

Title: A Preview of the Second Coming

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Hi, I'm Jim Schultz, Pastor of Lighthouse Assembly of God.

Some weeks ago, I told my high school class the New England Patriots would win the Super Bowl. I backed this prediction up with reasons like how many AFC title games and Super Bowls they've played in and won and other stats. Well, they got there, but the Philadelphia Eagles won that shootout in dramatic fashion, showing just how tricky it is to predict the future accurately.

Now the Bible predicts that Jesus will return, finish setting up His kingdom here, administer justice, and bring unity under Himself, the King of Kings. But is this just a tricky prediction that is impossible to put confidence in or something we can make a strong case for? Peter and Paul both give evidence from the past to believe in that future event, but let's focus on 2 Peter 1:16-18 (NIV).

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Peter saw the Transfiguration with his own eyes (you know, when Jesus lit up like a Christmas tree; see Matt. 17 and parallels). That was a preview of the Second Coming of Jesus in glorious power. Nor was Peter the only eyewitness: James and John saw it too. Seeing a preview of Star Wars: The Last Jedi last year assured us that the movie would come out—and it did. In the same way, the Transfiguration was a preview that assures us that Jesus will return to bring justice and blessing to the earth.

325 (1:46.68)