

7. Jesus: His Return

Before Jesus went to the cross, He promised His disciples that He would return.

John 14

- 1 *"Let not your heart be troubled;
you believe in God,
believe also in Me.*
- 2 *"In My Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so,
I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.*
- 3 *"And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and receive you to Myself;
that where I am,
there you may be also.*

According to the passage, why should we believe Jesus is returning?

1 Thessalonians 4

- 13 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep,
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*
- 14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him
those who sleep in Jesus.*
- 15 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain
until the coming of the Lord
will by no means precede those who are asleep.*
- 16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of an archangel,
and with the trumpet of God.
And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
- 17 *Then we who are alive and remain
shall be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.
And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

Based on this passage, what issues were troubling the Thessalonian Christians? _____

John 14:1-3 (Observations)

v1

Circle what we should not be.

Circle whom we should believe in.

Circle Whom Jesus says to believe in.

v2

Underline where the mansions are.

Circle what Jesus would have done if it wasn't true.

Underline where Jesus went.

v3

Underline what Jesus will do if he goes and prepares a place for us.

Circle why.

Jesus starts this incredible chapter with a bold request. To believe in Him even as we believe in God Himself! He then makes an amazing promise. He will return to take us to be with Him in His Father's house! The question is, can we trust Him? Absolutely!

Thessalonians 4:13-17 (Observations)

v13

Underline who we should not be ignorant about.

('Sleep' is a euphemism for death.)

Underline why we should not be.

v14

Underline what we believe.

(Note Jesus' Resurrection is our hope.)

Circle who God will bring with Jesus.

v15

Circle on what basis Paul speaks.

Underline who he is speaking about.

Circle who the living will not precede.

v16

Circle Who will descend with a shout.

Circle with whose voice it will be.

Underline with what He will descend.

Circle who will rise first.

v17

Underline what the living will be.

Circle why they will be caught up.

Circle how long we will be with the Lord.

The Testimony of Angels and Prophets

Acts 1:9-11

- 9 Now when He (Jesus) had spoken these things,
while they watched,
He was taken up,
and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven
as He went up,
behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
- 11 who also said,
"Men of Galilee,
why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus,
who was taken up from you into heaven,
will so come in like manner
as you saw Him go into heaven."

How does this passage help us identify the true Messiah? _____

Zechariah 14:1-4

- 1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
- 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;
The city shall be taken,
The houses rifled,
And the women ravished.
Half of the city shall go into captivity,
But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
- 3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.
- 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,
Which faces Jerusalem on the east.
And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,
From east to west,
Making a very large valley;
Half of the mountain shall move toward the north
And half of it toward the south.

Has this prophecy been fulfilled already? Why or why not? _____

Look at a map of Jerusalem. When the above prophecy is
fulfilled, what will happen to Jerusalem? _____

Acts 1:9-11 (Observations)

v9

Circle what happened to Jesus while His disciples watched.

Circle what hid Him from their sight.

v10

Underline what they did as Jesus ascended.

Underline who appeared by them.

v11

Underline what they asked the disciples.

Circle how they described who was taken into heaven.

Underline how Jesus will return.

The angels said 'this same Jesus' who was taken up will return 'in like manner.' This pretty much explains how to detect the true Messiah. Can you imagine the expressions on the faces of His Jewish brethren who will finally shout, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Zechariah 14:1-4 (Observations)

v1

Underline what is coming.

Circle what will be divided.

v2

Circle who God will gather to 'battle against Jerusalem.'

Circle what will happen to Jerusalem.

Circle what will happen to the houses and women.

Circle who will go into captivity.

Underline what will happen to the remnant of the people.

v3

Underline what the LORD will do.

v4

Underline what His feet will do.

(Remember Acts 1:11)

Circle where the Mt of Olives faces.

Circle what will happen to the Mtn.

Underline how.

Circle what it will make.

Underline what will happen to each half of the Mount of Olives.

Geologists have detected a fault line that extends from the River Jordan westward under the Mt. of Olives. A major earthquake could trigger an event described in Zechariah 14:4. Both Zechariah and Ezekiel prophesy that living waters will gush forth to fill the valley, heal the Dead Sea and all that come in contact with the waters.

(continued)

The prophet Daniel saw in a vision, and confirmed by other prophets, what will happen after Jesus returns.

Daniel 7

- 13** *"I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.*
- 14** *Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*
- 27** *Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
Shall be given to the people,
the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'*

Reconcile the truths that the kingdom will be given to the saints on the one hand yet the dominions will 'serve and obey' Jesus on the other?

Describe the authority structure of Jesus' kingdom. _____

Revelation 22

- 12** *"And behold, I (Jesus) am coming quickly,
and My reward is with Me,
to give to every one according to his work.*
- 20** *He (Jesus) who testifies to these things says,
"Surely I am coming quickly." Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

The Book of Revelation was written 2000 years ago. How can we reconcile this with Jesus' words that He is 'coming quickly'?

Daniel 7:13-14, 27

(Observations)

v13

Circle what Daniel was watching.

Circle who he saw.

Underline how the Son of Man came.

Circle who He came to.

v14

Underline what He was given.

Circle who should serve Him.

Circle what kind of dominion He has.

Underline how his kingdom is described.

v27

Underline what shall be given to the people.

Circle who the people are.

Circle what kind of kingdom it is.

Underline what 'all dominions' shall do.

The visions of Daniel are filled with references to Kingdoms in the form of horrifying beasts that battle for supremacy or a stratified giant statue. But this Vision reveals the most eminent King and His Kingdom which will be everlasting and demand the obedience of all other kingdoms. God Himself will give authority to His Son, Jesus, the Son of Man, who will reign as the King of kings with His saints forever!

Revelation 22:12, 20

(Observations)

v12

Circle what Jesus is doing.

Circle what He brings with Him.

Underline what He will do with it.

v20

Underline what Jesus testifies.

Circle the prophet's request.

Though 2000 years seems like a long time for us, in God's eyes, it is not.

Psalm 90:4 says, "**For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past**".

Jesus even tells a parable in His Olivet Discourse to warn us what will happen when He returns. It is imperative that we learn its lessons and live by them.

Matthew 25:14-30

- 14 *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.*
- 15 *"And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.*
- 16 *"Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*
- 17 *"And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.*
- 18 *"But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.*
- 19 *"After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*
- 20 *"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'*
- 21 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*
- 22 *"He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'*
- 23 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*
- 24 *"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*
- 25 *'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'*
- 26 *"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*
- 27 *'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*
- 28 *"Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*
- 29 *'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*
- 30 *'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

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Matthew 25:14-30 (Observations)

v14

Circle the subject of this parable.

Underline what Jesus likens it to.

Observe what this man did.

v15

Underline what he did.

(One Talent = 33kg of gold/silver!)

Circle on what basis he did it.

v16

Underline what the 1st servant did.

v17

Underline what the 2nd servant did.

v18

Underline what the 3rd servant did.

v19

Underline what happened after a long time.

v20

Underline what the 1st servant reported.

v21

Circle what the Lord's commendation.

Underline what he will make him.

Circle into what the servant will enter.

v22

Underline what the 2nd servant reported.

v23

Circle what the Lord's commendation.

Underline what he will make him.

Circle into what the servant will enter.

v24

Circle each of the descriptions the 3rd servant had of his Lord.

v25

Circle what the 3rd servant felt.

Underline what the 3rd servant did.

Circle what the 3rd servant said.

v26

Circle the Lord's description of that servant.

Underline what the Lord said to him.

v27

Underline what the Lord said he should have done.

v28

Circle and observe what the Lord said to do to him.

v29

Circle what will happen to everyone who has.

Circle what will happen to him who does not have.

v30

Underline what the Lord said to do with the 3rd servant.

Circle what will be there.

From Matthew 6:9-10, describe the "Kingdom of Heaven" on Earth.

How is the man in the parable like Jesus? _____

How are Christians like the man's servants? _____

The Biblical 'talent' is a unit of weights. However, because of this parable, the word came to represent the abilities people have. How

is this relevant to us? _____

How can we multiply the talent God has given to us?

According to Jesus' parable, when He returns, He will ask us to give an account of how we used our talent. What will you tell Him?

What do the rewards given to faithful servants represent? _____

Who does the 'wicked and lazy servant' represent? _____

Why are his talents taken away and given to another with more?

What does his fate mean? _____

Called to Account

It is an important and sobering truth that one day Jesus will call us to account for the things we have done in this life, both good and bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). His assessment of our goodness and faithfulness will determine our place in His Kingdom, which will be a time when the authority of God will reign supreme on this Earth. Dominions, people and kingdoms will bow before the King of kings, and we will rule with Him and judge the nations. This life is but a preparation for the one to come when our true identity as children of the Creator and Ruler of this Universe will be revealed in all our royal splendor. Then we will take our places and execute the Almighty's Plan to have the whole Earth at Peace, and free of the lawlessness and wickedness that is pandemic in the world today.

We must rid ourselves of the manmade notion that are those who are called to full time Christian service and those who are not. It is a deception for the truth is that we are all called to serve our God fulltime, and it has nothing to do with a salary. Many who are being paid do little for God's Kingdom and many who never receive a wage do much. God will sort it out in due time, and there will be much regret even as there will be gratitude and praise.

There is a dilemma in this parable and you have probably discerned it by now. Who is the 3rd servant? Is he a sinful Christian or a religious non-Christian? His fate seems to support the latter. So what does this mean? Only that the sole external proof Jesus established for a true Christian is the fruit they bear. It is possible to look like a Christian, but if there is no fruit in your life, you may only be fooling yourself. Beware!

The Day of Reckoning for Believers is coming, and soon. But if you are reading this Studybook, there is still time to order your life and ensure that you will hear God say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Submit yourself to God in every way, and do not allow sin in any way. **Seek to know God, to Love God and to Serve God with your whole heart! That you might enter His Joy!**