

LESSON 13



JESUS IN THE FUTURE

Scripture Texts: Matthew 16:27; 24:27; 25:31-33; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelation 19:7

We have looked at Jesus coming from past eternity, living on earth a brief time to redeem men, and now back home in Heaven with His Father for future eternity. We cannot study the end of His life. There is no end or "last" of Jesus Christ. Praise God! He lives on forever. Jesus does not want His people to only look back upon Him in the past. He has told us what to expect in the future.

God's whole program is one. There is unity in everything He does. ALL the saints will be taken together. Enoch and Abraham will be there, Peter, Paul, all down to the last one saved. There is no language to describe the glorious scene, all gathered together to see Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: *Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

1 Thessalonians 5:6

Christ's Second Coming

Matthew 16:27 Son of man shall come—Jesus is coming again—in the glory of his Father—we can only get a glimpse of this glory at Christ's transfiguration and other biblical scenes—with his angels—the angels have a close interest and a part in our salvation, yet they never had the privilege of experiencing the joy that salvation brings. In this event, ALL people will have a very vital interest, for **then**—at the time of His coming—he shall reward every man—both good and bad—according to his works—the deeds of our lives determine our judgment.

Matthew 24:27 As the lightning—sudden, for all to see, not secret. This is the way the Second coming of the Son of man shall be.

The Judgment

Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son . . . shall come in his glory . . . then shall he sit upon the throne—the Judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10-13). The great Savior is now the Judge of all. **Before him shall be gathered all nations**—not one person absent—he shall separate . . . sheep from the goats—symbolic of but two kinds of people. What a sad time for the goats! Do all possible to see them saved before that awful day! The judgment awaiting each is told in verses 34 and 41. There is more to the end of life than to die; a stern judgment follows (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus was Savior while He was on earth. At this moment He is our Mediator before the throne of grace. On the last day He will be our Judge.

Who Are Included?

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds—as foretold when He ascended (Acts 1:9-11). **Every eye shall see him**—it is useless to claim that He has or will come secretly or unknown to even one person. **And they also which pierced him**—both the wicked and the saints, dead and alive, will see Him. Thus, the resurrection of all must precede this. (Read John 5:28-29).

First Thessalonians 4:14 If we believe that Jesus died and rose—just as sure as His death and Resurrection. **Even so**—our resurrection hinges on His. **Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him**—the spirits of

the dead saints to be reunited with their new bodies.

First Thessalonians 4:15-18 We say unto you by the word of the Lord—not Paul's idea but God's Word—**We which are alive and remain**—the saints living on earth at the time of Christ's coming—**shall not prevent them which are asleep**—the dead saints. The only ones being considered here are saints, dead and alive. He tells us that the live saints will not go ahead of the dead saints. **Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice . . . and with the trump**—the Voice which will bring them from the graves, heralding the event, calling forth the dead (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). **The dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive**—saints living at that time—**caught up together**—all the saints in one great multitude—**in the clouds**—just as **Jesus left, He will be coming. To meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord**—go to Heaven to be with Jesus and His Father forever. Oh! Thank God! For all time and eternity. **Comfort one another with these words**—testify to it. We are not told much of Heaven, but just the thought of the hope of attaining it is a comfort in life's trials and troubles to those of us who are saved from sin.

Note in these verses that our Lord assures us of the inevitability of the Judgment. No one will escape it. Our whole lives will someday be laid before us by a Judge whose wisdom is perfect, Who has every fact, good and bad alike before Him, and whose verdict will be set in accordance with the standards of perfect justice. He will make no mistakes.

The Bridegroom Cometh

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him—to the Lamb, Jesus Christ—**for the marriage of the Lamb is come**—Christ's wedding day. **His wife hath made herself ready**—the church, ready by having **washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb** (Revelation 7:14). Jesus will take His bride to the Heavenly home which He has prepared for her. There they will be together for all eternity. Are you ready and waiting for the Bridegroom to come? He could come at any time (Matthew 25:13).

This lesson closes this series, but it can find no period to the life of Christ. He is the One **which is, and which was, and which is to come**. Praise God! He will come for His bride, judge the world, then continue on as the Ruler, the Temple, and the Light of Heaven. Beyond that, we know not. That remains yet to be seen. We know it will be all good and will continue without end.

JUST A THOUGHT

There is no middle ground between good and evil.