

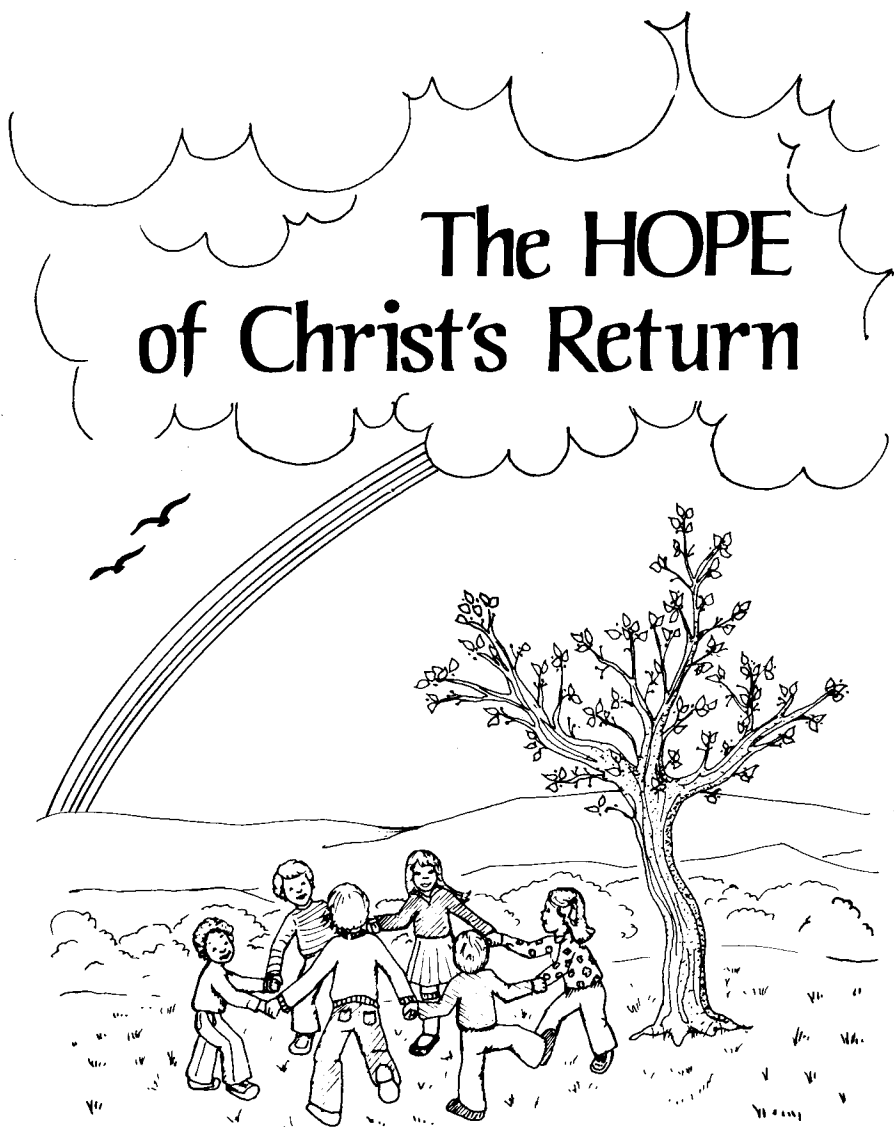
# Children's Magazine

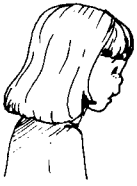


**THE  
WAY**

March 1979

## The HOPE of Christ's Return





# The HOPE of Christ's Return



The word "hope" in God's Word means something which God has promised that is not yet available. The one promise in God's Word which is NOT yet available is Christ's return. One day Christ is going to return to gather together ALL the born-again believers to live with him FOREVER! What an exciting day THAT will be! Christ's return is also called the "gathering together."

Since only those people who are born again will be gathered together with Christ, how does someone become born again? Romans 10:9 and 10 says that when you confess Jesus as lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you become born again. This is your guarantee that when Christ returns, you will be gathered together with him.

What will happen when Christ comes back? I Thessalonians 4:15 and 16 says: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [come before] them which are asleep. For the Lord [Christ] himself shall descend [come down] from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

When Christ returns, not all the born-again believers will still be alive. Those born-again believers who will NOT be alive when Christ comes back are called the "dead in Christ." The first thing God is going to do at Christ's return is to make these believers alive again! I Thessalonians 4:17 tells us what will happen next. It says: "Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Those believers who ARE alive when Christ returns will be caught up into the clouds along with the believers who have just been made alive. Together, we will all meet Christ IN THE AIR! I Corinthians 15:52 says that all this will happen "in the twinkling of an eye."

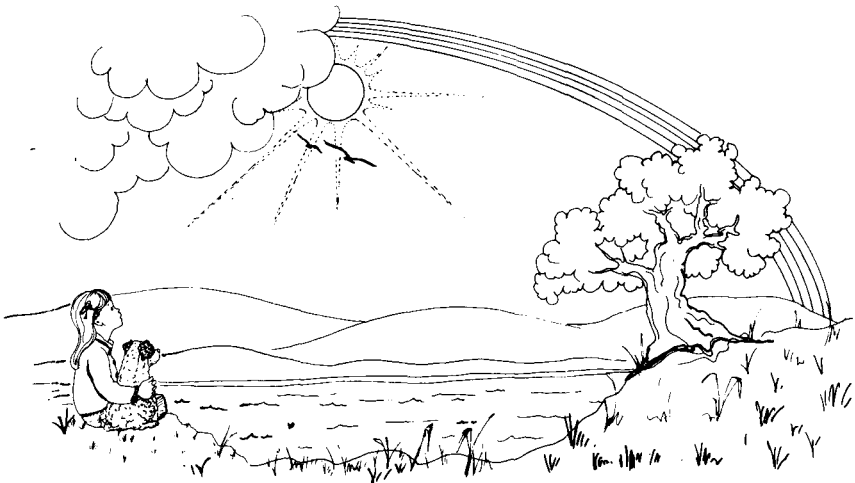
Once we have all been gathered together, nothing will EVER happen again to make us feel unhappy or sad. Everything will be perfect and all of us, as born-again believers, will live together with Christ FOREVER!

No one, except God, knows WHEN Christ is coming back. It will be a great big surprise for everyone! Christ could return in one hundred years, next year or even before you finish reading this page!

There is nothing you or I can do to bring Christ back any quicker than what God has planned. It is like your birthday. You could go to the store and buy yourself a birthday cake, but that would not make your birthday come any quicker. Although we do not know WHEN Christ shall return, we are positive he WILL return because God's Word promises us he will.

Until the day Christ returns, God wants us to believe this promise in our hearts. He wants us to believe the other promises in His Word, too. Let's remember that we are more than conquerors in all we do. Right now we are sons of God with all power! As God's children He will always take care of our every need.

Let's obey God's Word every day. As ambassadors for Christ, let's share God's Word with others and teach them how *they* can become born again. Then they, too, can expect Christ's return at any moment—just like we do!



# WHO-O-O is Coming Back?



Complete each word to see who is coming back one day to gather us together with him. The letters you write in the boxes will spell the answer! The pictures on the page are clues to help you figure out these words.



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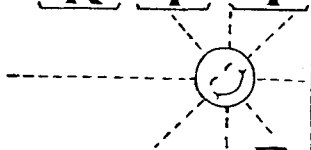
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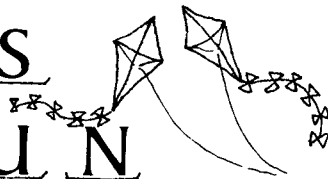


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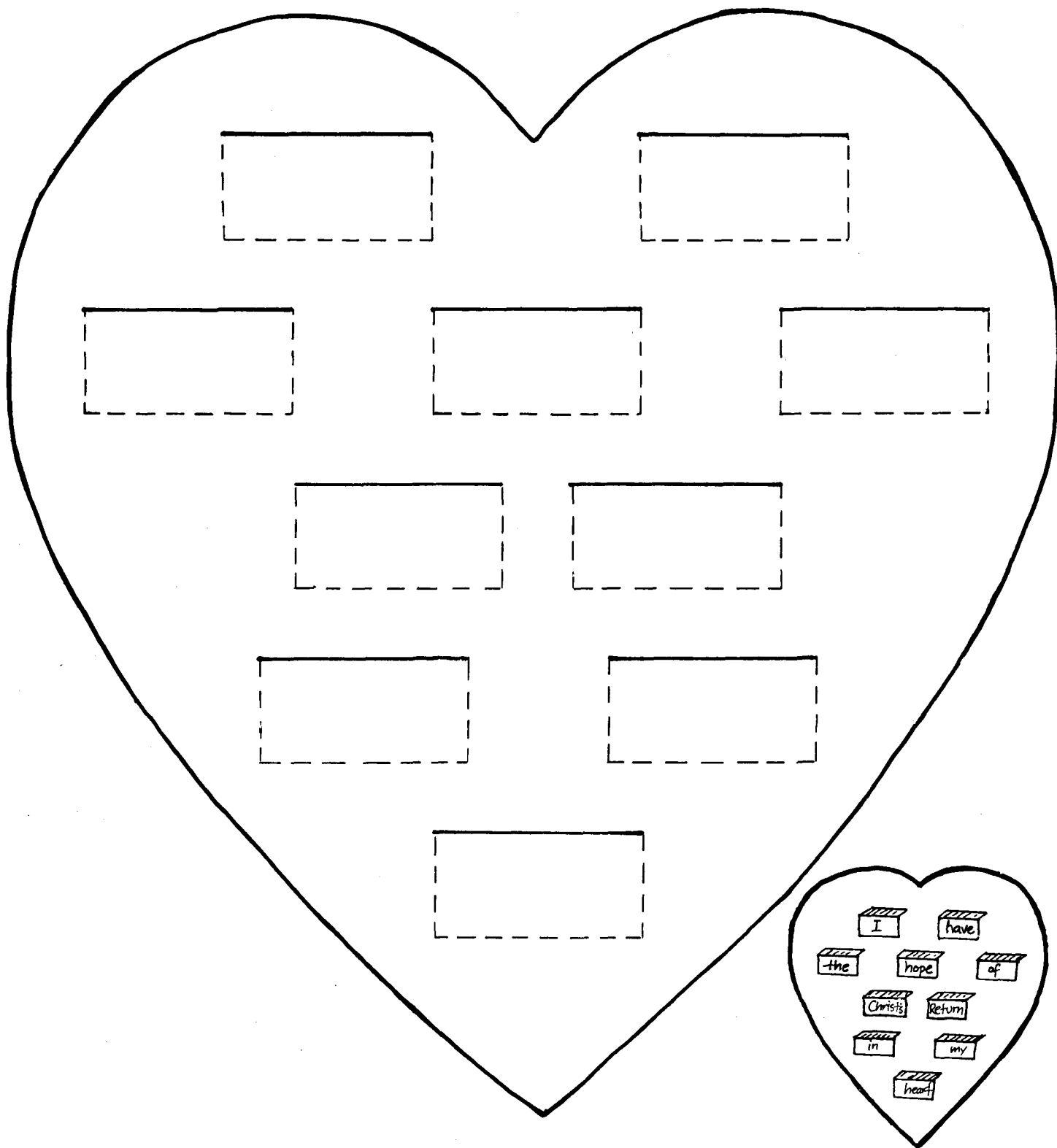


# Reviewing the Return

1. The word "hope" in God's Word means something which God has promised that is \_\_\_\_\_ available.
  - a. not ever
  - b. not yet
  - c. right now
2. The one promise in God's Word which is NOT yet available is \_\_\_\_\_ return.
  - a. Christ's
  - b. Paul's
  - c. John's
3. Once we have all been gathered together, \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ happen again to make us feel unhappy or sad.
  - a. something, ALWAYS
  - b. something, NEVER
  - c. nothing, EVER
4. No one, except \_\_\_\_\_, knows WHEN Christ is coming back.
  - a. others
  - b. neighbors
  - c. God
5. Until the day Christ returns, God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ this promise in our hearts.
  - a. disbelieve
  - b. doubt
  - c. believe

ANSWERS:

1. b, 2. a, 3. c, 4. c, 5. c



Place a piece of carbon paper FACE DOWN on top of a piece of construction paper. Next, take this page from your magazine and place it on TOP of the carbon paper. With a pencil, trace over the lines of the heart and boxes. When you are done, your construction paper heart should look just like the heart on this page. (Now you can put your page back into your magazine.)

Cut out your heart. Next, cut along the DOTTED lines of each box, and fold back along the SOLID lines. Put glue along the edges of your heart, and glue it onto another piece of construction paper. Inside each box write one word from the sentence, "I HAVE THE HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN IN MY HEART." When you are done, your heart should look like the small picture above.

# Let's Learn the Books of the Bible

As God's children, God wants us to KNOW what His Word says. When we know the books of the Bible, we can find Bible verses easily and quickly.

Unscramble each of the New Testament books below and write it correctly in the blank space. Use your Bible if you need help. Once you are done, see how many you can memorize. (HELPFUL HINT: It is often easiest to learn about three at a time.)

Mattehwh

---

kraM

---

Lkue

---

Jhon

---

Atcs

---

Ramons

---

I Ciiornnthas

---

II Ciiornnthas

---

Gaaanltis

---

Ephseaisn

---

Phiilppans

---

Cloossians

---

I Thessailonnas

---

II Thessalionnas

---

I Tmthioy

---

II Tmthioy

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Tiuts

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Phimelon

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Jaems

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II Perte

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I Jnoh

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II Jnoh

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III Jnoh

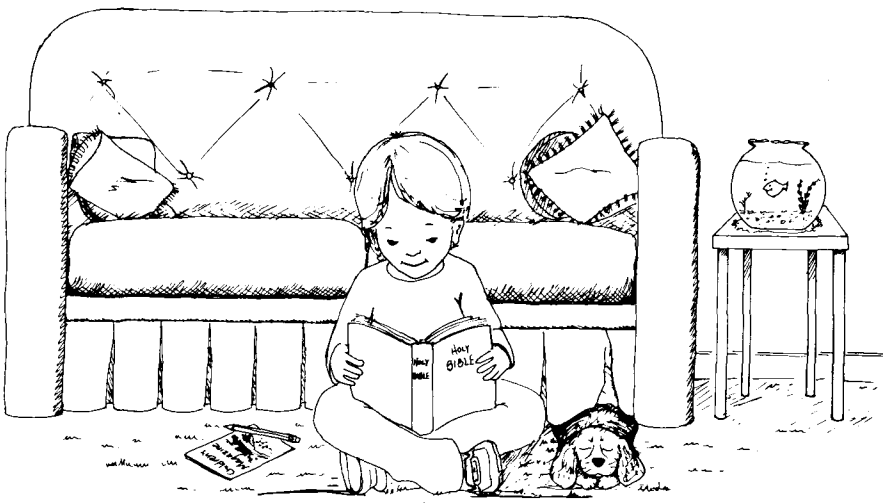
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# Retemories

I Thessalonians 4:15:

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

I Thessalonians 4:17:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Romans 8:37:

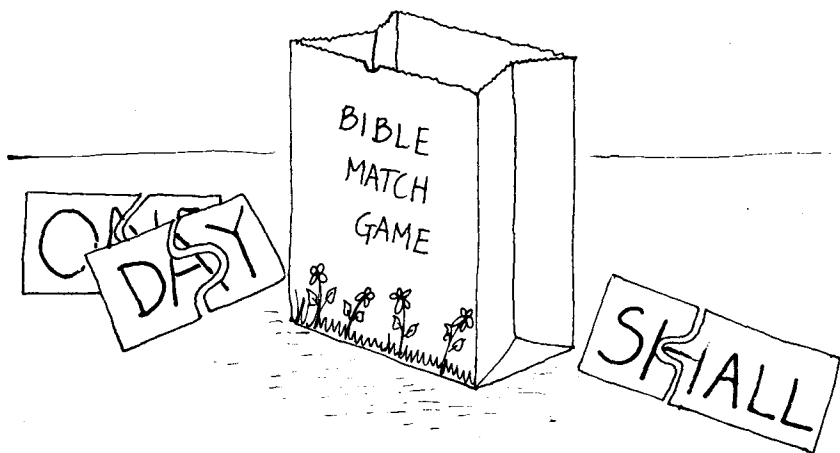
Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

II Corinthians 5:20:

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.



# Bible Match Game



## MATERIALS:

construction paper or other stiff paper, scissors, paper bag, pencil, crayons

## WHAT TO DO:

1. In large letters, write on your paper, "One day Christ shall return." Write each word in a different color crayon.
2. Cut out each word.
3. Now cut each word into two pieces, so it looks like a puzzle with two pieces to it.
4. Put the pieces into a paper bag.
5. Decorate your paper bag any way you like. Now you are ready to play the "Bible Match Game!"

## HOW TO PLAY:

Shake the bag to mix the pieces and don't look inside! The first player reaches in and takes two pieces. If the two pieces do not match, the player returns the two pieces to the bag and his turn is over. If the two pieces DO fit together to spell a word, the player keeps the pair and scores one point for making a match. Each player's turn continues as long as the pieces he picks make a match. The person with the highest number of points once all the pieces have been matched is the winner.

Have fun!

# The Lord is Coming Back

The lord is comin' back my friend;  
The lord is comin' back.  
We don't know when but he's comin' again—  
the lord is comin' back.  
(repeat chorus)

The Word of God alive inside is plain for all to see.  
Ambassadors with Christ within, we live the mystery.  
With you abounding every day we share his tender love  
Knowing that our savior soon will gather us above.

One day on the highway there'll be a big surprise,  
When you sail through your cartop into the clear, blue skies!  
With people looking left and right, they'll wonder where we've gone.  
They won't know Jesus Christ came back to take his own back home.

When he comes to take us home there won't be any fight;  
No worry 'bout the dishes, or turning off the light.  
Until that day, we'll hold it forth to all who have not heard.  
It's time we sock it to 'em with the greatness of God's Word!

