



A CHRISTIAN DEVOTIONAL

77 Days Before His Return

A Challenge To Live The Next 77
Days In Light of Eternity

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77 DAYS BEFORE HIS RETURN

INTRODUCTION: THE KING RETURNS

THE INVISIBLE GOD...

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid
from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.*

In 2003, the world was captivated by the epic conclusion to the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Return of the King, audiences were drawn into the fantastical world of Middle Earth, where the fate of the realm rested on the shoulders of a small hobbit named Frodo and his loyal companions. The power of imagination was on full display as director Peter Jackson brought to life the incredible battles, majestic landscapes, and unforgettable characters from J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved books.

In the film, Frodo must overcome tremendous obstacles and personal sacrifice to complete his mission and destroy the One Ring. This can be seen as a parallel to the challenges and sacrifices that Christians may face in their own lives as they seek to live in accordance with Christ's teachings.

Return of the King features an epic battle between the forces of good and evil, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance. Similarly, the return of Christ is often associated with a final battle between the forces of light and darkness.

THE STORY OF A COMING KING

The movie and the story captivated millions of fans, creating a cult following that grew with the film's climax. While there are many causes behind the film's success from the writing of the original story by Tolkien, the amazing filmmaking by Peter Jackson, or the cinematography, I believe that there is another reason behind the amazing penetration of the film into the viewer's psyche.

Throughout history, in both narrative and real life, there has always been a transformative power behind the coming of the King. This is especially true with the King who is, or is personified as a good ruler, who represents the people fully as both servant and royalty to the realm. This is all the more powerful when we imagine and understand Christ as a Perfect King, in all ways imaginable.

A few examples of the power of a coming king are many. The story of King Richard the Lionheart's return to England after being held captive in Austria during the Third Crusade. His triumphal return to the throne is the subject of many legends and tales.

The story of King Arthur's return in Arthurian legends. According to the legend, King Arthur will one day return from the magical island of Avalon to save England in its time of need.

The biblical story of King David's return to Jerusalem after being forced to flee during a rebellion by his son Absalom. David's triumphant return is described in the Book of 2 Samuel.

The story of King Henry V's return to England after his victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The event was celebrated in literature, including Shakespeare's play Henry V.

The story of Emperor Napoleon's return to France from exile on the island of Elba in 1815. Napoleon's brief return to power, known as the Hundred Days, is the subject of many historical accounts and novels, including Tolstoy's War and Peace.

IMAGINATION OF THE PERFECT KING

But as captivating as this film, literature, and history is, as relates to the coming of a triumphant king, these examples pale in comparison to the transformative power of the human imagination when it is directed towards a higher purpose. This is the subject of our book, which explores how imagining the coming of Christ, a perfect King, can be the most transformative means of life change that we can experience in this life.

THE GOAL OF THIS BOOK

The goal of this book is not to convert anyone to one faith or the other. The goal of the book is to simply inspire imagination. That is why anyone, from any faith or non-faith persuasion is invited to read and study this book. While it is true that as Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, who came to earth to save humanity from sin and reconcile us with our Creator, I do understand that no faith journey starts or begins the same. But I would not be telling the truth, if I did not share my

own personal experience, that the anticipation of the return of the King is a central tenet of our faith, and also has been a foundational truth in my life, day by day. I have the personal belief, that the mere imagination of the coming of Christ, is a powerful force that can inspire us to live better, more meaningful lives, calmly, quietly, but urgently. I also believe that this imagination and challenge to live in light of eternity, is the key for instant transformation, amazing deliverance, and unspeakable joy.

WHAT ARE WE IMAGINING?

But what does it mean to imagine the coming of Christ? Is it simply a matter of picturing a powerful figure descending from the clouds, or is there something deeper at work? In this book, we will explore the many facets of this transformative practice, including:

1. How imagining Christ's return can help us let go of our fears and anxieties, and live with a greater sense of purpose and meaning.
2. How it can inspire us to live lives of greater compassion and service to others, as we seek to follow the example of Christ's life on earth.
3. How it can help us overcome the struggles and temptations that so often hold us back, as we draw strength from the hope and promise of Christ's return.

Through a combination of biblical teaching, personal stories, practical exercises, and most importantly, 77 unique challenges over the course of 77 days, this book will help you tap into the transformative power of your imagination and experience the life-changing impact of imagining the coming of Christ. This book will help you unlock new levels of spiritual growth and personal fulfillment, in light of his glorious coming.

END OF SAMPLE