

## Hope for Us and Our Loved Ones

*1 Thessalonians 4:1-8*

November 27, 2020

*Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)*

For those of us who have lost loved ones, the question can remain as to when we will be together again. The pain of the loss, while it can be inconsolable at times, can be softened knowing we will be joined with our loved ones at the coming of our Lord.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for the assurance that we will not be left behind and that we will not be separated from our previously departed loved ones. Amen

Karen Stephens

## The Glorious Return Brings the Gift of Hope

*Matthew 24:29-31*

November 28, 2020

Advent is the season of the year when we expectantly wait for BOTH the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmastime AND the return of Jesus at the second coming.

Having always thought that Advent was all about celebrating Jesus birth, I had a lot to learn in studying for this devotion.

We have all had a lot of practice getting ready for Jesus' birth. We pull out all the stops with celebrations, music, gifts, and good will of all kinds. We window shop, we give pageants, drop money in the Salvation Army buckets, and send cards to our family and friends reminding everyone of this important time of year.

But how do we get ready for the other part of Advent? Are we prepared? Alert? Awake with Hope and Joy for his coming reign? Are we confident, humble, expectant? Are we ready? The time draws nigh. We are different. We belong to God. God is making all the preparations. Are we ready?

**Prayer:** Dear God, we are grateful for the gift of your Son, Jesus. We celebrate his birth and all the wonderful teachings he shared with us while here on earth. We also look forward to his Glorious Return confidently and expectantly. We know you are present with us and we know you are making all the preparations. We thank you and we praise you! Amen

Marjorie Hamann