

## 8. Prophecies about Jesus' Coming

The last lesson covered those prophecies, which when fulfilled, become the sure test of certainty concerning the coming of the kingdom on the day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. That lesson concluded that on this day of Pentecost, the kingdom of Christ, King of kings and Lord of Lords

Went out from Zion,  
Went out from Jerusalem,  
Came during the time of the Roman kings,  
Came with the apostles speaking in tongues,  
Came with power from on High,  
Came with the Holy Spirit of God,  
Came during the time of those living while Christ was on earth,  
Came through Christ the son of David,  
Came when God raised Christ to sit on the throne of David at God's own right hand.

Any doctrine that teaches the kingdom is yet to come or that Christ failed to sit on David's throne is false, and those who teach that doctrine are false teachers.

This lesson turns to the issue of what did Jesus promise and what did his apostles promise concerning Jesus' coming back.

### ***What Did Jesus Promise about His Coming Back?***

A core belief of Christians is that Jesus is coming back to take us to be with him in his father's house. In John 14:1-4, Jesus also said that the disciples know the way:

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 **You know the way to the place where I am going.**" [Emphasis added.]

When Thomas doubted in John 14:5, the Lord answered in 14:6: "6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." The same answer holds for people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Jesus is still coming back, and Jesus is still the way, the truth, and the life.

### **His Angels Will Be with Him**

Matt 25:31-33 teaches that Jesus will come in his glory, illustrating that there will be no need for some fictitious war to establish that glory. When he comes, he will already be on his throne in heavenly glory. The judgment begins immediately for people, who in this figure are the sheep and the goats. Matt 25:31-33 reads:

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Following immediately upon this passage is Matt 25:34, where the kingdom has been prepared for them since the creation of the world: "34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for

you since the creation of the world.” In Matt 25:41, in the same context, the wicked receive just punishment at his coming: “41 Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” Finally, he sums up the fate of righteous and wicked at his coming in Matt 25:46: “46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

### **He Will Come in the Clouds with Great Power and Glory**

In Mark 13:26-27, the Lord said that he would be coming in the clouds:

26 "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

When the Lord describes how his angels will *gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens*, he adds specificity to two statements by Paul. In 1 Cor 15:51-54, Paul described the scene from man’s point of view:

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

In 1 Thess 4:14-17, Paul described the scene from the circumstances of the living and the dead:

14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

In Rev 7:1-10, John described further the four angels and the four winds of the earth:

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 3 "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. . . .

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb."

In Mark 14:61-62, Jesus affirmed what had been his consistent teaching to the high priest:

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Indeed, Jesus will be coming on the clouds of heaven, where the faithful will be caught up in the air to be with him forever. There is not a single teaching that indicates a future kingdom on earth or that Christ will ever be on the earth. After all, the earth will be destroyed when he comes.

### **Terror and Apprehension at His Coming**

Terror and apprehension will fall upon the evil ones and the heavenly bodies will shake, according to Luke 21:26-28:

6 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Simultaneously with his coming, the heavenly bodies will shake and terror will strike at the hearts of men. Peter described the scene in detail in 2 Peter 3:10-12:

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

However, the kingdom of heaven will remain for it cannot be shaken, according to Heb 12:28-29:

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

### **What Did the Apostle Promise?**

One test of inspiration and the spirit of true prophecy is that all the prophecies agree even though different prophets write them down as the Holy Spirit moves them. Such is the case with Jesus and his apostles. In 1 Thess 4:15, a passage previously cited, Paul credited his prophecy of Jesus' coming and man's resurrection to the Lord's own word.

According to the **Lord's own word**, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [Emphasis added.]

Paul retells the great judgment scene described by Christ in Matt 25 in 2 Thess 1:6-10:

6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people

and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.

At his coming, the Lord will destroy the lawless one and his satanic work, according to Paul in 2 Thess 2:8-10:

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

John records the Lord telling us to hold on until he comes in order to receive our crown in Rev 3:11-12:

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

John described the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, the bride of Christ of Revelation 3 in Rev 21:2-4:

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

All of God's mystery revealed in the Bible closes with the promise that Jesus is coming and that he will bring his reward with him in Rev 22:12: "12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." Rev 22:20, the last prophecy closed the book:

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### ***Where Is Jesus Now?***

Where is Jesus now? That prophecy which has become the cornerstone of this series of lessons described what happened to Jesus when he died on the cross. Eph 1:19-23 teaches:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Revelation added many details to the circumstances of the Lord Jesus during the period from his death upon the cross until his coming in the clouds. John himself heard directly from Jesus in Rev 1:17-18:

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

When instructing John what to write to the seven churches of Asia, Jesus described himself, his circumstances, and his victory in unequivocal terms. The use of the present tense verbs show that the Lord has attained this glory, power, and might while Christians and churches continue in this present world. His resurrected life with all power, honor, and authority was a *fiat accompli*.

### **Jesus Holds Seven Stars and Walks among Seven Golden Lampstands**

In Revelation 1 the seven stars were the seven angels of the churches and the seven lampstands were the seven churches of Asia. Rev 2:1-2 describes the Lord's relationship to contemporary churches:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

### **Jesus Is the First and Last, Who Died and Came to Life Again**

That Jesus is the first and last, who died and came to life again, occupied the beginning and ending points of John's prophecies. In John 1:1-2, Christ was in the very beginning: "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning." At the close of John's writings, the Lord speaks in Rev 22:12-13:

12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

To the church at Smyrna, Jesus said in Rev 2:8:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

### **Jesus Has the Sharp and Doubled- Edged Sword**

The prophecies cast the victorious savior as the one who bears the doubled-edged sword. His sword—the one of the Holy Spirit of God—is the word of God, according to Paul in Eph 6:17: "17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The spiritual nature of this sword and the way it works on the hearts of men is clear in Heb 4:12:

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

It is a sword—not a metal one out of a scabbard, but a living and active one out of the mouth of the Savior. Rev 19:15 reads, "15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations."

To the church at Pergamum, Jesus said in Rev 2:12-13:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

### **Jesus' Eyes Are like Blazing Fire and His Feet Are like Burnished Bronze**

Jesus has ascended from his mortal body into a form described metaphorically in Rev 1:14-15: "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters."

To the church at Thyatira, Jesus said in Rev 2:18:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

### **Jesus Holds the Seven Spirits of God and the Seven Stars**

From the prophecies of the Old Testament to Rev 3:1, *sevenfold* represents fullness; in this case the fullness of the Spirit of God. These lessons have already pointed out the seven-fold Spirit promise that was to come with the Messiah in Isa 11:1-2:

- 11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

In John 3:34-35, John the Baptist told how Jesus came to hold the Spirit of God in his hand: "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands."

To the church at Sardis, Jesus said in Rev 3:1:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

### **Jesus is Holy and True and Holds the Key of David**

The key of David represents the authority of the Christ to open, shut, bind, and loose. This metaphor of the Lord's authority began in the prophecy of Isa 22:22: "22 I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." Christ passed his authority to the apostles when he established his church, the kingdom, in Matt 16:18-19:

I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be [May read *have been.*] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be [May read *have been.*] loosed in heaven."

To the church at Philadelphia, Jesus wrote Rev 3:7:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

### **Jesus Is the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Ruler of God's Creation**

Jesus as the *Amen* is brought over from the Old Testament and named Christ as the one and only one through whom the purposes of God are established. In him, is God's eternal purpose full and complete with nothing lacking. In Eph 1:9-10, Paul explained this unqualified fullness:

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Jesus, as the ruler of God's creation, is the fullness of God's eternal purpose and the complete revelation of his mystery.

To the church at Laodicea, Jesus said in Rev 3:14-15:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

### ***The Glory of Jesus at His Coming***

Finally, since Jesus fulfills all things, he now reigns before us in all majesty, glory, and honor, waging the battle against all evil and unrighteousness. That battle, as with his kingdom, is within us:

Rev 19:11-16 becomes a fitting conclusion:

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Jesus fulfilled all prophecy; God completed his revelation and revealed his mystery. Rev 22:18-19 teaches that they cannot be altered:

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

### ***Study Questions from the Scriptures***

1. John 14:1-4: What is in the Father's house? What would he do when he came back?
2. John 14:5: Jesus is what three things?
3. Matt 25:31-33: Who will be with Jesus? Where will he sit? Who will be before him?
4. Matt 25:34: What will he say to the righteous? What will they receive?
5. Matt 25:41: What will he say to the wicked? What will they receive?
6. Matt 25:46: What are two different eternities?
7. Mark 13:26-27: How will the Son of Man come? Who will be with him? Whom will the angels gather? From where will the elect be gathered?
8. 1 Cor 15:51-54: How quickly will the end come? How will the dead be changed? Over what will there be victory? 1 Thess 4:14-17: Who will come with Jesus? Does this passage say Jesus is going to set foot on the earth again? How long will we be in the air?
9. Rev 7:1-10 Who was at the four corners of the earth? Who had the seal of the living God? What was to happen before the earth would be harmed?
10. Rev 7:9-10: How many were before the throne of God? What were they wearing?
11. Mark 14:61-62: What did the high priest ask Jesus? Where would Jesus be sitting? How would Jesus be coming?
12. Luke 21:26-28: When Jesus comes, what will happen to the heavenly bodies? How will

- men respond? How will Jesus come?
13. Heb 12:25-27: Who are we not to refuse? What will God do to the earth and the heavens?
  14. 2 Peter 3:10-13: How will the day of the Lord come? What will happen to the elements, the heavens, and the earth? What kind of people ought we to be?
  15. Heb 12:28-29: What cannot be shaken? How are we to worship God? Why?
  16. 1 Thess 4:15-18: Where will we meet the Lord? How long will we be there?
  17. 2 Thess 1:6-10: How will God pay those who trouble us? Whom will he punish?
  18. 2 Thess 2:8-10: What will happen to the lawless one? In accordance with whose work is the coming of the lawless one?
  19. Rev 3:11-13: What is the name of the city of God? What will not be in the city of God?
  20. Rev 21:2-4: Who is the bride of Christ? Where is the dwelling of God?
  21. Rev 22:12-13: What will be with the Lord when he comes?
  22. Rev 22:20: Who is coming?
  23. Eph 1:19-23: What is the fullness of him who fills everything in every way?
  24. Rev 1:17-18: Who holds the keys to death and Hades?
  25. Rev 2:1-2: Who holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden lampstands?
  26. John 1:1-2: Who was in the beginning with God?
  27. Rev 2:8-9: Who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again?
  28. Rev 2:12-13: Who has the sharp, double-edged sword?
  29. Rev 2:18: Whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze?
  30. Rev 3:1: Who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars?
  31. Rev 3:7: Who is holy and true, who holds the key of David?
  32. Rev 3:14-15: Who is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation?
  33. Rev 19:11-16: Describe the Lord in his glory.