

Chapter 6 **Distinct, startling, alarming!**

Jesus' second coming will be highly dramatic.

First, who of us notices an astronaut's return to earth? But compare Jesus' return. "The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars¹ will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven . . . and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24.29-30. False Messiahs can't counterfeit that!

Second, even after travelling hundreds of thousands of kilometres, an astronaut's return to earth is pinpointed to the minute.

And when Jesus returns - *after two thousand years!* - he too will find things exactly as he predicted - "for then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time." Matthew 24.21.

Third, if we met an astronaut in the street, would we know? Highly unlikely. But the world will certainly know when Jesus comes to judge the nations (Matthew 25.31-32), introduces righteous rule over the earth (Revelation 19.15-16), and teaches his ways to all peoples (Isaiah 2.3-4). Meanwhile we can ask Jesus to reign in our heart right now.

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It is not what the world is coming to, but who is coming to the world.

¹ comets referred to as stars: The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, *Astronomy*, page 308