



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Until He Comes!

Focus Verse: Acts 1:7 - And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Lesson Text: Acts 1:4-11

Truth About God: God has a plan for us in the end time.

Truth For My Life: I will follow God's plan for my life.

After Jesus rose from the grave, the disciples were excited about their future. They remembered bits and pieces about Jesus' promise for the future, but as they thought about how things should come to pass, their concept of God's timing was really tangled. Acts 1:3 explains Jesus showed Himself alive after His suffering on the cross and His resurrection "*by many infallible proofs.*" He miraculously appeared to them; no less than ten of these appearances are recorded in Scripture (Matthew 28:9-10; 28:16-20; Mark 16:9, 12, 14; Luke 22:44-49; 24:13-32, 36-43; John 20:19-25, 26-31; John 21:1 Acts 1:3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:4-6).

Yet the promise of the Holy Ghost extended beyond the Jews and was opened to the Gentiles. Right before Jesus ascended, He promised the gospel would travel through their witness throughout all Judea, to the Samaritans, and ultimately, "*unto the uttermost part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). Peter likewise promised the Holy Ghost would not only be poured out on the recipients on the Day of Pentecost and on their children, but to "*all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call*" (Acts 2:39). **Now entrance in the kingdom of God does not come from keeping Jewish law; it comes through the gospel.** We learn more about the Kingdom age in the Book of Revelation. John told of a thousand-year period when Satan will be bound, when there will be peace on earth, and so on. In the Great Tribulation prior to this subsequent Kingdom age, the Jewish people will discover Jesus really is the Messiah and will become part of the kingdom of God.

Jesus' promise to return. Paul beautifully wrote of it in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: "*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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*"

In the Rapture, Jesus will come in the air to catch away His church, and we will meet Him in the clouds. In the Second coming—which we read in detail in Revelation 19—Jesus will come to the earth to fight for Israel and defeat the Antichrist and his armies before Jesus sets up His physical reign on earth. John wrote of Jesus' Second Coming to earth in Revelation 1:7: "*every eye shall see him*" on that day, and what a day that will be.

The words of Jesus on the Mt. of Olives were not simply an instruction to those present then. We are part of the group that has been filled with the Holy Ghost. By personal experience, we can testify that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead, He is alive, and He is alive in us.

Jesus' resurrection brims with another application for us as well. Just as Jesus ascended into Heaven, He will likewise return the same way. He is coming for His people. He is coming in the clouds for His church; He is coming to the earth to fight for His people, Israel. His return is our blessed hope, and until He returns, we live as witnesses to others about Him. Let us share the gospel with them. Share our testimonies with them. Share our lives with them, and by God's grace, go to Heaven with them.

Jesus told the disciples their mission. After they were filled with the Holy Ghost in Jerusalem, they were to do two things. First, they were to witness. Second, they were to watch for His return. And witness they did. First in Jerusalem, and then when persecution came, they witnessed throughout Judaea and Samaria and then to the rest of the Mediterranean world.

They never stopped watching for Jesus' return nor measuring the mission of their lives by the directives of Jesus. Those directives have not changed from their day to ours. We are called to witness and to watch. **Let us live this day with that glorious day in our view.**