

What Does the Bible Really Teach... about Jesus' presence?

What Jehovah's Witnesses believe	What Does the Bible <i>Really</i> Teach?
<p>Various signs indicate when Jesus' presence began</p>	<p>Various signs would indicate that Jesus' presence were near</p> <p>Matthew 24:33, 36-37: Likewise also you, when you see all these things, know that he is near at the doors. ... ³⁶ "Concerning that day and hour nobody knows, neither the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be.</p>
<p>The 'great tribulation' occurs during Jesus' presence</p>	<p>Jesus' presence (or coming) would follow the 'great tribulation'</p> <p>Matthew 24:21, 26-27, 29-30: for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again. ... ²⁶ Therefore, if people say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; 'Look! He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes out of the east and shines over to the west, so the presence of the Son of man will be. ... ²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.</p> <p>Mark 13:19, 24-26: for those days will be days of a tribulation such as has not occurred from the beginning of the creation that God created until that time, and will not occur again. ... ²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling out of heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.</p>
<p>X Jesus' presence began in 1874 (until 1931)</p> <p>Jesus' presence began in 1914</p>	<p>Jesus' presence was expected to occur within a generation of his ministry</p> <p>Matthew 24:34 (also Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32*): Truly I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away until all these things happen. <small>* Luke omits "these".</small></p> <p>Luke 17:24-25: For just as lightning flashes from one part of heaven to another part of heaven, so the Son of man will be in his day. ²⁵ First, however, he must undergo many sufferings and be rejected by this generation.</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 4:15: For this is what we tell you by Jehovah's word, that we the living who survive to the presence of the Lord will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep in death;</p> <p>James 5:8: You too exercise patience; make your hearts firm, because the presence of the Lord has drawn close.</p>
<p>Jesus was enthroned in 1914</p>	<p>Jesus would be enthroned after the 'great tribulation', during his presence</p> <p>Matthew 25:31: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit down on his glorious throne.</p>