 prophecies of Christ's first coming. Those prophecies came true and the odds of it happening were so high that we cannot fathom it. So if His first coming was so accurately prophesied, then why cannot we believe that His second coming will also happen? Why also would we decide that God does not want us to know

Mark 13:

30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Notice that verse 32 is referring to "that day" from verse 31. "That day" in verse 31 does not refer to the second coming of Christ, rather it is referring to the day when "heaven and earth shall pass away" which is after the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ here on earth. Most of the research done regarding the end times will say that we cannot know when he is coming back, that position is just not found explicitly stated in the scriptures.

I Thessalonians 5:

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

As much as God wanted His chosen people to know the time of the first coming, today He wants His people to expect and rejoice in the second coming. He wants us to watch and be ready that we should not be surprised when it comes. He also wants us to prepare for the day.

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

1 Peter 1:13

Set your hope fully on the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

One day Christ is returning to this earth again in a bodily, visible form. There are those Christians today that do not think this will ever happen, but the one thing you have to realize is that He might not return in our lifetime, but He is coming again. Those that are out there that do not believe He is coming again fall into the type of people that Peter was talking about in these verses: 2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their

own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

So how do we know Christ is coming again when so many people try and tell you He isn't? Please study His second coming prophecies. (Listed below are some useful links for an advanced course in the end times prophecies) There are many, many in both the Old and New Testaments.

You need to be ready for His coming, because when He does come again, He will not come as humble servant, but will come as the King and Judge. No matter whether you believe in Jesus Christ or not, you will stand before Him. How can you know this to be true? Read Romans 14:10 ... For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. So now is the time to make ready for His return. Don't wait until it's too late.

Get ready for Christ!

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Following are some advanced teachings on the end times which can probably help you to form some of your own opinions regarding the second return of Christ. You may or may not agree with everything taught on these links, but hopefully they will give you a framework for your continued study of the topic.

• End Times Series