

**CONTACT:**

Paul W. Swets
Dr.swets@gmail.com
616-834-6626

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**1. What does the title mean?**

“The Coming Glory” means that death is not the end of our story. Glory is coming.

Glory refers to the power and presence of God manifested especially in Jesus Christ and all his redeeming work. Although God’s glory is evident all around us now, in creation and transformed lives, Scripture indicates we will see God’s glory in all its grandeur at death. The Bible says every believer will see Jesus, the visible expression of God’s glory. The Bible says we will see Jesus as he is. Our appropriate response to this grand mystery is wonder, awe, and worship.

2. As a way to extend the reach of your newest book, “The Coming Glory: Hope Now for Life After Death,” you formed a Glory Project Committee. How did that happen?

I visited a friend, Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, former president of Hope College, and found him at the bedside of his wife reading a pre-publication copy of “The Coming Glory” to her. I asked him about it and he said they found it helpful to read a few pages before bedtime.

Later that night, I had a dream of enabling people around the country to have a copy of the book—people who were looking for comfort and hope as they faced the loss of a loved one.

I dreamt that we had a way to send “The Coming Glory” free of charge to hundreds of pastors who requested a copy. They in turn could recommend or give the book to members of their congregations.

3. But that would cost quite a bit of money.

Unfortunately, the dream did not cover that. So I told the dream to a fund-raiser friend, and he said “That’s going to cost some money.” I said, “I know. That’s why I’m talking to you!”

That's when we put together the Glory Project Committee and were able to raise funds to bring comfort to a lot of people.

4. Why was this dream so important to you?

People are hurting, confused, and fearful. Grief is hard to bear. We all need all the help we can get. We need hope.

I served Second Presbyterian Church for 20 plus years as a minister of congregational care. I had the opportunity to minister to hundreds of families facing the loss of a loved one. Individuals and families have questions about what the Bible says about death and eternity.

I listened to their questions and answered as best I could, because the Bible has answers. but I wished I could leave a resource with them. I looked for resources but did not find any that would fit that were clear and succinct. So I wrote "The Coming Glory."

5. What qualified you to write on death and life after?

Personal experience with death in my family and near death crises of my own helped me to know firsthand the urgency of holding on to the comfort of Scripture. By experience and research I knew what the questions were. And the answers turned out to be thrilling.

Since none of us have died and come back to tell about it, we need revelation from beyond this world--revelation that only God can provide.

So I studied the Bible on this topic and discovered that what God reveals in Scripture is fascinating, comforting for the believer, and confirmed by the historical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I realized there is a huge need for a resource that articulates biblical information in a way that was easy to understand and directly relates to the needs the dying and the grieving.

6. The sub-title of The Coming Glory is Hope Now for Life After Death. How does this book provide hope?

When we are clear about the promises of Scripture for the believer at death, we will have hope. Hope replaces doubt and fear.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote,

"If we lose hope, somehow we lose vitality that keeps life moving. You lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all.

Mike was about to die and asked me to come see him. He had been a believer all his life, but now he was face to face with an enormous new reality—his impending death. We reviewed some Scripture passages and he began to relax. He experienced the power of hope.

7. What impact has COVID-19 had on how we view death?

I think the pandemic has made more of us aware of our mortality. It has increased our fear and anxiety and our desperate need of hope.

Recently I heard a podcast by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. It featured medical doctor Lydia Dugdale who was treating COVID-19 patients. When she was asked about the effect of the virus on her patients, she responded,

“I’ve had patients who’ve looked at me and said,
‘You know, I have no idea what I believe and I’m scared out of my
mind—I’m dying’”

8. When is the best time to think about one’s mortality?

Now is a great time. Proactive thinking is better than crisis thinking. The fact that we could die at any time wonderfully concentrates the mind and helps us to live our lives “sub specie aeternitatis” as one of my college professors reminded us, that is, “under the viewpoint of eternity.” And it would help to have a copy handy of “The Coming Glory” to review.

9. Where can people obtain your book?

“The Coming Glory” can be ordered at bookstores nationwide or by simply going to the book’s website, <https://thecommingglory.com>.