

Prophecy - Matthew 24

The lesson in **Matt. 24** was given by Jesus and covers a period of time from about 30 A.D. until His return. This was one of the last lessons Jesus taught his disciples before his crucifixion.

This lesson will serve as a review of the information that we have covered in previous chapters.

INFORMATIONAL SUPPLEMENT - THE JEWISH TEMPLE

Solomon's Temple - The first temple was built by Solomon although the idea did not originate with him, but with David his father. **1 Chron. 28:2-3; 6; 11-19**. A description of this temple can be found in **1 Kings 8:1-11**. It was built on Mount Moriah, on the site of the altar which David erected on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. **11 Sam. 24:21-25**. The hill being uneven, the top was leveled, and walls were built on the sloping sides up to a level with the summit, the intervening space was filled partly with vaults. The temple had the same general arrangements as the tabernacle. The tabernacle had been constructed in such a way as to be moveable while the temple was a permanent structure. Both faced east. Its length, including the porch, was 70 cubits; **1 Kings 6**. The porch was 10 cubits, the Holy Place 40 cubits, the Most Holy Place 20 cubits. The width of the building on the ground was 20 cubits but to this was added 5 cubits to accommodate three stories of chambers. The height of the building varied in different parts. The chamber was 15 cubits high, the Most Holy Place was 20 cubits high, and the Holy Place was 30 cubits high. In the porch were two celebrated pillars called Jachin and Boaz. **1 Kings 7:21**. They were made of brass and highly ornamented. Crossing the porch, which was 10 cubits by 20 cubits, were folding doors made of cypress, having posts of olive wood. In side the Holy Place the floor was made of cedar overlaid with cypress and then covered with gold. In the upper part of the Holy Place were windows. The walls were of stone covered with cedar. The ceiling was cypress overlaid with gold. In the Holy Place there were ten golden candlesticks, five on each side, and ten tables of shew-bread, arranged in a similar way. **11 Chron. 6:7, 8** Also in the Holy Place was the altar of incense which was made of cedar and overlaid with gold. Between the Sanctuary, or Holy Place and the Oracle, or Most Holy Place, there was a partition, which were double doors made of Olive wood, overlaid with gold. There was also a veil of embroidery at this door. The Most Holy Place was 20 cubits in length, width and height. The floor, sides and ceiling were made of wood and overlaid with gold. There were no windows. There were two gigantic cherubim, 10 cubits high, made of olive wood and overlaid with gold which cross the entire width of the room.

No definite account is given of the court or courts surrounding the temple. In **1 Kings 6:36** the "inner court" is spoken of. This was the space immediately around the sacred edifice. It is also called the "higher court" in **Jeremiah 36:10** and the "court of the priest" in **11 Chron. 4:9**. The inner court contained the brazen altar which was 20 cubits in breath and length and 10 cubits high. There was also the molten sea which was 10 cubits in diameter and 5 cubits high; it stood on 12 brazen oxen, 3 facing each direction. On each side of the altar there were 5 brazen lavers. **11 Chron. 4:1-6**. Around the inner court was a larger one, called the "great court", in **11 Chron. 4:9**; the "outer court" in **Ezek. 6:21**, and the "court of the Lord's House" in **Jer. 19:14**. This outer court was surrounded by strong walls with gates of brass. **11 Chron. 4:9**.

This Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 587. Approximately 70 years later the Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel's Temple - Very little information is available concerning this temple. It was built on the same site as Solomon's temple, larger but not as elaborate, and according to Jewish authority, the Sanctuary or Most Holy Place was empty except for a stone set three fingers high where the priest burned incense and sprinkled the blood of atonement.

Herod's Temple - Herod the Great attempted to gain the favor of the Jews by the renovation of Zerubbabel's temple. In essence he rebuilt the temple, tearing down a piece at a time and rebuilding it larger and more elaborate. According to the Talmud, the entire temple was 500 cubits square, with walls surrounding it. Against these massive stone walls were built cedar roofs being supported by rows of Corinthian columns of solid marble, 25 cubits high. The colonnade on the east was called Solomon's porch. The one on the south was called the King's porch which was much wider, consisting of a nave and two aisles. The space surrounding this enclosure was the court of the gentiles. It was paved with stones of various colors. This court was also called the "Outer Court", the "Lower Court", and by the Rabbins the "Mountain of the Lord's House". The enclosure of the temple proper was on a terrace about 6 cubits higher than the court of the gentiles. It was approached by steps and was surrounded by a wall 3 cubits high. At the top of the terrace, and entirely around it, was a platform 10 cubits wide extending to another wall. In the east side of the latter wall was a gate 40 cubits wide known as "Beautiful." There were gates on the north and south to the court of women. West of the court of women, separated from it by a wall and a terrace higher still, was the court of the Israelites. This was a narrow hill completely surrounding the court of the priest. The session room of the Sanhedrin was in the south east corner of this court. On the terrace 15 steps higher was the court of the priest. In the eastern part of this was the great altar of burn-offering, directly west of which arose the Great Temple itself. The building was of white marble.³⁷

The destruction of this temple came in 70 A.D. by Titus son of Vespasian.

1. What three questions did the disciples ask Jesus? Matt. 24:3 *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

You will notice as we continue through this lesson that Jesus' answer dealt with three periods of time; before, during and after the tribulation.

2. Before Jesus would begin His comments about the future He gave them a warning. What was it? Matt. 24:4 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.*

3. Do deceivers always deny that Jesus was the Christ? Matt. 24:5 *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

Matt. 7:15; 22 *15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

³⁷ Unger, Merrill F., *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, Chicago, Moody Press, 1976, P. 1076 - 1082.

22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

4. Why are people deceived? 11 Thess. 2:10 *2 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

See also **Rom. 1:18-32** Corrupt depraved thinking cause men to become incapable of making rational judgments.

5. What is it that causes trouble and fear in the minds of the masses of humanity? Matt. 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

"Rumor" means that which is heard and talked about. Today we have war confronting us on every news media.³⁸

6. What other calamities are of common occurrence in this dispensation? Matt. 24:7-8 *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

War has a way of breeding starvation and disease. There are more than 1,000,000 trimmers each year, an average of one every 30 seconds. 3000 earthquakes every year move the surface of the earth noticeably and more than 20 each year cause severe disasters.³⁹

The United Nations has estimated that about 460 million people in the world suffer from malnutrition.⁴⁰

7. What happens to Christians when nations disregard God? Matt. 24:9 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

8. Is persecution always the result of godless men? John 16:2 *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*

9. Will unity prevail among the brotherhood or the so-called Christian world? Matt. 24:10 *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

10. How common are false prophets? Matt. 24:11 *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

11. What makes false prophets so deceptive? Matt. 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

³⁸ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

³⁹ Walker, Bryce, Planet Earth, Alexandria, Virginia, Time Life Books, 1982, P. 43.

⁴⁰ Marx, Herbert L. Jr., The World Food Crisis, New York, H.W. Wilson Company, 1975, P. 24.

It is not always what a prophet says that makes him a false prophet, but what He doesn't say. To conceal the truth is a reprehensible as to proclaim an utter heresy.⁴¹

12. What is it that makes us lose our love for the things of God? Matt. 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

"Iniquity" means lawlessness or sin "wax cold" means to cool down.⁴²

Notice the condition of the Laodicean church. **Rev. 3:14-18** *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

With the abounding of iniquity the church world becomes more and more tolerant with sin.

13. When the church compares itself with the world it looks pretty good, but what are we supposed to compare ourselves to? I Jn. 2:6 *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Jn. 13:15 *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

14. What promise is given to those who are faithful to the end? Matt. 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

In the letters to the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2-3) Jesus gave some other promises to the overcomers.

15. What must be done before the end of the grace dispensation? Matt. 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

This does not imply that the whole world will be saved, only that the gospel is preached for a witness unto all nations. Think of the hundreds of thousands of hours a year that are devoted to the proclamation of the gospel on the radio and television. When the door of grace closes the gospel will no longer be preached.

16. Where does the "abomination of desolation" take place? Matt. 24:15 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

"Abomination" means a detestable thing "Desolation" means waste or ruin.

⁴¹ Lloyd - Jones, D. Martyn, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount* Vol. 2, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960, P. 244 - 250.

⁴² Strong's.

17. How does Paul describe the "Abomination of desolation"? II Thess. 2:4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

18. When does the "Abomination of Desolation" take place? Dan. 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

It is important that we keep these verses in context with the over all prophecy to which Jesus is referring.

There will be a class of Christians that will flee to a place prepared by God in the midst of the week. This flight will be necessary to escape the fury of the Anti-Christ when he breaks his covenant with Israel and religious freedom is lost. This flight can be studied in greater detail in **Rev. 12**.

19. What sign did Christ mention by which His disciple might know when the desolation was near? Luke. 21:20 *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

20. When the Abomination takes place, how suddenly are those in Judea to flee? Matt. 24:17-18 *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

At that time any delay, for any reason would be disastrous. Anyone who refuses to forsake all and go as the Lord bids will find themselves left behind to face the Anti-Christ' persecution. Christians must be very careful not to place too much importance on worldly possessions.

21. What did Jesus promise concerning forsaking all to follow Him? Matt. 19:29 *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

22. This flight will be difficult and require a total dedication and trust in God. What are some of the things that would add to the difficulty of the flight? Matt. 24:19-20 *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:*

Remember these are in Judea where there are strict Sabbath laws. According to the Mosaic Law, Israelites must restrict their travels to 3/4 of a mile on the Sabbath, and no unnecessary work is to be done.⁴³

23. How severe will this tribulation be? Matt. 24:21 *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

24. By what other term is the Anti-Christ reign called? Jeremiah 30:7 *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*

The reason that the Anti-Christ reign is referred to in this manner is because the Anti-Christ activities will evolve out of Israel. The reason for this is not only due to the geographical location, but also because Israel

⁴³ Ungers, P. 721 & 940.

represent the heart of the three largest religious systems in the world; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is the religious systems of the world that most influence the masses. Control those and you control the world.

25. What does God do for the sake of the elect? Matt. 24:22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

The elect are the chosen of God, those set apart, sanctified by the blood of the Lamb, made worthy to be glorified with the Lord, the bride of Christ.

There's no question that time seems to fly by. Even with all the modern equipment that speeds up everyday chores there just doesn't seem to be time to do all we would like. However it is the writer's opinion that the last part of the tribulation period will be literally shortened for the elects' sake. **Rev. 8:12** *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

Rom. 9:28 *For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*

26. Of what deceptions did Christ warn us? Matt. 24:23-24 *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

27. Why are we warned not to believe it when we are informed that Jesus has come "here" or "there"? Matt. 24:25-28 *Behold, I have told you before.*

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Luke 17:37 *And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.*

Matt. 24:28 is some what difficult for the writer to explain. Some suggest that it has reference to the Battle of Armageddon; However the context seems to place the emphasis on the actual return of Christ rather than an event that would occur after his return.

It would be inappropriate to refer to Christ as a carcass or corpse but in **Luke 17:37** where the same statement is made Luke uses the word body. The word eagles is translated by some as vultures but again in the Strong's Concordance the Greek word translated eagles comes from (Ahetos) root word meaning "air" indicating its' wing 'like flight. The word "vulture" translated from the Hebrew word daw-aw means to dart or fly rapidly. It is therefore the writers conclusion that Jesus is illustrating the fact that when He returns; not just in spirit but in bodily form, gravitation will loose its' hold on the saints or bride of Christ and they will be caught up to meet Him in the air.

28. To what point on this earth does Christ return? Zach. 14:3-4 *Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the

west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

29. Who will be with the Lord when He returns? Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

The raptured or first-fruit class will have been caught up to God and the throne at the beginning of the tribulation period. The remaining saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air as He returns at the end of the tribulation period. *The dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive and remain. I Thess. 4:16-17*

30. After the Tribulation period what happens to the present day solar system? Matt. 24:29 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

31. What is the purpose for our solar system? Gen.. 1:14 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

32. How will the shaking of the Heavens affect the earth? Zach. 14:6-7 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

It is clear that this heaven and earth is going to go through dramatic physical changes when Christ returns. These verses may express how the Millennial period will ultimately have moderate climate conditions. It will not be too hot or too cold. This will be a day of rest, when the earth will exist in a state of harmony and tranquility.

33. What will be the reaction of the 12 tribes of Israel when the Lord returns? Matt.24:30 *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

"Tribes of the earth" would indicate the tribes of Israel which had been dispersed through out the earth and then brought back into their home land. **Zech. 12:10-14** *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

34. Why will the Israelites mourn? Zech. 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look*

upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

35. What are the angels commissioned to do at the Lords' return? Matt. 24:31 *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

The "four winds" would indicate from every direction. The gathering of His elect speaks of the first resurrection which will take place as the Lord returns. **Rev. 20:1-6** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

36. To what do we look in order to know the season in which we live? Matt. 24:32 *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:*

37. Is the fig tree the only tree that reveals the season in which we live? Luke 21:29 *And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;*

In **Daniel 4:4-27** the tree represented Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon.

While there is no place that states the fig tree represents Israel in exact terms, it is commonly accepted to be that which is referred to. The other trees would represent the other nations.

In Matt. 24:33 Jesus said "when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." The "it" refers to the return of the Lord.

The word translated "doors" from the Greek word "thoo' rah" means portal or entrance.⁴⁴

The doors or portals that are referred to here is referring to the door of Grace that will be shut and the door of tribulation that will be opened. The Holy Spirit will be lifted and the rapture will take place. This is at the beginning of the tribulation period thus closing the door of Grace. When that happens the "man of sin" shall be revealed, the Anti-Christ, who will cause great tribulation. Immediately after this tribulation the Lord will return.

38. This generation that sees these things shall not pass, until what happens? Matt. 24:34 *Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*

⁴⁴ Strong's.

It's difficult to determine what is meant by "generation". We may be able to find some idea from **Matt. 1:17**. By calculating the number of years involved in the 42 generations listed, one might have an approximation of the length of one generation. We also know that a generation died in the wilderness over a period of 40 years. **Heb. 3:8-10**. However Jesus may simply be saying that, the generation that sees these things come to pass, would still be alive when all prophecy has been fulfilled.

39. What declaration did Jesus make in Matt. 24:35? *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

40. How will the Heaven and Earth be destroyed? **II Pet. 3:10** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

41. Is it given to anyone to know the exact day or hour of Jesus' return? **Matt. 24:36** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

42. The attitude of the people in the days before the coming of the Lord will be the same as it was before what other Historical event? **Matt. 24:37-39** *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

43. When it comes time for the redemption of the body, will all be caught up unto the Lord? **Matt. 24:40-41** *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

44. Since we do not know the day or hour in which Christ shall return, what are we exhorted to do? **Matt. 24:42-43** *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

"Goodman" means head of the family or master of the house. The word "watch" in the phrase "...had known in what watch the thief would come...", means a period of time. The night was divided into four watches; evening watch 6-9 p.m., midnight watch 9-12 p.m., cock-crowing watch 12-3 a.m., and morning watch 3-6 a.m. Since we know the season or watch in which we live; (That is the morning watch, for the sun of righteousness is soon to appear), it is vitally important that we stay alert.⁴⁵

45. Will the world in general be expecting the Lords' return at the time of His coming? **Matt. 24:44** *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

⁴⁵ Ungers, P. 420 & 1163.

46. What is the promise Jesus made to the faithful and wise servant; who at the Lords' return is found doing Gods' will? Matt. 24:45-47 *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

47. What will happen to the evil servant who becomes disobedient? Matt. 24:48-51 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;*

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The servant represents that Christian which had at one time served the Lord, but as the Lord tarried He became slothful and disobedient.

In view of all that Jesus said in the last part of this sermon, including the statement "as the days of Noah", it would appear that when He speaks of His coming He is not only speaking of His actual appearance but also of the end of the grace dispensation which marks the beginning of the tribulation period. This is especially noted in the example, "...as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days of the Flood..., until the day that Noah interred into the Ark, and knew not until the flood came,..." Seven days before the flood Noah entered the Ark and God shut the door. That door was never to be opened again. In a like manner seven years before Jesus comes, the door of Grace will close never to be opened again. A faithful and wise servant will work diligently while He has the opportunity. An unfaithful servant will find himself in the same lot as the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**) suffering the anguish of the tribulation.

Review Questions - Matthew 24

Write these verses and memorize them: Matt. 24:35; Matt. 24:44; Jude 14

1. Which of the Jewish Temples in Jerusalem was the largest?
2. Who built the temple that was in existence during the life of Christ?
3. What was the warning Jesus gave before he commented about the future?
4. What did Jesus say would be some of the common troubles of the Church Age dispensation?
5. The church will meet with challenges from within according to Matt. 24:9-11; what are the challenges?
6. What is the standard by which believers ought to judge themselves?
7. What must be done before the end of the grace dispensation?
8. Where does the abomination of desolation take place?
9. When did the abomination of desolation take place?
10. What did God do for the elect sake in regard to the tribulation period?
11. How evident will Christ's return be?
12. Explain Matt. 24:28.
13. To what point on the earth does Christ return?
14. Who will be with the Lord when he returns?
15. What are some of the things that will occur on the earth when Christ returns?
16. Why will the Israelites mourn when the Lord returns?
17. Who gathers the saints unto the Lord at his return?
18. Prophetically; what do trees represent?
19. Ultimately, how will the earth be destroyed?
20. When it comes time for the redemption of the body, will we all be caught up to meet the Lord at the same time? Explain.

Prophecy - Redemption

Redemption is a term used to refer to the saving or redeeming of those trusting in the Lord. It is used in two different aspects although they are related. First it refers to the saving of our souls from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ, and secondly it refers to the saving of our natural body from death. It is in this aspect for which our study is concerned.

There are two other words used in connection with this aspect of redemption: "Rapture"; which is a non-biblical term, and "translate". Rapture means to seize suddenly, to move from; to remove. Translate means to bear or change from one place to another.

1. Read Luke 21:7-28 and list some of the things that were to happen before the return of the Lord. Luke 21:9-12 *ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.*

10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

(See also **Matt. 24:3-42**)

2. When these things begin to come to pass, what did Jesus say to do? Luke 21:28 *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

(Study carefully **Romans 8:1-25**)

3. Of what are you assured, if the Spirit of God dwells in you? Rom. 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Quicken: To make alive, to revive or resuscitate, as from death.

4. In receiving the Holy Spirit, what have we received? Rom. 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

5. Have we received the adoption yet? Rom. 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

6. As joint-heirs with Christ, to what are we looking forward? Rom. 8:17 *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

It is uncertain what our glorified body is going to be like but one thing we know, we shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption. **Rom. 8:21** *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the*

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Our present bodies are corruptible in that we age and die and decompose and return to the dust from whence we came.

7. So then what has Christ brought to light through the Gospel? II Tim. 1:10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

8. To who is eternal life promised? Rom. 2:7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

One does not need to seek for a thing which he already possesses. Immortality deals with the future body - which is incorruptible. The Redemption of our body (that is the changing from corruptible to incorruptible) is then the inheritance we will receive for our continual obedience to God's will.

9. Who only has immortality? I Tim. 6:14-16 *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

10. What is the seal unto the day of Redemption? Eph. 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

A seal is a sign or mark, brand, or proof of anything.

11. In light of this, what does Paul exhort us to do? Eph. 4:30 *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We are also warned not to quench the Spirit; **I Thess. 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

One grieves the Spirit when he does things that he should not do, and one quenches the Spirit when he fails to do what he should.

12. The Holy Spirit of promise is regarded as what, in reference to our inheritance?

Eph. 1:13-14 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

"Earnest" might be regarded as a security deposit, as in putting down earnest money on a house. The sending of the Holy Spirit of promise was God's way of pledging to us the coming day of redemption. He is a guarantee of our coming inheritance.

13. How was our inheritance purchased? Eph. 2:12-13 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14. Why did God send His only begotten Son to this world? John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

15. What does Jesus say He gives to those who follow Him? John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

16. In whom is eternal life? I John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

17. When will the change from corruptible to incorruptible take place? I Cor. 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

The trumpet was used as a summons, or announcement. The blowing of a trumpet was a call to war or a call to worship. Whenever the trumpet was sounded something important was about to happen. In the book of Revelation the events that were to occur in the tribulation period were announced by seven angels blowing seven trumpets. The seventh was the return of the Lord. (Rev. 8:9; 11:15)

18. What will happen to the saints of God that are alive at that time? I Thess. 4:16-17 *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:
17 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.*

19. When will those events take place in relation to the Anti-Christ reign? Matt. 24:29-31 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

20. How is this event pictured in Revelation? Revelation 14:14-16 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.
16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

21. There is a group spoken of in Revelation 14:1-5, standing with the Lamb of God. From where did they come? Rev. 14:3 *And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.*

22. How were they numbered? Rev. 14:1 *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

This group should not be confused with that group in **Rev. 7**, having the same number. The group; in **Rev. 7**, were from the 12 tribes of Israel who received a literal seal that protects them on the earth during the tribulation period.

23. What place do these hold in relation to the rest of God's elect? Rev. 14:4 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*

First fruits indicate the first and best of any harvest. Under Jewish Law, when it came time to harvest their fields, the first-fruit of that harvest is given to the Lord.

24. What are the qualifications for being a part of this group? Rev. 14:4-5 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*
5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

The description "Virgins" not defiled with women" would indicate that they are undefiled by the things of this world and its idolatrous practices. "Women" would refer to the whore in **Rev. 17** the "Mother of Harlots" that is to say the false religious and social systems that seduce mankind.

25. By what name was this group referred to in Rev. 12:5? And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

A man child was simply a male child; greatly desired in every Jewish family. There was great significance in the first born male child, for he would be the leader of the family.

26. How does Jesus illustrate this rapture? Matt. 24:40-41 *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

27. What is the man child destined to do? Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

28. What promise was given to all over-comers? Rev. 2:26-27 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

27 *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Rev. 5:9-10 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

All of the redeemed class will have part in the future rule of this world when Christ establishes His kingdom on the earth for 1,000 years; the man child represents the first of those redeemed from the earth.

29. Who is said to have part in the first resurrection at the coming of the Lord? Rev. 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

30. When will the rest be raised from the dead? Rev. 20:5 *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

31. Where will Satan be during the 1,000 years? Rev. 20:2-3 *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

There is no doubt in this writers mind that every Christian desires to take part in the first resurrection, but Jesus taught that because of foolishness and carelessness, many would fail to be ready when the time comes. Consider the parable of the Ten Virgins. Matt. 25:1-13

32. How are the Ten Virgins divided? Matt. 25:2 *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

It is important to note that all ten were virgins, indicating they were undefiled by the world and desiring to go in unto the marriage supper.

33. When the bridegroom came what were the foolish virgins lacking? Matt. 25:8 *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*

Oil throughout the scriptures was used to represent the Holy Spirit.

34. Was it possible for the foolish virgins to rely on others for their oil? Matt. 25:9 *But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*

35. What did the foolish virgins miss by not being prepared? Matt. 25:10 *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

Marriage is the coming together of a bride and groom. The marriage supper or festival was the first formal appearing of the bride and groom together; similar to our present day marriage ceremony. It is the

beginning of a new life together. Read carefully **Rev.19** and you will see that the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place just prior to the battle of Armageddon.

I Thess. 4:17 *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.*

36. What did Jesus urge us to do? Luke 21:34-36 *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

35 *For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

36 *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

(See also **Matt. 22:1-14**)

37. When will the door of Grace (opportunity) close? II Thess. 2:6-8 *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

The term "letter" means to hold back or restrain.⁴⁶ It is the Holy Spirit that restrains the evil that would otherwise fill this earth. When the Holy Spirit is lifted there will no longer be conviction and evil will run rampant. The Anti-Christ will then be revealed.

38. No man comes to the Lord unless what? John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Only those saved prior to the lifting of the Holy Spirit will be saved. One might use as an example the judgment of God in the days of Noah. Seven days before the flood came, God shut the door and it is conceivable that seven years before Christ returns the door of grace will be shut.

39. It is natural to be inquisitive about where we are in relation to God's great time table, but what did Jesus say concerning this? Matt. 24:36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

40. Is it possible for us to know at least the season in which we live? Luke 21:30-31 *When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.*

31 *So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

41. God divided His works of creation into six days or ages and on the seventh day He rested. How long is one of God's days? II Pet. 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁴⁶ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

From the fall to the flood is approximately 2,000 years or two days: from the flood to Christ is approximately 2,000 years or two days: from the time of Christ until our present day is approximately 2000 years. This would account for 6,000 years or 6 days. We are living in the eve of the 6th day and the Millennium Sabbath is just ahead. This is spoken of as the day of the Lord or the 1,000 year reign.⁴⁷ The promise of redemption is the most glorious hope in the mind of man. It is with great joy that we look up knowing our redemption draweth nigh. There are a lot of things that we do not understand, but "we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him." **I John 3:2**

Levels of Christian Commitment

Before we leave this subject, let us identify the different classes of Christians spoken of in the Bible. For example, notice the "Parable of the Sower". **Matt. 13:1-23**

42. What does the seed represent? Matt. 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

The seed has life in it. The books men write are dead, no matter how helpful or interesting.

43. What does the soil represent? Matt. 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

The emphasis of the parable is on the condition of the soil.

44. How are we to know whether a person is truly a child of God? Matt. 7:16 *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

The first three examples that Jesus gave did not represent Christians because they bear no fruit.

45. What kind of soil represents the Christian heart? Matt. 13:23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

46. What degrees of fruitfulness is the seed able to produce in this soil? Matt. 13:23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

47. What Christian experience brings peace with God? Rom. 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

48. By faith, what else do we have access to? Rom. 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

"Standing" indicates a sure footing, established in control.

⁴⁷ Crowhurst, Jerome, Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook, 1977.

49. What is another term for "standing grace"? I Thess. 4:4 *That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

50. What third blessing is given unto us? Rom. 5:5 *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

51. What is the great wonder John saw in heaven? Rev. 12:1 *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

52. How is Jesus identified in Malachi? Mal. 4:2 *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

This woman is clothed with the righteousness of Christ. **Rev. 19:8** *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

Rev. 1:13-16 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Acts 26:13 *At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.*

Matt. 17:2 *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

53. If we are clothed in our own righteousness, what are we wearing? Isa. 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

There are many who say this woman in **Rev. 12** represents Israel rather than the church, but there are several reasons why this would seem unlikely. First, in **Rev. 1:1**, it is declared that the book of Revelation reveals "things which must shortly come to pass" not things that have already happened. If **Rev. 12** speaks of Israel giving birth to Jesus, it is relating history not prophecy for John received this revelation almost 100 years after the birth of Christ.

54. The church gives birth to a special child. Identify this child. Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

55. What is the third class of Christian identified in Rev. 12:17? And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The last trump brings about the first resurrection. The first-fruit class, 144,000 have before this time been caught away to God and the throne, (**Rev. 14:1-5, Rev. 12:5**). But we who remain; the Bride, and the dead

in Christ are caught up to meet the Lord as He returns. The remnant or 30 fold class are not resurrected until the thousand years be passed. Of course any of the remnant that make a greater commitment and give their life in martyrdom will be numbered among the Blessed and Holy and thus come up in the first resurrection. (Rev, 20:4-6)

56. Where will the bride be gathered during the first 3 1/2 years of Tribulation? Rev. 12:6
And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

"Wilderness" indicates a place of natural state or solitary place. It may be that the church will make a connection with Israel during the first 3 1/2 years because of the religious freedom there. Notice the word "they" in this verse.

"A thousand two hundred and threescore days" amounts to 3 1/2 years, at 360 days to a year according to the Jewish lunar calendar.

57. What takes place in the midst of the tribulation week? Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

"Abomination" means a detestable thing. "Desolation" means waste or ruin.

58. What did Jesus say the bride should do at this point in the tribulation period?
Matt. 24:15-16 *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*
16 *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

This is the second flight which the bride must take. **Rev. 12:14** *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

A "time" is a year, that is to say the time it takes the earth to make one complete orbit around the sun, from one point to the same point again. "Times" indicates two years and a "half time", 1/2 year.

59. How long will the bride remain in this wilderness? Isa. 26:20 *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.*

Strength will be given to the weak and fearful as they flee. All sickness and body ailments will be taken away so that happiness will reign. Their home will have a highway of holiness, and all wild beasts will be kept away. From this home the bride will meet the Lord in the clouds and return to Zion in great gladness. Read Isa. 35.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ Crowhurst, Prophecy Notebook.

Review Questions - Redemption

Write these verses and memorize them: I Thess. 4:17; Luke 21:36; Jn. 6:44

1. What does the word 'quicken' mean?
2. To what is the spirit of adoption referred?
3. It is uncertain what our glorified body is to be like; one thing we know, we shall be delivered from the bondage of what? (Rom 8:21)
4. What has Christ brought to light through the Gospel?
5. According to Rom. 2:7; eternal life promised to whom?
6. Who is the only one that has immortality at the present time?
7. What is the sealing unto the day of redemption?
8. Explain Ephesians 1:14.
9. How was our inheritance purchased?
10. In whom is eternal life?
11. When will we be changed from corruptible to incorruptible?
12. How was the resurrection pictured in Revelation 14?
13. In Rev. 14:3, where are the 144 thousand which were redeemed from the earth located?
14. What are the qualifications for being a part of the first fruits unto God and the Lamb?
15. How is the first fruit class identified in Revelation 12?
16. How are those that take part in the first resurrection described in Revelation 20?
17. If you do not come up in the first resurrection, when would you be resurrected?
18. Where is Satan during the 1000 year reign of the Lord?
19. In the parable of the 10 virgins, what were the five foolish virgins lacking?
20. What did the foolish virgins miss by not being prepared?
21. When will the door of grace close?
22. How long is one of God's days?
23. In the parable of the sower; (Matt 13) what do the following represent?
 - a. seed
 - b. soil
24. How are we to know if a person is truly a child of God? (Matt 7:16)
25. Of the 4 examples that Jesus gave in the parable of the sower; how many represented a true believer?
26. What degrees of fruitfulness is the seed able to produce in good soil?
27. List how these degrees of fruitfulness are expressed in Rom. 5:1-5 and Revelation 12.
28. How does Isaiah describe self righteousness?
29. Where will the bride be gathered during the last 3 1/2 years of Tribulation?

Prophecy - Millennium

The word "Millennium" is of Latin origin; "Mille" meaning thousand and "annus" meaning year.⁴⁹ While this word does not actually appear in the Bible, there are scriptures that refer to the reign of Christ on this earth for a thousand years. There are three things that will be considered in this lesson:

1. The return of the Lord
2. The Battle of Armageddon
3. The Millennial Reign.

Man may think that the earth is moving along at random on an undetermined path, but to the Bible prophecy student, it's quite clear that the history of this world is following the pattern foretold by the prophets of God centuries ago. There seems to be a divine time schedule in which the events of history take place. "Scientists claim that they have so mastered the task of space measurement, and that universal laws are so rigid that they can now predict within seconds celestial happenings millions of miles away. They say a universal Law dictates certain celestial happenings which always occur on schedule. What is true in the universe is certainly true concerning the coming of the Messiah. No event in history has been more carefully planned or more exactly executed than the first coming of Jesus. God has just as carefully planned His second coming and the subsequent events.⁵⁰ The Millennial reign will occur right on schedule. It will be a time of peace and harmony; a welcomed Sabbath for the earth. In Exodus God commanded men to work six days and rest the seventh, even as He had done in the Creation. It would be reasonable to assume that this earth will follow a similar order.

1. What might be considered as one of God's days? II Peter 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

If a day of the Lord is a thousand years then according to Biblical history it has been approximately 6000 years, or six days since God formed Adam from the dust of the earth. The human race is entering the seventh thousand year period or the Sabbath period in which Christ shall reign as King of Kings.

2. At the present, one must deal with the cares of life, spiritual battles, persecution and the like: when will we enter into rest? II Thess. 1:7 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels*

3. Read carefully Hosea 6:1-2. The Lord promised that He would heal and restore that which was broken. How did the Lord have to suffer to accomplish this? Isaiah 53:5 *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

4. How long did Hosea prophesy it would be from the time Christ died until we would live in His sight? Hosea 6:1-2 *Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

⁴⁹ Unger, Merrill F., Unger's Bible Dictionary, Chicago, Moody Press 1976.

⁵⁰ Hembree, Charles R., Spiritual Stirrings, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Book House, 1973, P. 106.

It has been almost two thousand years or two days since Jesus died on the cross. This may be referred to as the Church Age period. We are rapidly approaching the millennial reign of our Lord or third day.

Daniel prophesied that there were to be four Gentile powers to exercise authority on the earth from his day until the time Christ would establish this literal kingdom. The four Gentile powers referred to are: first Babylon, the second Medio-Persia, the third Greece, and the fourth Rome. The Anti-Christ Kingdom will be a revival of the old Roman Empire with the consolidation of ten European nations. This will be the last kingdom before Jesus returns. **Daniel 2:44-45**

5. How is the kingdom of the Lord pictured in Daniel 2:45? *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

A stone cut out of the mountain without hands would indicate Christ's kingdom will not be the design of man, nor given to him by man.

The Return of the Lord

There are many verses in the Bible that promise the Lord's return. At this time we will discuss only a few.

6. Of what did James encourage the brethren? James 5:7-8 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

This word "patient" suggests endurance as well as forbearance.

7. Of what is the child of God confident? Heb. 10:37 *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

8. When Jesus returns to this earth will He be coming alone? Mat. 25:31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

9. Will there be anyone else with the Lord when He returns? Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

The number ten thousands are probably not intended to mean an exact number but rather a large number of saints.

10. Who will gather these saints unto the Lord? Matt. 24:31 *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

11. Who will be the first to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air? I Thess. 4:16-17 *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:
17 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.*

It should not be over looked that there will be a raptured class caught up to God and His throne before the tribulation period. These are known as the man child or the first fruit of the redeemed.

12. How must you be ranked to make this first resurrection? Rev. 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

13. Who are caught up together to meet the Lord in the air after the dead in Christ? I Thess. 4:17 *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.*

14. The gathering of the saints is seen as what in Rev. 14:13-16? *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

See also Matt. 13:24-43 - The Parable of the Tares

15. In what form will Jesus return? Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

The return of the Lord will be a literal, physical appearing, not just in spirit, for He will reign on this earth over a literal kingdom for a thousand years.

16. Will Christ's return be a publicly acknowledged event? Rev. 1:7 *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

17. Why is it important that we abide in Him? I John 2:28 *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*

Abiding in Him would indicate a continual trust and faithful service unto the Lord.

18. What will be the unsaved man's reaction to the Lord's appearing? Rev. 6:15-16 *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty*

men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

19. When Christ appears, what will the child of God be like? I John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Paul declares that, "as we have borne the image of the earthly, (first Adam) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (Second Adam) **1 Cor. 15:49**

20. How will we appear with Christ? Col. 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

The glory of the Lord is His righteousness, for Paul states that, "we've all sinned and come short of the glory of God." **Rom. 3:23**

21. What is laid up in store for all these who love His appearing? II Tim. 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Read and study carefully the following verses. They give very important exhortations.

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 Pet. 1:6-7 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Tim. 6:12-14 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

11 Tim. 4:1-2 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

22. Using the following references, list some of the natural phenomenon's that will occur as Christ returns.

Matt. 24:29-31 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Rev. 6:12-14 *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 16:15-21 *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Battle of Armageddon

23. To what specific place will Christ return; and what will happen at that place? Zech.

14:4 *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

24. When the earthquake causes a great valley that expands eastward and westward; what apparently happens to the Dead Sea? Ezek. 47:8 *Then said he unto me, These waters issue out*

toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

The Dead Sea lies along the line of a great fault from the head of the Red Sea to Mt. Hermon. Its surface which is lower than that of any water known is 1,292 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. Its water contains 23% solid matter. The Dead Sea is fed by the Jordan from the north and by many other streams, but has no apparent outlet. It is estimated that 6,000,000 tons of water flow into it daily, about all of it being carried off by evaporation.⁵¹

The nations that had previously cooperated with the Anti-Christ now revolt and seek to overthrow him. It is in the midst of this revolt that Christ returns. **Zech. 14:1-2**

25. Which Kings seem to lead in this revolt? Rev. 16:12 *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

Seducing spirits cause the Kings of the east, probably China, to covet the power or control exhibited by the Anti-Christ and draught them against Jerusalem.

26. What will be the reaction of these Kings when Jesus appears? Zech. 14:5 *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

In utter confusion the Kings of the earth flee to the valley of Esdraelon, also known as the valley of Jehoshaphat, to reorganize and to prepare for battle.

Joel 3:9-17 *Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:*

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

27. What will happen to these armies? Zech. 14:12 *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*

28. How shall they be consumed? II Thess. 2:8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁵¹ World Book Encyclopedia, Volume 5, p.49, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1977.

Isa. 11:4 *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

Rev. 19:15 *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

29. How is the Battle of Armageddon typified in Revelation 14:19? *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

30. How deep does the blood run? Rev. 14:20 *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

The horse's bridle is approximately 4 feet. A furlong is approximately 606 feet, so a thousand and six hundred furlongs would be approximately 200 miles.⁵² It would seem, likely that this measurement should be thought of as square miles since the wine press was usually a round or square vat.

The Millennial Reign

31. How is the earth cleansed of these carcasses of the dead? Rev. 19:17 *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*

32. What happens to the Anti-Christ and the false prophet? Rev. 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

33. Where is Satan during the thousand year reign of the Lord? Rev. 20:1-3 *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

34. What position will Christ now hold throughout the entire world? Rev. 19:16 *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

35. What will the battle of Armageddon bring to an end? Micah 4:3 *And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into*

⁵² Demaray, Donald E., Handbook of the Bible, Los Angeles California, Cowman Publishing Company, 1964, p. 294.

plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

36. The Lord will establish His throne on this earth in what city? Joel 3:16 *The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

37. In Zech. 6:12-15, Christ is seen not only as a King ruling over the earth, but He is also seen in another position. What position is that? Zech. 6:13 *Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*

Both of these positions are recognized by the church, but in that day the whole world will see Christ as their King and Priest.

38. In the day of the Lord, what shall fill the earth? Isa. 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

39. Why will there be no need of preaching or teaching? Jer. 31:34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Heb. 8:10-13 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

40. Using the scriptural references given; list those that will assist in the administration of Christ's Kingdom:

(a.) Ezekiel 34:24 *And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it.*

Jer. 30:9 *But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*

Ezek. 37:24-25 *And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.*

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Hosea 3:5 *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.*

(b.) Matt. 19:28 *And Jesus said unto them, (the 12 Apostles) Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

(c.) Rev. 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

41. Ezekiel 48:1-35 sets forth the apportionment of territory the twelve tribes of Israel are to occupy in Christ's Kingdom. What is the territory between Judah and Benjamin called; and what will be in the midst of it? Ezek. 48:10 *And for them, even for the priests, shall be this holy oblation; toward the north five and twenty thousand in length, and toward the west ten thousand in breadth, and toward the east ten thousand in breadth, and toward the south five and twenty thousand in length: and the sanctuary of the Lord shall be in the midst thereof.*

This might be regarded as the Millennial City. It is approximately 60 miles square.

42. What will be the spirit or attitude of Israel when Jesus returns? Zech. 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

When Jesus first came to this earth the Jews were filled with arrogant pride, unwilling to accept Christ as Lord, but this will not be the case when He returns.

43. How will the literal nation of Israel rank among the nations at this time? Micah 4:8 *And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.*

44. Will Christ rule over other literal nations as well as Israel? Zech. 2:10-11 *Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. 11 And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto thee.*

Ps. 2:8 *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

To an Israelite, anyone who was not of the nation of Israel was a heathen. This did not necessarily mean they were wicked, though normally that was the case. "Heathen", in general refers to Gentiles.

45. All nations will come to see the glory of the Lord (Isa. 6.18-24), just as the queen of Sheba came to see the glory of Solomon's kingdom. The Lord's name shall be declared among the Gentiles, and all the people must come and worship the Lord at the appointed time. What feast will be celebrated annually? Zech. 14:16 *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

The feast of Tabernacles is a thanksgiving festival in commemorative of the years in which the Israelites wondered in the wilderness. It was a reminder of how God provided for them and brought them into the Promised Land. A similar celebration will be kept by the nations during the millennial reign.

46. What will happen to those areas that fail to commemorate this holiday? Zech. 14:17

And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

47. In Matt. 25:31-46, Jesus gave a parable that illustrates how nations qualify to enter into the millennial age. How was the separation of nations illustrated? Matt. 25:32 *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

48. Jesus gave a list of things that the sheep nations did for Him that qualified them to be worthy to enter into His kingdom on earth. How did they do these things for Him? Matt. 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

It would seem that those nations or area's that gave assistance to the people of God; rather than discriminating against or persecuting them, would be allowed to have part in the kingdom of the Lord that is to be on this earth. One must keep in mind that there will be two classes of people on the earth at this time. A literal class consisting of a remnant of Israel and a spiritual class made up of the blessed and holy who were caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This class will rule and reign with the Lord.

49. How will the nature of animals be during this time? Isa. 11:6-8 *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

All animals will be vegetarian and fear of one another will be gone; even the serpent will be harmless.

50. Read carefully Isa. 65:17-25. Will there be any death during the Millennial Age?

Isa. 65:20 *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

Isa. 65:19-20 might be interpreted in the following way. Because untimely deaths shall no more be heard in thee; for the natural death shall not happen until men be full of days; as it is written, verse 20: "There shall be no more thence an infant of days," the people shall live to three or five hundred years, it is because of his sin; and even at that age he shall be reputed an infant; and they shall say of Him, and infant is dead. These things shall happen in the days of the Lord. --Kimchi⁵³ Since the tempter will be bound, the only sin that will exist will be the sin of neglect. Men may fail to worship the Lord and give Him praise for the provisions of life. If this happens the blessings of the Lord will be withheld. **Zech. 14:17** *And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.*

⁵³ Clarke, Adam, Clarkes Commentary, Vol. IV, New York, N.Y., Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.

51. There will not be violence nor even sickness to afflict the earth, for the Lord will cleanse the blood of His people. Joel 3:21 *For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion.*

52. Will there be extreme weather conditions during the Millennial? Zech. 14:6-7 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:
7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*

53. What happens toward the end of this thousand years? Rev. 20:7 *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

54. What does Satan do at this time? Rev. 20:8 *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

Since there will be births, the earth will be re-populated during this thousand years.

Satan is loosed from his prison so he can tempt those who have not been tempted before. The Lord will give all men the opportunity to choose whether they want to follow him or not. The Saints of God will not be tempted for they have already proven their loyalty.

55. What happens to those who follow Satan? Rev. 20:9 *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

Review Questions - Millennium

Write these verses and memorize them: Hebrews 10:37; Rev. 20:6; I John 2:28

1. Explain Hosea 6:1-2.
2. Who prophesied, "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints"?
3. Who will be the first to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air?
4. In what form will Jesus return?
5. What does 'abiding in the Lord' suggest?
6. What is the unsaved man's reaction to the coming of the Lord?
7. To what specific place will Christ return?
8. What happens to the Dead Sea at Christ's return?
9. What happens to the armies that fight against the Lord?
10. How is the Battle of Armageddon described in Revelation 14:19?
11. Where does the Battle of Armageddon take place?
12. How was the earth cleansed after the Battle of Armageddon?
13. What position will Christ hold through out the whole world when he returns?
14. In what city will Christ's throne be established?
15. Describe the thousand year reign of the Lord.
16. List those that will assist in the administration of Christ's kingdom.
17. What is the holy oblation?
18. What is the spirit or attitude of Israel when Jesus returns?
19. How will Israel rank among the nations at this time?
20. What feast will be celebrated annually during the Lord's reign?
21. Explain what qualifies a literal nation to enter into the Millennial Age.
22. Will there be any death during the Millennial Age?
23. Where is Satan during the Millennial Age?
24. What happens to Satan and his followers after the Millennial Age?

Prophecy - Judgment

The question of the hereafter is of utmost importance to all men. Perhaps the most solemn sense latent in the consciousness of man is that of the coming Day of Judgment or accounting to a sovereign holy God. Scripture affirms that such a day awaits every son of Adam.⁵⁴

Heb. 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Man may have theories and various interpretations, but let the scriptures speak for themselves.

What is Man?

This lesson deals with the nature of man and the difference between spiritual and natural. God is the Creator of all things; including all living beings, but all living beings were not created on the same level or of the same nature.

1. In what condition was man created in relationship to the Angels? Psalms 8:5 *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

Paul indicated there was a difference between the first Adam, (formed in the garden of Eden) and the second Adam, (Christ).

2. What is the difference between the two Adams? I Cor. 15:45 *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

Paul states that there are celestial (heavenly) bodies, and body's terrestrial (earthly). Angels possess the celestial bodies.

3. What are angels called? Heb. 1:7 *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.*

Read carefully **I Cor. 15:35-54**

4. Are our present bodies natural or spiritual? I Cor. 15:46 *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*

5. When will the righteous have spiritual bodies? I Cor. 15:44 *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

6. To what does the sowing here spoken of refer? I Cor. 15:36 *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

7. What will be the final condition of the righteous? Luke 20:35-36 *But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:*

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

⁵⁴ Crowhurst, Jerome, Apostolic Faith Prophecy Notebook, 1977.

Man does not now possess the undying, spiritual nature of the Angels, except as he holds it by faith in Christ, nor will he until the resurrection. Then, if righteous, he will be made immortal, and he will not die any more, because he will be equal unto the Angels.⁵⁵

8. How is man's nature defined? Job 4:17 *Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?*

"Mortal": Subject to death; destined to die.

9. What is God's nature? I Tim. 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

10. Of what was man formed in the beginning? Gen. 2:7 *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

11. What act made him a living soul? Gen. 2:7 *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

You should notice the living soul was not put into the man; man was made from the earth and God put his breath into him and man became a living soul. The original Hebrew for "living soul" in this text is "Nephesh Chaiyah". This is the same expression used in **Gen. 1:24**, translated "Living Creature". Thus this is a general term to express all life.⁵⁶

12. Are other creatures besides man called "Living souls"? Rev. 16:3 *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.*

13. Do other creatures besides man have the "breath of Life"? Gen. 7:21-22 *And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:
22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.*

Man, as well as all other animal creation, is dependent upon breath when this is gone they, the same as beasts die.

14. What does Job call that which God breathed into mans' nostrils? Job 27:3 *All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;*

Science has revealed that our bodies require oxygen to live. We breathe in oxygen which is carried throughout our bodies through the blood stream. If we lose circulation in any part of our body, that part of the body dies; that life is in the blood (**Lev. 17:11**) because it is the blood that carries the oxygen. The word spirit comes from the Hebrew word "Ruwach" meaning breath; breeze; wind; exhalation; (fig-life)⁵⁷ It speaks to us of that force which produces the life process. Many things are involved in this life process which is not understood, but the one thing of which this writer is convinced of is that God sets the life process in motion.

⁵⁵ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, subjects contributed by a large number of Bible students, Mountain View, Cal., Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1914, P. 506.

⁵⁶ Bible Reading for the Home Circle, P. 506.

⁵⁷ Strong, James, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Nashville, Tenn., Crusade Bible Publishers Inc.

15. When man gives up this spirit, what becomes of it? Eccl. 12:7 *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

When the spirit goes back to God and the body goes back to the dust, the individual no longer exists as a living conscious, thinking being.

16. Who only have hold of eternal life: I John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

The sinner has temporal life; but when he yields up his life, he has neither prospect nor promise of eternal life.

17. Why was Adam driven from the Garden of Eden and excluded from the tree of Life? Gen. 3:22 *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

18. What was done to keep man away from the tree of Life? Gen. 3:24 *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

19. How are all men in the natural state regarded? Eph. 2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

20. If the wrath of God abides on a person, of what does it deprive him? John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

21. Through whom is the sinner saved from wrath? Rom. 5:9 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

22. With whom is the Christian's life hid? Col. 3:3 *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

23. Who only possesses immortality? I Tim. 6:15-16 *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

John 5:25-26 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

26 *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

24. Through whom has immortality been brought to light? 2 Tim. 1:10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

25. To who is eternal life promised? Rom.2:7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

One does not need to seek for a thing which he already possesses.

26. When will the faithful be changed from mortal to immortality? 1 Cor. 15:51-52 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

The trumpet was used as a summons, or announcement. The blowing of a trumpet was a call to war or a call to worship. Whenever the trumpet was sounded something important was about to happen. In the book of Revelation the events that were to occur in the tribulation period were announced by seven angels blowing seven trumpets. The seventh was the return of the Lord. (See Rev. 8-9-11:15)

27. What is then to be swallowed up? I Cor. 15:54-57 *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Life only through Christ

This lesson answers the question, where does the Christian get eternal life.

28. What is the wages of sin? Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

29. Through whom only is there salvation from sin? Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

30. Why did God send His only begotten Son to this world? Jn. 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

31. What does Jesus say He gives to those who follow Him? Jn. 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

32. In whom is eternal life? I John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

33. Who only have this life? I John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

34. What is Christ therefore fittingly called? Col. 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

If eternal life comes only through Christ, sinners cannot live for ever, even if it's in Hell. Eternal life is eternal life whether in a state of joy and peace or torment and agony.

The State of the Dead

This lesson deals with the present state of the dead, that is to say where they are and in what condition.

35. By what figure does the Bible represent death? I Thess. 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

Notice also **I Cor. 15:18-20** and **John 11:11-14**. In sound sleep one is wholly lost to consciousness, time goes by unmeasured. "The first death which we suffer for Adam's sin is spoken of as a sleep because from it there will be an awakening, but the second death (**Rev.20:6**), is never spoken of as a sleep, for from it there will be no awakening."⁵⁸

36. Where do the dead sleep? Dan. 12:2 *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Eccl. 3:20 *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

Eccl. 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

37. How long will they sleep there? Job 14:12 *So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

38. For what did Job say he would wait after death? Job 14:14 *If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

39. Where did he say he would wait? Job 17:13 *If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.*

40. While in this condition, how much does one know about those he has left behind? Job 14:21 *His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.*

41. What becomes of mans thought at death? Ps. 146:4 *His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.*

⁵⁸ Parham, Robert L., Selected Sermons of Charles F. Parham, Baxter Springs, Kans., Apostolic Faith Bible College, 1941, P. 100.

42. Do the dead know anything? Eccl. 9:5 *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*

43. Do they take part in any earthly things? Eccl. 9:6 *Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.*

44. Are the righteous dead in Heaven? Acts 2:34 *For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,*

If the righteous dead went in a conscious condition to their eternal destinies, what need would there be in the resurrection or a Judgment day?

45. How much does one know of God when dead? Ps. 6:5 *For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

46. Are the dead capable of praising God? Ps. 115:17 *The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.*

47. What must take place before the dead can praise God? Isa. 26:19 *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

48. When did David say he would be satisfied? Ps. 17:15 *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

49. Were there to be no resurrection of the dead, what would be the condition of those fallen asleep in Christ? I Cor. 15:16-18 *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

50. When is the resurrection of the righteous to take place? I Thess. 4:16 *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:*

If, as stated in **Eccl. 9:5**, the dead know not anything, then they have no knowledge of the lapse of time. Six thousand years in the grave to a dead man is no more than a wink of the eye. To those who sleep in Jesus; their sleep, whether long or short, will be but a moment unto the glorious appearing of Jesus and the resurrection.⁵⁹

The Resurrection

There are two resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the Blessed and Holy, and the second takes place a thousand years later, after the millennial reign. As you study, you will note that the righteous have many rewards and crowns and inheritances granted them, but the wicked have no reward, only judgment.

⁵⁹ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 513.

51. What comes to all men as the result of the fall? I Cor. 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Rom. 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

52. Where do all go at death? Eccl. 3:20 *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

53. In what condition is man while in the grave? Eccl. 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

54. What is God's promise to man? Hosea 13:14 *I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.*

55. Through who will come this redemption from the grave? I Cor. 15:21-22 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

56. Why did God give His only begotten Son to the world? John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

57. What did the Sadducees deny? Luke 20:27 *Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,*

Jesus taught the resurrection using the Old Testament. Notice **Luke 20:37-38** *Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.*

38 *For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.* Jesus was not saying that the dead are already raised, but that in view of the resurrection, all live unto God.

In God's purpose, all are alive. It is in this sense that Paul speaks of God as the one "who quickeneth the dead, and called those things which be not as though they were." **Rom. 4:17**⁶⁰

58. Where are the dead when they hear the voice of Christ calling them to life? John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

59. When will the dead in Christ be resurrected? I Thess. 4:16 *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:*

Notice also **I Cor. 15:23** and **Rev. 20:4-6**

⁶⁰ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 515.

60. In what condition did David expect to rise? Ps. 17:15 *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

61. What great contrast will be seen between the present body and the one to be put on in the resurrection? I Cor. 15:42-44 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

62. After whose body will these resurrected ones be fashioned? Phil. 3:20-21 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

63. When will those not numbered in the "Blessed and Holy" be resurrected? Rev. 20:4-6 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

64. Will everyone that is resurrected be resurrected unto life? John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

65. What is the promise to the righteous? Prov. 11:18 *The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.*

66. Every man will receive his own reward according to what? I Cor. 3:8 *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

Rev. 20:12-13 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

67. List the crowns mentioned in each of the following verses:

I Corinthians 9:25 *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

II Timothy 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

I Peter 5:2-4 *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

Revelation 2:10 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

I Thessalonians 2:19-20 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
20 For ye are our glory and joy.*

68. What is the inheritance of the righteous? Matt. 19:29 *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

69. What is the earnest of the inheritance? Eph. 1:13-14 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

70. What shall be the reward of the wicked? Pro. 24:20 *For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.*

The wicked will be judge at the white throne judgment which will take place after the millennial reign.
Read Revelation chapter 20.

71. Using the scriptural references given, list all those who will be judged at this time.

Rev. 20:12-13 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

II Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Ecclesiastes 12:14 *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

The second resurrection and the white throne judgment is what Paul was referring to when speaking of the resurrection of the just and the unjust. **Acts 24:15**. The only ones to escape this final judgment will be those who are worthy to escape through redemption into immortality at the return of the Lord. These redeemed; having reigned with Christ throughout the Millennium, will ascend the judicial throne as His jury and with Him judge the nations. Into this judgment will come the dead of all the ages who have not obtained a new birth into spiritual life through Jesus Christ. Judgment will then be rendered according as their works have been. Those found worthy of life will receive everlasting human life, as Adam had in the Garden of Eden, and will be the meek who inherit the new earth in eternity while those unworthy of life will be cast into the lake of fire.⁶¹

72. What part will the bride of Christ; those that came up in the first resurrection, have in the judgment? I Cor. 6:2-3 *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

3 *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

Ps. 149:5-9 *Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord.

73. Who will be the ultimate righteous Judge? John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

74. What is the last enemy to be destroyed? I Cor. 15:26 *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Revelation 20:13-14 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The Destruction of the Wicked

The words: perish, death, second death, consume, and destroy are words that refer to the final end of the wicked. But to the Christian, there is life, eternal life, through Jesus Christ. In Deut. 30:15-20 God said, "I have set before you life and death;..." Two-thirds of the doctrine held by the Roman Catholic Church is from pagan philosophy. Two-thirds of Protestant doctrine is from Roman Catholicism. We are known as "No-Hellites" but it is not true. Destruction would satisfy all that justice demands, and God, if He be a God of love, justice, and mercy, He could ask no more than the wages of sin which is death. Could you justify torturing even an animal for one day?⁶²

Informational Supplement-General Terms

A. Apollumi is Greek, (an adjective) translated perish or lost. Ex. **John 3:16; Luke 15-** lost coin, lost sheep. Paul used it in **Matt. 10:28**. The noun form of this word is translated

⁶¹ Parham, Charles F., The Everlasting Gospel, Baxter Springs, Kans., Apostolic Faith Bible College, 1911, P. 98.

⁶² The Everlasting Gospel, P. 116.

"Destruction" or "Perdition". Judas is called the Son of Perdition in **John 17:12**. Notice also **Matt. 7:13, Phil.3:19, 2 Thess. 2:10**

B. Sheol is Hebrew appearing 65 times in the Old Testament. Translated into grave 31 times, hell 31 times, the pit 3 times. It refers to the place or abode of the dead.

C. Hades is Greek and appears 11 times in the New Testament. It also means the abode of the dead.

D. Gehenna is Aramaic and is derived from the Hebrew word, Gehinnon, which is the valley of Hinnom, a place south of Jerusalem where fires were continually burning garbage or refuse. Prior to Josiah's reign the Jews had been guilty of child sacrificing to Moloch here. To prevent this from taking place, Josiah defiled, or desecrated the place by filling it with human bones, **2 Kings 23:10-14**. It was the custom afterwards to throw the carcasses of animals there and it gradually became a community garbage pit.⁶³ When first Isaiah (**Isaiah 66:24**) and then Christ, (**Mark 9:44**) made reference to this pit, they were not typifying the sinner, by the fire nor the worm, but by the garbage, that was either consumed by the fire or the worm, illustrating the total destruction of the wicked. The fact that the fire was not quenched indicates the fire could not be put out, not that it would not go out when it had consumed all of the rubbish. This word is translated hell 12 times in the New Testament.

E. Tartarus is Greek and is translated hell. It appears once in **II Peter 2:4** and refers to the place of fallen angels.

F. "The Abyss" is Greek and is translated "bottomless pit" in **Rev. 9:1, 11; 11:7; 17:8**.⁶⁴

G. Lake of Fire and Brimstone

All of these refer to the final state of the wicked which is one of punishment and destruction (The wrath of God). I believe in eternal punishment not eternal torture. **Matt. 25:46**, Eternal comes from the Greek word Aionios.

75. What question does Peter ask regarding the wicked? I Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

76. What does the Bible say is the wages of sin? Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ezek. 18:4 *Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

Destroy: To ruin, demolish, bring to naught by putting out of existence; to kill, to nullify.

⁶³ Clarke, Adam, Clarkes Commentary, Vol. iv, New York, N.Y., Abingdon-Cokesbury Press.

⁶⁴ Strong's.

77. How is this death characterized? 2 Thess. 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

78. How complete will be the destruction of the wicked? Matt. 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

79. What does Christ say will befall those who do not repent? Luke 13:3 *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

Perish: To be destroyed or ruined.

80. How does the Apostle Peter say they shall perish? 2 Peter 2:12 *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*

81. To what are the wicked in their punishment compared? Ps. 37:20 *But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*

Consume: To destroy, as by fire

82. How does John the Baptist describe the destruction of the wicked? Matt. 3:11-12 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

83. For whom does Christ say the fire which will finally destroy the wicked was originally prepared? Matt. 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

This fire is called "everlasting" because of the character of the work it does; just as it is called "unquenchable" because it cannot be put out, and not because it will not go out when it has done its work. There is a vast difference between "everlasting punishment" and "punishment everlasting".⁶⁵

84. What will be the result of this punishment? Prov. 10:25 *As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.*

85. Will any part of the wicked be left? Mal. 4:1 *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

⁶⁵ Bible Readings for the Home Circle, P. 520.

86. What will then be their condition? Obadiah 16 *For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.*

87. Where will the place of the wicked then be? Ps. 37:10 *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.*

88. Do the wicked go directly to their punishment at death, or wait until the Day of Judgment? 2 Pet.2:9 *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

89. To what are the present heavens and earth reserved? 2 Peter 3:7 *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

2 Pet. 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

90. By what means does Christ say His kingdom is to be cleansed from sin and sinners? Matt. 13:41-42 *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

91. When are the wicked dead to be raised to receive their final punishment? Rev. 20:5 *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

92. To what will this fire reduce the wicked? Mal.4:3 *And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.*

93. What is this final destruction of the wicked called? Rev. 20:14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Informational Supplement

In conclusion let us consider those scriptures most often used to teach "eternal torment".

THE PARABLE OF THE "RICH MAN AND LAZARUS" LUKE 16:19-31

The following is a copy of a track that was written by Sarah Parham. The date of the publication is uncertain.

The Rich Man and Lazarus - **Luke 16:19-31** Read carefully the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

A parable is a fictitious narrative; an allegory from which a moral is drawn. The true meaning of a parable is not on the surface, but has a hidden meaning. Therefore it can not be taken literally. A doctrine can not be established simply on a parable, but the interpretation of a parable must correspond with the other teachings of the Bible.

Orthodoxy has told us that the rich man represented all wicked persons who at death go to eternal torment, and the beggar represented all good persons, who at death go to heaven. Let us, however, endeavor to forget the teachings and "traditions of men" and go back to our open Bibles and prayerfully seek to learn the lesson that Christ taught in this parable. The parable does not say that the rich man was wicked. He was "rich," but it is not a sin to be rich. He "fared sumptuously" and was dressed "in purple and fine linen." Purple was worn by persons of wealth and high official position, (**Esther 8:15**) and especially by kings (**Judges 8:26**). It was a sign of royalty, and was put on Christ by the Jews in mockery of his claim. (**Mark 15:17**). "Purple and fine linen," were especially used by the Jews in the hanging of the tabernacle (**Ex. 25:4, 26:1, 31, 36**), and were also used in the garments of the Jewish high priest. **Ex. 28:5, 6, 15, 33; 39:29**. We see then, even the very clothing of the rich man, represented the Jewish people.

Neither does the parable say that Lazarus the beggar, was a good man, but that he "laid at the rich man's gate,... "full of sores,"... "desiring to be fed with the crumbs"...and "the dogs came and licked his sores." Would it be possible to picture a more pitiful, wretched condition? Do you believe that Christ would represent His glorious Church, by this sick beggar in this God-forsaken, poverty-stricken state? Surely not; if a beggar of this terrible description lay at your gate; would you at once recognize him as one of God's elect, a child of the King? I am sure that David would not, for he said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." The beggar then can not represent God's chosen people but must represent the Gentile people, who up to this time had not been given the promises and blessings of Abraham. **Eph. 2:11-13**.

The beggar died and was carried, not to heaven, but "into Abraham's bosom." Now we know this was not a literal bosom, as Abraham had been dead many hundreds of years and long since returned to dust, but Lazarus (the Gentiles) were "carried into Abraham's bosom" spiritually, being made heirs to all God had promised to Abraham. **Rom. 3:29. Gal.3:7, 8, 9,14,28,29 Col. 3:11** "The rich man also died and was buried." An end came like death, and he ceased to exist in his former state. "And in hell, he lifted up his eyes being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (In the folds of his mantle, Emphatic Diaglott).

In the 24th verse the rich man calls for help, not to God, but to "Father Abraham" which makes it very plain then that he (the rich man) was a descendant, son of Abraham, representing the Jewish people, who were at that very time, looking to Abraham, saying, "Abraham is our father" (**John 8:39**) and rejecting the promised Messiah, thus casting themselves into the "torments" that they are still in. In the 25th verse, Abraham acknowledges the relationship "Son, remember that thou IN THY LIFETIME (the Jewish dispensation was now ended) received good things" (How wonderfully God had blessed the Jews; His chosen people); "and likewise Lazarus evil things."

Up to this time, the Gentiles had been counted as dogs, (**Matt. 15:26, 27 Mark 7, 26-28**). "Now he (Lazarus the Gentile) is comforted". While Jesus was giving them this parable the Jews "derided Him" (Verse 14) while the Gentiles, "publicans and sinners," drew near unto Him to hear Him" (**Luke 15:1**). The law and the prophets were until John, since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man (Jew and Gentile) presseth unto it. Verse 16 Read also **Rom. 11th Chapter**

Is there not still "a great gulf fixed" (verse 26) between the Jews and other nations, for though scattered "among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve" (**Amos 9:9**) yet the Jews are still a separate People. The "five brethren" also had "Moses and the prophets" and Abraham said, "Let them hear them." Had they done so, they would not have crucified the Christ, and they did not believe though Christ "rose from the dead."

Now read the **15th Chapter of Luke**; in the description Christ gave of the "elder brother" in the parable of the prodigal son, you will see a very true picture of how the Jews felt toward Christ, and the "Publicans and sinners" to whom He was giving the Gospel. We understand that the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, has no reference to the future state of the dead whatever, and is to me, not a blood-curdling picture of eternal torment as some have painted it, but a most marvelous and prophetic description of the closing of the Jewish dispensation and the budding in of the Gentiles, and what would happen to the Jews, who truly have been in "outer darkness," despised, hated and persecuted ever since the time when they said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Christ marveled at the faith of the centurion and said, "*I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel--and I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west (Gentiles) and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom (Jews) shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" (**Matt. 8:10-12**). This Scripture is literally being fulfilled in the "Wailing Place" at Jerusalem.

Souls under the Alter - Rev. 6:9-11 *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

10. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11. And white robes were given to everyone of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Here John is reminded of those martyred for the testimony of Jesus. This is not a literal reference anymore than Abel's blood crying from the ground was a literal reference in

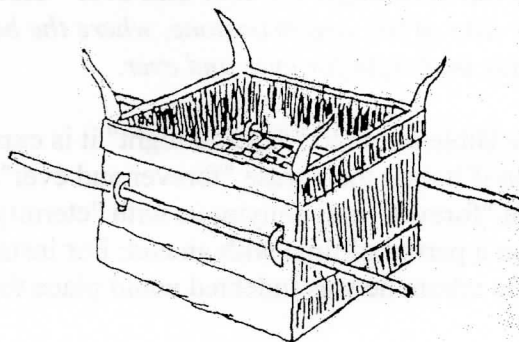


Figure 1 - Brazen Altar

Genesis 4:10. Just as God was aware of the crime against Abel; He is aware of the crimes committed against His people today. The reason the martyred are seen as under the altar, is because they were sacrificed for the testimony of Christ. Just as the ashes of any animal sacrificed would fall through the grate of the altar (see Figure 1) and lie beneath as a testimony of the sacrifice; even so the martyrs of all the ages are not forgotten of the Lord but will be avenged by the Lord in the last days.

While there are many that believe the soul of man; upon death goes somewhere to await the resurrection, it is obvious from our study of the scripture that this is not so. The soul is not an entity in itself but refers to the conscious intellect or awareness of man.

One of the definitions of the Hebrew word "Olam"; translated "ever" in the Old Testament, is vanishing point;⁶⁶ Indicating as far as one can see, or as far as our mind can comprehend. With this in mind, let us consider **Rev. 14:11 and Rev. 20:10.**

Smoke of their Torment - Rev. 14:9-11 *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

10. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of his holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

This scripture is not dealing with the eternal punishment of all the wicked, but of a specific group, namely those who take the mark of the beast. If one were to continue reading the book of Revelation it would be quite clear that those worshipping the Anti-Christ will be tormented by a series of plagues ending with the Battle of Armageddon. Truly they shall have no rest day nor night until this period be finished.

The term day and night is an expression of time, for our life consists of a series of days and nights. We are very time oriented because we are aware that time is limited on this earth. In eternity there will be no expression of time, for time is meaningless. Therefore eternity is expressed as endless day, for there is no night there **Rev. 21:25, 22:5.**

Tormented day and night for ever and ever - Rev. 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Anytime the Bible refers to "day and night" it is expressing duration; it is not referring to endless eternity even if it uses the phrase "forever and ever". The common mistake made by many is thinking that "forever" is synonymous with "eternity". "Forever and ever, in the scriptures, is used to mean a period of time with an end; For instance, if a person became indebted to another; that person to whom he was indebted could place the lobe of his ear against a post, and bore a

⁶⁶ Strong's.

hole through it, and he became his servant "forever". (**Exod. 21:6**) This forever could mean only until the man died, or until the year of Jubilee, when all slaves went free. God said to David that if he would serve in righteousness he might be a King forever (**I Chron. 28:4**). His rule lasted for forty years. Poor Jonah bewailed the fact that he was in the whale's belly forever. (**Jonah 4:6**) It might have seemed so to him, but it only lasted three days."⁶⁷ There are several other examples that could be sighted to illustrate this point, but these are sufficient to cause us to conclude that "forever" refers to a period of time necessary to fulfill or complete a given purpose.

The word torment or tormenter comes from the Greek word, "basanizo". A form of the word is used in **Matt. 18:34-35**; where Jesus; in a parable, tells of a man who is unable to pay his debt to another, he is then turned over to the tormentor (executioner) until he has paid his debt in full. Are we to suppose that Jesus was sanctioning torture as an acceptable punishment for failure of paying a debt? It seems clear that the word is used to express punishment but not torture in the sense that we use the word. Satan will be brought unto judgment. He will be delivered to the tormentor until he has paid his debt in full. I don't know how long Satan may burn, but it is not eternally, for time is suggested by the term day and night. One thing is sure his punishment will be complete.

⁶⁷ The Everlasting Gospel, P. 116.

Review Questions - Judgment

Write these verses and memorizes them: Rom. 6:23; Ecc. 9:5; Ecc. 12:14

1. What is the difference between the two Adams?
2. When will the righteous have spiritual bodies?
3. How is man's state defined?
4. What is God's nature?
5. To what is the 'breath of life' referring?
6. How are all men in the natural state regarded?
7. If the wrath of God abides on a person, of what does it deprive him?
8. To whom is the sinner saved from wrath?
9. To whom is eternal life promised?
10. When will the faithful be changed from mortal to immortal?
11. In whom is eternal life?
12. By what figure does the Bible represent death?
13. What happens to man's awareness and thoughts upon death?
14. Were there to be no resurrection of the dead, what would be the condition of those fallen asleep in Christ? (I Corinthians 15:16-18)
15. When will the resurrection of the righteous take place?
16. In what condition is man while in the grave? (Ecc. 9:10)
17. What is the difference between the present body and the one to be put on in the resurrection?
18. What is the 'earnest of our inheritance'?
19. What is the reward of the wicked?
20. Who is going to judge us?
21. Who will be judged during the "White Throne Judgment" at the second resurrection?
22. What is the last enemy to be destroyed?
23. Define the following terms:
 - a. apollumi
 - b. sheol
 - c. hades
 - d. gehenna
 - e. Tartarus
 - f. the abyss
 - g. lake of fire
23. What is the wages of sin?
24. When are the wicked dead raised?
25. What is the final destruction of the wicked called?
26. What does the 'rich man and Lazarus' represent?