([00:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=gu2vnqI0WJrZsrbi7uUXfw0FR0ujrpjCaGIk5EMP51ChNZDLs1b6pxDYajrJ6lkSyKQehT46veMNW2VEoAGkx5pFMxE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0.4)): ***Three False Hopes: # 1 Renewal***

In such a situation as I've described, Christians are tempted, even deceived into false hopes, and pin our hopes on something that will change the situation and tenant back. **And there are three such false hopes I want to mention.** And I want you to think about it and pray about it yourself. Don't take what I say for granted, but there are three false hopes in the last three decades that Christians have pinned their faith to. They all begin with the letter 'R' so they are the three ''R's'. **The *first* was in the seventies: the hope of Christians for turning the tide back was *'renewal'*---renewal of the churches.** There were many good things about the renewal. I was part of it... Still am. It was a rediscovery of the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. And for many long years, churches had been 'binatarian', believing in the Father and Son; but not Trinitarian, knowing the Holy Spirit personally. And this brought about gifts of the Spirit and the power of the Spirit. It is now fading. Renewal is fading. As with the Welsh revival, we're left with music for the most part...the choruses. But it's a long time since I heard free prophesy in church. The gifts have faded largely because baptism in the Spirit faded first; and that was largely due to a man called John Wimber, who quite deliberately came to Britain with an agenda: forget the baptism in the Spirit; let's just have the gifts. And I believe that inevitably led to a decline in the gifts, which is what we've seen. It is the baptism in the Spirit that leads to the exercise of gifts. So the gifts are in decline, and the baptism in the Spirit has almost disappeared.

([02:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=huw0dToLYttrns4LEsu310cAw5UT3KFkbOA8araXwvoIyAKgEVYnG6H0UXL1gmOCgKyHo8GT386DdWoWWMwHAsRzk8g&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=140.71)):***Three False Hopes: # 2 Restoration***

**The *second* 'R' to which many Christians pinned their hopes for Britain was called *'restoration'*.** There was a magazine called '*Restoration*' and there was a space....now we're into the eighties. The seventies, it was 'renewal'... the eighties, 'restoration'. And part of the message of restoration was that God wanted *new* churches rather than the old ones renewed.... restoration churches. And the teaching of the restoration movement was that the church was going to be used by God to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth and established the kingdom here....even before the King returned. It's what we call *post millennialism*, for those who are technical. And the message was: leave the old churches. Join the new churches, which are 'kingdom churches', and 'kingdom now churches', and we are going to see the kingdom come in Britain. And scores and scores of Christians left old denominations and joined new churches. They are now drifting back to the older churches; and many of the new restoration churches, quite frankly, look alarmingly likely old denominational churches. The hope faded.

(3:42) ***Three False Hopes: # 3 Revival***

**And so in the nineties, out of despair, those who'd put their hopes in renewal and those who'd put their hopes in restoration, now put it in the *third* hope, *revival*.** And prayers about revival swept through the country. They are also now in decline. There were also many prophecies of revival, prophecies that even mentioned dates...and those dates have come and gone. There are still many Christians praying for revival, but essentially, I find that it is nostalgic. The very word ‘revival’ is nostalgic...it's looking back. It's looking back to the 1904 revival in Wales; looking back to the 1859 revival in America and Northern Ireland. These revivals were periods of intense spiritual excitement, but were not normal Christian living; and, therefore, fairly quickly faded and again left us with music, especially in Wales. I believe that anything that makes us look backward is not of the Spirit. We ought to look forward, not back. I'll tell you something now. I was invited to go to Wales next month for a day's teaching on the future hope of Christians; but the date was canceled after I'd accepted, because that very day there was a very large rally of Welsh Christians to commemorate 1904. So, I couldn't go to tell them about the future because they're going to be too busy looking at the past.

([05:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=jeP73Mdf-oi-pph_IAh1t5VPH95HTBXtkp8y_dTEjEq7yc1SJHqiArwruMYCa6cS1gnrOTbrTKbYPx5yLItsMK7baUY&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=337.66)):

Now I say it carefully, but may God forgive me if I'm wrong? ***I do not believe there's a revival just around the corner.*** I don't believe it. It's a false hope. And if it leaves Christians waiting for a revival, I think it's wishful thinking---whistling in the dark. Let me ask you a simple question. Do you think we are waiting for God to move? Or do you think God's waiting for us to move? Do you think he withdraws heaven's resources from us and then decides to pull them out for a limited period again? I don't think he has taken anything away, either from our calling or from our resources. My proof of that would be that, whereas the church in England is in such decline, the church in many parts of the world is just the opposite. And you have to ask, "Why?" And it's in the poorer areas of the world---the two thirds world---that the church is growing faster than it's ever grown in history. It's here in wealthy, comfortable Western civilization that the church is at a standstill and in decline. So I'm afraid. I don't believe the prophecies of revival. I sympathize with the despair that lies behind them, and the desire to see Britain Christian again. But I do not believe that's from the Lord. You must take that and pray about it yourself. People in England have been talking about revival for my entire lifetime. People like Martyn Lloyd- Jones and Arthur Wallace years ago were praying for, and prophesying, and preaching about revival. It hasn't come. The only quote 'revival' there has been, is in the Outer Hebrides in a society, which if you visit, is living in the 19th century. **But revival in London, in modern Britain?? No!....*UNLESS* (and I'll come to my own 'unless' later).**

([07:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hM1-r9vXWimHFfqFxR7-p2CHOt2GDc2EXGrW-DFSkfXAf3-ZEMdGX_YdwFzOjFcuvBQ0QbASbMIIvc_QCLRFyEiJRqI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=477.63)): ***We Must Prepare for Persecution***

So let me now try and be more positive. First, and you may not think this is positive, but I believe we must prepare for persecution. We should have been doing that all along, but Christendom protected us from suffering. My wife and I were in Malta recently for a world conference (or, at least, a European conference) on the suffering church. And I was with about 40 theologians in one of the seminars. And at the end, I had to get up and say, "You are all talking about as if the suffering Christians in the world were abnormal." I said, "It's we who are abnormal." The new Testament says, "*Whoever would live a godly life in Christ. Jesus will suffer persecution*." So what does that say? Are we not living a godly enough life? Maybe, but suffering is normal for Christians. But we in the West are so used to comfort and avoiding suffering that we even preach a gospel, "Come to Christ and your troubles are over." You know what I mean? As somebody said to me this week, "It's as if Jesus came to redeem us from our hurts and remove all pain." Another person said, "Did Jesus come to deliver us from hangups....or hell??"

([09:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Y6M41EG-EiBizDc3Wpwlw7K_Y3T1hR2weMz25XUjtb3ufw2v50s0075cHyrkaMlPmSG__biiU4STKbu05Okq-wXjTmA&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=580.36)):

But we have become so therapeutic in church life that we prefer counseling to preaching. We want to boost people's self esteem...give them a good idea of themselves; not, "You are sinners!" but, "God loves you." So you must be lovable; lift people's self esteem; comfort them. But no, Jesus said, "If you're going to follow me, you take up a cross---not a cushion---a cross. And life with Christ is tough. You know, I used to hear certain testimonies; believed them, at one time: "I came to Christ and all my troubles were over." I thought, "That's the very opposite of my experience. I came to Christ and my troubles began!!" And then, when I got filled with the Spirit, the troubles got a good deal worse. And those who know me best will know the truth: that I've been in more trouble in the last 10 years, than the previous 20. But praise God, it fits in with Jesus's promises. He said, "In the world you'll have big trouble, but cheer up. I'm on top of it!" And I was saying to.... I met with Barney Coombs who some of you know. Some time ago, I said, "Oh, hello Barney, how are you?" He said, "I'm very well over the circumstances." I thought, "That's a Christian response!"

**We are called to suffer**. **There's no glory without the suffering first. We're to follow Christ and go through the suffering to glory.** That's what he said. But we want the glory now. We'd rather be happy in this life and Holy in the next; whereas, actually the biblical order is: **holy here and happy hereafter.** But we want it now. In this existential age we want it by next Tuesday at the latest. Well, suffering is normal. And we need to remember that the vast majority of Christians in the world are suffering at this moment. Do you know how many people died for Christ last year? Over quarter of a million. And you say, "Where's that happening?" You don't know?? Don't you keep your eyes and ears open? I'll tell you. Indonesia, Pakistan, Southern Sudan, Northern Nigeria---every one of them a Muslim country.

([12:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=mgdWRJ3VvCu2vquI8vIGup9Y4AECofBHQVYXkMKfD52w7ipBWTFhKwmNwgYuEboRFWO4NwpIGRABTijZarW-bCTssYE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=740.61)):

Now we need as Christians to prepare for suffering. That is our calling. **And it's going to be more and more clear as we are a minority in a pagan country.** Let me spell out some of the pressures that are going to come, at the moment, churches are regarded as charities, and have financial help from the government. I predict now that returned, refunded tax on covenant and gifts are going to stop. Apart from anything else, the financial state of the country is going to mean that. We are no longer going to get a handout from the government as churches. It is easily possible (I've heard Councils even discussing this) that we shall pay community tax on our buildings. There is no tax on churches at the moment. I am advising churches to use refunded tax on capital, but not running expenses. And then when it stops, the running expenses are still there.

([13:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=z-7cm3P0d5c87Q29XfhcnLKbdpfGhL1auCx3Bc_6Kf72eon2JQIhUFxwSsu0XuccyvDHX8e_xDjOEw_NwjNgQm5XK-E&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=810.111)):

I must tell you a lovely story. There is a large Christian center, a welfare center, in one of our large cities. And it does such good work for the unemployed, and for single mothers, and so on, that the council gives it an annual grant of 120,000 pounds, which covered most of their welfare. To that center---which has an Anglican congregation at the heart of it---quite a small congregation, but they carry the whole thing; and if I named it, you would know what I'm talking about---came a new Vicar, who came from an extremely wealthy family, and had a fortune of his own. And he agreed to come as Vicar with no income whatever; that he would pay himself out of his family wealth. And he did so for two years. And then to his horror, the Lord spoke to him in prayer while they prayed and said, "I want you to give away every penny of your family fortune. And I don't want you to tell anybody you done." And he did it. He gave away every penny, and from then on had nothing---no salary from the church, no family fortune. And he never told anybody. For two years, he and his wife and his children survived. How, they don't know. Somebody would bring an apple tart one day. And they lived; and he thought, "Lord, why are you doing this to me? It doesn't make sense." And then at the end of two years, the council said, "We want you to start a club for gays and lesbians." And the congregation discussed it and said, "We cannot do that, not in the name of Jesus." And immediately the council withdrew the grant of 120,000 pounds. And the church met and the vicar said this. He told them now, because the Lord told him to, that they had lived for two years without a penny coming in. And he said, "I couldn't understand why," he said, 'Now, I know why. As a church, this is how we've got to live now. And we will not stop any of our welfare work; but we will go on doing it and believe the Lord will keep it going." And it has done so. We're going to have to learn to do without financial help from the government.

([16:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=5n6Pl3McqfT1W8yIMtGsFBPjfRu22vaA0FBeFGLYsozxFNtIcSodSwbV1zz0_rNzH0LuvLiHavKXjOuP2rKYHZDVE44&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1001)):

There are many other ways I could mention in which the Sex Discrimination Act will now, or will soon be used to prove the churches that have an all male eldership are breaking the law; or churches that will not have a gay pastor will be breaking the Sex Discrimination Act. **Can you see all this coming? It's here**? **This is the 21st century situation of the church in Britain (and America).**

([17:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=yIquMDfxfmukK8J1k3_fmxlHytmz23ure8qZt_qSmG0JehBxo2hrcdbyFjeP2mmBWJc8BsLHK2WxAh3gRexsALNVvK4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1035.23)):

Do you know that in (this may bring it more home to you) that every four days, as many Christians die for Jesus, as people were killed in the Twin Towers 911 disaster? But the media doesn't care that much; it's not news. The day will come when we may well face a choice in Britain, deny Christ or die. Thousands of Christians are being faced with that choice. Now, why should we be so privileged? When an Indian church heard that Christians in Nepal had been put in prison, they called a prayer meeting. And round the circle of prayer they prayed, "Lord, please get them free. Pleased look after them. Please keep them safe." But the last prayer came from a little woman---a little Indian woman. And she said, "Lord, why did you give them the privilege of suffering for you, and not me? Why give them the privilege of suffering for you?"

([18:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=72dQ0v2skHa9rodiGl3MYCOXin6HkiDA4HLYSlfvUYLUiu-NCib_YpRlf0hBnOdPp8PUloRaxy7CZltDDNGG5oT9VW8&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1114.08)):

**In the new Testament? They counted themselves *worthy* to suffer... *worthy* to suffer? *WORTHY*!!** We try to avoid any pain or suffering of any kind, because we live in in such a comfortable age. But I rejoice that that's coming. My flesh doesn't rejoice; my spirit does, because here's the first big positive: a suffering church grows.

([19:04](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=WiZ1ttO6tQidsc_cymZX9Dl1AhGHkyOrpMXfQgJYvYr7dWNgO6cXby_RKeX394qFlUoydTE28azW7aGK_mPRUZ0GBTI&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1144.58)):

It's always been the case that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Do you know there are villages in China today where 85% of the population are born again? And they're paying the price. Where is there a village in England where there's even 5%?? The church when it suffers, grows. It's as if somehow it sorts things out. I haven't given any Bible yet, but then there's a book in the bookstore with everything I've said about the whole Bible in it, and you can get that. Nevertheless, I'm going to read you just one paragraph. "*Jesus was asked by the disciples, what will be the signs of your coming, the signals that will tell us your near? And he gave them four signals, utterly clear. And of these one and a half are already here. The first was in the world; the second was in the church; the third was in the middle East; and the fourth was in the sky. And you go through those four signs and you know exactly when the Lord is attending, you will know when he's at the door. He says, 'When you see all these four things, know that I'm at the door.'"*

([20:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=UkRPzJUbXoZTOQz1E57OtyGrpocDyy4evtctX9JAoHdecB7AHya78wN_A2hhdPuEvnoPAfdZNkAHODdl5-QQJT29wO0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1223.12)): ***Persecution is a Sign of Jesus’s Return***

Well now, the first is in the world, and it's wars, famines, and earthquakes. Well, that's there. The second is in the church, and He said, **"*This is the second sign of my coming. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death. And you will be hated by all nations because of me.*** *At that time, many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people because of the increase of wickedness. The love of most will grow cold; but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And, this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come."* Do you notice the progression there? ***First***, intense hostility, hatred, persecution. ***Second***, a sharp reduction in the church numbers---nominal Christians will go. The love of most will grow cold. Many will depart from the faith. And then, the gospel will be preached to all the nations. Not 'in spite of all this', but, 'then the church will do the job'. In other words, a sharp reduction in the church of nominal Christians will refine the church and purify it; and then it will be able to get on with the job. And 'all nations' doesn't mean 'all States'. It means 'all ethnic groups'. And there is our task: preach the gospel. And that's what has happened all through church history. **When persecution comes, *nominal, Christianity goes*; and, what is left is such pure salt that it can get on with the job and preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the nations.**

([22:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ijgYUmXjaVf7s7O8jY7vwHlb_VAgRvKlmcB4XkH8vZDnS57pVfT7-VV8Nbw2jQP556Hvufnyo_bJ6ZZjdYzuVvr_uVE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1350.37)): ***Persecution Purifies the Church***

You know, in the days when Russia was communist; and, therefore anti religious, atheist, anti-Christian, there was a Christian prayer meeting meeting in secret; and suddenly the door crashed open and two Russian soldiers came in with Kalashnikov rifles and said, "We're gonna kill the Christians." And the Christians thought they were drunk on vodka or something; and they were scared stiff. And then the soldiers said, "If you're not a Christian, get out." And half the prayer meeting left in a hurry. And then the soldiers said, "Now, please, will you tell us how to become Christians? But we had to get rid of the others lest they betray us." Boy, what would happen to a church prayer meeting in this country? That's what's going to happen. **The church becoming a suffering church will no longer be a nice, comfortable place to go to. It'll sort out the real followers of Christ who are willing to take up a cross and follow him, from the others who were just along for the ride.** And the church will *grow*. And the gospel will be *preached*. The church in China's growing like mushrooms. The church throughout the world is growing too, but not here. Some local churches are; but the whole picture is very depressing. The Anglicans are losing a thousand souls a week; and an Anglican official said recently that at that rate, there will no longer be a church of England by 2040. The Methodists are closing two churches a week. At the same time, the Muslims are opening two mosques a week. So there we are. My flesh doesn't welcome it. But for years, people have asked me, **"What's the answer to the church in the present, confused state?" And declining say, "What's the answer?" And I said, "I can tell you: one word, persecution!"** ***I believe that that will lead to the right kind of revival***. It always has. That will lead to a ***smaller*** but ***purer***, ***salty*** church.

([24:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=L8g591o6sfqJg5zWvnmDdmn_c1xCNnhAwDPlkLfj6Y3DN4fWkYNVX_EO6H-uVqXLLpXNoYS0KM_nD8x-_5NvbMgsTgc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1493.98)):

Now let me go on. I should think by now, you're feeling like you're listening to a pessimist. Well, I'm not a pessimist. As far as the immediate future goes, I am a realist. As far as the ultimate future goes, I'm an optimist. Let me tell you why. It's not just because the suffering will produce a purer, more effective church. It's more than that. What hope is there in our situation? The church may be growing in Africa. In fact, South of the equator, there are more villages with the gospel than the whole of France. I used to think missionary work began in the Mediterranean at the Suez canal. Did you? That only people who went beyond Suez were missionaries. I never thought of Europe as a mission field, but Europe is getting to be as pagan as we are---though we hold the record divorce figures, and the record figures for this, that, and the other. Our youth are the worst in Europe. Not by much, but they are.

([26:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=HIeqlt1l5T0vvUu9roVlPB-hS5jylRi-10JQ8ni0o_j3AmULkWWOlFdGLjQZahK9SslgJigJV7S7X81th-n9DES7UU0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1566.13)):

Well, what hope is there for the church? You're not really comforted when I say that the church in the third world is growing at such a rate that there are 50 more Christians in the world every minute than here were a minute ago. Work that out for every hour...every day. There are 200 new churches every single week. The church in the whole world is growing faster than it's ever grown before, but not here. And frankly, it doesn't spur us on here, does it?

([26:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ivN1jk1sGCWf7wn6V3OUGuhrtGgdjiVr8Y9Tf0m2BzWjru8SdeLRCQ19fdCK7ksjEydQgca4Q-NzilpyohbA_9vIskE&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1602.45)): ***Persecution Causes Us to Focus on Christ’s Return***

Well, what are we to focus our hope on, **revival**? ***No***. **Restoration**? ***No***. **Renewal**? ***No***. These have come and gone. The New Testament focused their hope on the fact that Jesus is coming back. That's what kept them going. Jesus is returning to planet earth. He's coming back again. That kept them going in all the persecution, and suffering, and everything else. That was their prime motivation. That was their hope.

([27:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=oF4Pfg5diPWSzT9paTFKxS6r9Cier1KfMeqtAEIsVYC8tkM1nWpCRAfl--m3xUTQrsvA5R3sgh5HyAoNo26iezRkFIc&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1639.41)):

My grandfather was a Methodist minister and he was sometimes asked to write his own autograph in children's autograph albums, and even adults. It was a craze years ago. And he only wrote two things. He either wrote, "He whose sermon is a godly life, will never preach too long." Or,he wrote, "When the outlook is bad, try the up look!" That was typical of him. And he was motivated by the second coming. On his gravestone, there it is, 'David Ledger, Pawson. Died 1934'. And then there are three words, which are not in the Bible. They're in an old Methodist hymn: "What a meeting!" And you know, many people reading that gravestone must wonder, "What on earth is he talking about? Some weirdo is buried here? What a meeting??" He was talking about the biggest Christian meeting that will ever be held. So big that there's not a stadium on earth or anybody else that would hold it. It's in the air. And it's going to be the noisiest Christian meeting you've ever been to. If you don't like noisy meetings, don't come; the angels will be blasting trumpets and shouting, "Hallelujah!" And I'll be shouting as well. That's what he lived for. The Lord's coming back.

([28:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rmmZpbpwrXJHrnYClz--vlxCWZT9z7O4AmrKgBM5E3nbs_yPcrC67QQh4zCfxLSHnelm-4f1Hd4Uc20zPD06xnq-Ww4&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1726.79)):

Now, even in our situation, where society around us is crumbling and where morality is on the way out---and I do not see that the church will be able to stop the rot, much less, turn the tide---it is going to go much further out. If there is a moral backlash (and there are signs of that), it will turn to Islam.

([29:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=s8XnPco4onPPzn2Ks78MGqJYK1kPzlXw3-w7LhbJjOnkp843jDgB3Wnf1l-OGVKAIVp6IOxRSs3sl4Dcd3rW85u784s&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1753.05)):

There was a program on BBC recently called, 'Why are Southern Baptists in Texas becoming Muslim"? I couldn't believe the title. So I watched the program, and here were Christian families, Baptist families in Texas---the Bible belt---turning to Islam. And it was because the church was becoming so wishy-washy...so compromised. And you know, I don't think that the church going in the way of the world attracts the world. I think it attracts the contempt of the world. We should not be following the world downhill ---but 15 years after everybody else, which is what we do. We Christians drag our heels; but we follow. We should be leading the world back uphill, but we're following them downhill. We're accepting things now in church that would just never been accepted 20 years ago, even in dress.

([30:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=rU1rnTSjOUVgkv82KPY5_UtKkgNVC29EBrQxIo2OIjTbWAkm8RmwHo6qkPLWlZHQfq63UWgg7lOG4wdsC7Uzzq76kdM&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1817.48)):

Well, what hope is that for us? The Lord Jesus Christ is returning. That I believe must become central again to church life. In the New Testament there was one prayer that was prayed so often and so deeply that we still have it in the original Aramaic language. 'MARANATHA!' We hardly hear preaching about the second coming in many churches; nevermind, praying for it. Still praying for this revival around the corner; but, "Even so, come Lord Jesus!" That's the prayer.

30:56***Looking for His Return Motivates Us: #1 WHEN is He Coming Back***

**Now, how can that motivate motivate us? Well, very simply, by asking *two questions* about the second coming.** Number ***one***, ***when is he coming back;*** ***why is he staying away so long*?** Have you ever asked yourself that question? It was asked even in the time of the new Testament. In one of the last books of the new Testament to be written, the second letter of Peter, Peter was dealing with a question that many were asking, "Where is this 'coming'? He said the Lord's coming back. Well, where is it??" Well, if they were asking that after a hundred years, after 2000 years, boy it's still a most relevant question. Why on earth? Haven't you come Lord? The world desperately needs you, but why are you staying away? And in the same third chapter of second letter of Peter is the answer. And this is what he says. **"*He is being patient with you. Not wanting any to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.****"* That's why he's delaying. **He wants as many as possible in his kingdom.**

([32:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=Iv9L6U2VLjtYLl7tAzYnJ6-ifsAIOlZB8tb8mEikN0bJk7mwSBRc2O8dWp4wCXnydYS2UzAZk2lID948kOLxrCYeqec&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1933.38)):

And so he's holding back, until the job he gave us to do has been done. God has the number of Gentiles that he wants in and the number of Jews that he wants in too. And when the full number of the Gentiles has come in, then Israel will be saved; but he wants this. And he's given us a job to do. He didn't say, "Go and put up church buildings." He didn't say, "Go and have regular worship services." What did he say? He said, "Go and make disciples of every ethnic group; go and preach the gospel to every creature; go and preach forgiveness and repentance to the nations. As God sent me---my Father sent me---so send I you." I've quoted Matthew, Mark, Luke and John from the end of all, four gospels. That's the job he gave us to do. And he's holding back until it's done. And the same third chapter of Second Peter goes on to say, **"We can speed the day of his coming."** We can actually change the date, get it brought forward. How? By getting on with the job; doing what he gave us to do so that he can come and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

([33:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=P6OcO7XnuI08G4GEh06GTqUvnRbOgXXagGSx4l1mZuNomAmiEMjRx4o5Tc60QTbH6H9xFgJ4xadendFjWAHH4_qKj-A&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2024.86)):

**But what about social action?** And this is a key area. What about Christians trying to do something socially and politically? But why try and do anything about it if it's a lost cause? Why try and make the world a little better, if it's just going to get worse and worse? Here is a dilemma for many Christians. Well, what has the hope of his return to do with all that? What's the point of making a protest about this bit of legislation, when the whole situation....we may win a battle, but we're losing the war.

([34:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=hi5Qw658QnOb4pGvXbXfY9QuF4HAgzO_I3G4qpmdp0Ft7BuEXwwBjpOGWaSisoWpNyn9ZdUeL00T3XGLHq_wDvkN75c&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2064.49)):

Take "*Keep Sunday Special*" as an example. Christians spend an awful lot of money and prayer trying to keep Sunday as a day of rest. Now, I'm afraid I have views on that. I don't believe Sunday's a Sabbath. I believe it's a celebration of the day that God went back to work; but that's beside the point. Christians tried to keep shops closed, and to keep Sunday special, and made a determined effort; but it failed. And now people can go to the boot sales Sunday morning, the shopping mall or sports stadium Sunday afternoon, and the cinema at night. You'd hardly recognize Sunday soon. Why bother, when it's a losing battle??

([35:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=7MMjq8aauuhFS9FAPw2wd9RF_hn1pm0bgu6SaZnzj-7WVKppSbbptkqFp2QZ5wGer2PylKguQZ1L9i7o51THnNZ9ph0&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2112.79)):***Looking for His Return Motivates Us: #2 WHY is He Coming Back***

**Well, we must ask another question about the second coming,** and this will change the situation: Why is he coming back? We've asked, "Why is he staying away?" Now let's ask, **"*Why* is he coming back?**" And I find that most Christians have never even thought about it. Oh yes. All Christians believe he's coming back. At least they say so in the creeds every Sunday; but they don't seem to think about why he has to come back. Didn't he do all he needed to do on the first trip? Didn't he finish the work of salvation? No, he did not. Not the gospel of the kingdom. It's not complete yet by a long way.

([35:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=_-NlAr6lPkczyOh_dqbrvesEtMOhSCW_F5R7U1MrQXYGWZeVUotae-bBywju4oyX_YN8boaO8K3YCcZKxN4XTg-ev6s&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2155.51)): ***He’s Not Coming to Take Us Home!***

**Why is he coming back? There are three (broadly speaking)... three answers I hear in church.** ***One***, **he's coming back to take us *home*.** Do you know the song, 'How Great Thou Art'? "When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation, to take me...home." Do you know? It's amazing how many Christians think he is just coming back to take us home? So, how long will e be here? Two minutes? How many? And he's bringing all of the saints in heaven back here with him. And then if he's going to take us home, he's got to take them all the way back up again a minute later! I mean the whole thing begins to be ridiculous. It's all based on a misunderstanding of just one verse in John 14, "I go to prepare a place for you; and where I am, there, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that way I am, you may be also." You've got to understand that, in the light of the whole New Testament, teaching about his second coming. He's coming back to stay for quite a while. So there are one party of Christians saying, "He's coming to take me home." Do you know the word 'eschatology', the study of the last things? I call that one 'escapology': "I'm just waiting for the Lord to get me out of this! Get me, take me home; and I'm finished with this world then." Those sort of Christians don't engage much in social action.

([37:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=W-gdg7LkjZ_mTU0IHHy2TYKO2PApPJOjzHbrTigjH-CBRsLWMzQpjE2fiQ6Ufjiy44EKjW5CzNzWg4IuIP1BdqnkFPk&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2253.33)): ***He’s Not Coming Back to Judge the Living and the Dead!***

The ***second*** answer is in the creeds, which are not biblical at this point, "From thence he shall come again to judge the quick and the dead (or, the living and the dead)." And the idea that the Lord is only coming back to judge has got a firm hold in the majority of Christians in this country. And that's all. Well, that's the end. Who's longing for judgment? Who gets excited about judgment? And in fact, **he's not coming back here to judge; because it says in my Bible that before the judgment day, heaven and earth will have passed away.** So he's not coming back here to judge.

([38:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=LT9xfSsDYwehc55v23-fZ3whzS7GL4Hf5kGrzKYSe8J8Ms2WRniZsAgmRwCHap1z02Qz_2lTHBRfKX74xPp8tDkmu4Q&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2296.26)): ***He’s Coming Back to REIGN!***

The ***third*** answer is the one that I share with John, with this church, and with a number of churches, but alas, a minority. I believe that **he's coming back to reign....to reign over this world**. And we are going to reign him, and the world is going to have a Christian government at last. And then...then we'll come true that, *"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore."* Why this multilateral disarmament? Because Jesus, it says, will judge the disputes between the nations and settle them with justice. And from justice, you get peace. And even nature....."The wolf and the lamb will lie down together (It doesn't say the lion and the lamb. It says the wolf and the lamb will lie down together), and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and a child will play safely with snakes. And even old people will be safe in the streets," it says. That's not a pipe dream. Humanly speaking, no politician on earth can promise any of that. But when Jesus gets back, it's going to happen. And we are going to share the responsibility of governing the world with him. And, therefore, those who believe that, will be motivated to demonstrate the kingdom that's coming---demonstrating it, ***now***. To fight for righteousness, ***now***. We're just getting in training for when we will be the government. You see the job you get when Jesus takes over this world will depend on how you do your job now. You're preparing for that---not on Sundays, but from Monday to Friday. **He's looking for faithful, trustworthy, servants whom he can set over 10 cities**. You know, I was preaching about this, and a man came up to me afterwards (he may be here, for all I know).... but a man came up to me, and he said "For the first time I can see a conection between my faith and my job." I said, "Why? What's your job?" He said, "Depolluting the rivers of England." And he said, "We've got salmon in the Thames again." And he said, "When Jesus comes back, you'll need someone to depollute all the springs and rivers, and even the ocean." He said, "I want that job. I'm going to really study my job now." He said, "I've got an incentive. I'll be able to offer it to Jesus when he returns." No "Escape and take me home." He wasn't saying, "He's coming to judge." He was saying, "I want to be ready to reign with him."

([41:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=bYgkmgYuRfFLX7qKEDtI94tLdZjrZhywjKVbEErCzTQZVv409tcsc-k4eb_IBQtHYL_WtxDP9LSk2TkMn0BzH8QkOno&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2478.55)):

I began meetings for men 10 years ago. I called it 'Men for God'. And I took the phrase from **Revelation chapter 5:9-10**. "*He has redeemed with his own blood, out every kindred and tribe and time people, men for God; and they shall reign on the earth (not in heaven, on the earth)."* And I believe that our Lord Jesus is coming back, and will be looking for people who can be relied on to make a difference...who have stood for social righteousness, as well as personal holiness. And that dear man was saying, "You've connected my faith to my job for me."

([42:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=ejA0Iw5MrMD9HA6KwKCeHtd1rrAIC0PcTVyH0cMV5tvYUPc-oZiTD6FiQdUF5okftynyyYGgJMDAaWg2Y8vZnjdB-Fg&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2527.7)): ***Persecution: In-Growing or Out-Going Church?***

Well, I'm sorry if I've taken more time than I said. Let me conclude with a question. In all the pressures of the 21st century that are coming on the church---on local churches---the big question is going to be, "Will they become an in-growing church, or remain an out-going church?" What do I mean? The temptation will be for churches to pull in...to protect themselves...to hide away. So the church has become ghettos as, alas, most Jews in England have become, in the sense that they no longer feel a mission to be the light to the Gentiles. They have withdrawn, in a sense, into their own community. And Christians can do the same. Churches can become a cave of Adullam, where Christians can escape---retreat---from the world. Don't let that happened to you, please.

([43:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=OVCduQ2DjUxiljHnUm18cq1txw4EcWfqr9aajwh6Wu5w331MrjRfmatqZK71gUQhWn7XIEHnkaKRT3UOPkIrD5axo4o&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2594.69)):

Let me ask a question of the church members here, and of any of you as a member of another church. Why did you join the church, if you were a Christian before you joined it? **Did you join it for what you could *get*, or for what you could *give*?** And if it was 'to give', was it to give to the church, or to give to the community through the church? Jesus called us to be out-going, however tough the situations and circumstances. He said, "Go!" And he attached to that command a promise, and to the promise, a condition. He said, ***"Go and make disciples of all ethnic groups. And lo, I am with you to the end of the age."*** The presence of the Lord is dependent there for our going. And when anybody tells me they've lost their sense of the presence of the Lord, I give them a simple cure. I say, "Go and tell someone else about him, and you'll find it back. Share with somebody else, and he'll be with you. "***Go***," and, "***Lo***." And sometimes we want the ***'Lo'*** without the ***'Go***.' Oh, sorry. ***'Go'*** and ***'Lo'*** make ***'Glow'***, don't they? So he wants this to be a ***'glowing'*** church that is **'going'** and enjoying his **'lo, His presence is with you'**. A glowing church that has become the light of the world, as well as the salt of the earth**. *AMEN.***

([44:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/Edit?token=m4D2WA92lKOCmoJMpLFajgA286VLoRjaz4fPFxI9vU8_iTAdj8Gf41oOT4aW1tIFoPm066RsVBFalzDMk8tnPlThZ6o&loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2698.04)):

**I'm going to ask you to sing another song I've written---a prayer of a man who was facing the situation we are facing in Britain, but facing it in Jerusalem and realizing that God was going to deal with it.** He thought that there would be no godly people left; but God gave him a wonderful promise. He said, "*In all the coming disasters, when the Babylonians come on Jerusalem and destroy your trees, and your animals, and your people,* ***the righteous will survive by keeping faith.*”** And that's going to happen here. And the righteous will survive. And this changed Habakkuk's out-look; and his prayer changed from complaint and grumbling into praise. And he said, ***“Even though the fig tree doesn't blossom, and no animals in the stall, yet will I rejoice in God, my savior? I feel like a deer leaping from height to height.”*** And that's facing a situation such as we're facing. Let's sing that hymn. ...it's a long hymn. I put the whole chapter three to song. And please, whoever's playing for us, keep it going. We don't want a funeral! This is the whole of **Habakkuk chapter three's prayer**. *"Yet, will I rejoice; though the worst happens, I'm still on top in the savior,”* right? Okay.

**Verse 1**

**Lord your fame has gone before you,**

**From the time your arm was bared.**

**Tales of deeds so overwhelming,**

**Even listening makes me scared.**

**Now today, O Lord, repeat them,**

**Prove that you are still the same.**

**But in love remember mercy,**

**For the honor of your name.**

**Verse 2**

**Look, this Holy God descending,**

**Spreads the sky with glorious rays.**

**Trailing from His hand of power,**

**Earth is filled with sounds of praise.**

**But the guilty nations tremble,**

**Plague and pestilence their fears.**

**Even ancient mountains crumble,**

**When the infinite appears.**

**Verse 3**

**Are you angry with the rivers?**

**Is your wrath upon the streams?**

**Do you rage against the ocean,**

**With your horse and chariot teams?**

**Writhing hills and flooded valleys,**

**Sun and moon stand still in fear,**

**At the glint of flying arrows,**

**Lightning of your flashing spear.**

**Verse 4**

**Striding through the earth in vengeance,**

**Thrashing nations till it’s done,**

**All to save your chosen people,**

**Rescue your anointed ones.**

**You have crushed their wicked leader,**

**Stripped him bare and split his head.**

**So his storming, gloating warriors**

**Scatter to the wind instead.**

**Verse 5**

**Having heard the final outcome,**

**Knowing all and not just part,**

**Great emotion grips my body,**

**Quivering lips and pounding heart.**

**Trembling legs give way beneath me,**

**Yet with patience I will wait,**

**When the foe invades my country,**

**Certain of his dreadful fate.**

**Verse 6**

**Though the fig tree does not blossom,**

**And the vine is void of grapes;**

**Though the olive trees are barren,**

**And the fields produce no crops;**

**Though no lambs are in the sheepfold,**

**And no cattle in the stall,**

**Yet will I enjoy my Savior,**

**Glad that God is all in all!**

**Verse 7**

**Joyfully I face the future,**

**With my failing strength restored;**

**And my angry questions answered,**

**By this marvelous sovereign Lord.**

***See my heart and feet are leaping,***

***Like a deer upon the heights.***

**Set my words to holy music,**

**Voices and stringed instruments.**