

**“STAY ALERT” Series**

Message #6 of 6

**“LIGHTNING FROM HEAVEN”**

*Jesus’ return from heaven will be personal, visible, and glorious  
... a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch, pray,  
expect, and rejoice in.*

Matthew 24:26-31 / May 19, 2019

**1. VISIBLE FROM HEAVEN –**

*“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” - v.27*

*“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God.” - 1 Thessalonians 4:16*

*“We wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” - Titus 2:13*

- “Bible teaching about the Second Coming of Christ was thought of as “doomsday” preaching. But not anymore. It is the only ray of hope that shines as an ever brightening beam in a darkening world.” - Billy Graham

**2. REACTION FROM HEAVEN –**

*“The heavenly bodies will be shaken.” - v.29b*

*“There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth ... the sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.” - Revelation 6 12-14*

*“The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third*

*of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” - Revelation 8:7*

- “One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of affliction.” - Timothy Keller

**3. POWER & GREAT GLORY FROM HEAVEN –**

*“Coming on the clouds with power and great glory.” - v.30b*

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” - Acts 1:11*

*“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.” - Revelation 1:7*

**4. PROTECTION FROM HEAVEN –**

*“And God’s angels with a loud trumpet call, will gather God’s elect from ... one end of the heavens to the other.” - v.31*

*“Listen, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.” - 1st Corinthians 15:51-52*

*“‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants who were to be killed as they had been completed.” - Revelation 6:10-11*

- “How sweet is rest after fatigue! How sweet will heaven be when our journey is ended.” – George Whitefield