

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Seventeen

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Luke 19:12; Rev. 3:8; Matt. 4:43; 1 Thess. 4:17; Titus 2:13

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that while we are waiting for the Lord Jesus to return, we should live a proper Christian life; being faithful to the Lord's name and faithful to His Word. We do not know when He may come so we must be ready at all times by keeping our hearts turned toward Him and living in His presence. When He comes we will be raptured to meet together with Him. Our hope is that our Lord Jesus will soon fulfill His promise and come again to take us to be with Himself.

Memory Verse: "We should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:12b-13).

Facts to Teach:

1. Before the Lord Jesus was crucified He told His disciples that He would one day go away, like a man who went away on a long journey (Luke 19:12), but He would come again. He "went away" when He ascended into heaven but He will come again, as He promised.
2. The Lord warned us that while we are waiting for Him to return we should not become careless in the way we live. We should not live like the worldly and unbelieving people live who do not care about or believe in the Lord Jesus or His words. We should be faithful to Him and His words; we should live and behave in such a way that others may know that we are God's children (Matt. 5:16). We should not deny or be ashamed of His name (Rev. 3:8). Rather, we should confess His name before men (Matt. 10:32) so that they might also believe in Him, call upon him, and be saved (Rom. 10:9, 13).
3. The Lord Jesus told us that no one knows exactly when He will come. It is a secret that only God knows. He warned us to be ready at all times, for He will come like a thief in the night (Matt. 24:43). This means that He will come suddenly and with no warning. We should always have our heart turned to Him, be living in His presence, and be awaiting His return.
4. When He returns His living believers will be raptured (taken up) from the earth and will meet together with Him. All those believers who died before the Lord comes back will be resurrected and will also be raptured to meet the Lord. Then all the believers will be together with the Lord for eternity in the New Jerusalem.
5. The world has no hope ahead of it, only more problems, troubles, and God's judgment because of all of its sin and especially for rejecting its only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We, however, are filled with hope and expectation for we are "Awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13).

He was given a name above every name (Phil. 2:9). One day at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord." His precious name (the name of the One who loved us, died for us, and rose again) is the only name given to men to call upon, by which they can be saved (Acts 4:12). How precious, how worthy, how glorious is the name of Jesus!

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for Lesson 17)

THE LORD'S RETURN

Memory verses: We should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, Awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus.
Titus 2:12b-13

One day soon our Lord Jesus, the Prince of glory, who left long ago will come back. This time, His second coming, will not be anything like the first, so long ago as a babe in Bethlehem, No. Never again will there be "No room" for Him in any inn. No cruel thorns will ever pierce His head again. At this second coming all creation will be restored, as He, the King of Kings, reigns. The curse will be removed. "The lion will lie down with the lamb and a little child shall lead them." All will be peaceful and wonderful.

Our Lord left this earth after being rejected and becoming the poorest of the poor. He kept nothing for Himself. At the cross He even gambled for His clothing. They took from Him His life; then they sealed the stone which was rolled over His grave. But the amazing thing was that after three days He arose from among the dead in resurrection life. His disciples needed that resurrection life also. They were in deep despair behind closed doors in fear of the Jews. Then gently and unannounced, Jesus was in their midst. Their sorrow was turned into joy. They held Him, they felt the wounds in His hands and feet and they were comforted. He answered their questions, and then disappeared as mysteriously as He had come. For forty days He appeared at times to them and then left again. By this they realized that He was ever-present. Though they did not see Him, He was with them and He would never, never leave them.

He had come into the world to redeem a People; not just a few, but a mighty host, to be His Body, the church. These faithful followers He had been with were to be the foundation for the many to follow in the ages to come.

One day while He and they were walkin together after His resurrection, He led them out as far as Bethany, where the home of Simon the Leper was and where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Then, lifting up His hands He blessed them and a cloud received Him out of their sight. As they were staring into the sky, two angels were standing with them, who said, "...Why do you stand looking into heaven?

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you beheld Him go into heaven." They could not see beyond that separating cloud. They walked away speaking many things to one another. Before He was born an angel had said to Mary, His mother, "He shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David...and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." Was this not about to come? They remembered His words, "The times are in the Father's Hands." They went back to Jerusalem as He had told them to do, and waited and prayed.

They needed His presence now, in a real and living way. In Acts chapter 2 we read of His answer to that deep need of theirs when the Holy Spirit came down upon them all and empowered them to become His true witnesses. Now that they were possessed with His Life, they were prepared to follow Him. When the first disciple was stoned to death, Stephen, they were reminded again, as he looked through the clouds and said, "I see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (The Lord Jesus was looking down and was very near.) Saul, who later became Paul, witnessed this stoning of Stephen. He then took up the persecution, alining himself with the religious opposers. Because of Saul's threatenings, many believers fled, leaving Jerusalem.

Persecution did not stop the Lord's witnesses, it only increased their numbers. The cruel tortures inflicted on the Believers were horrible, reflecting Satan's hatred of God and of His redeemed.

In the years after our Lord's resurrection the opposers were relentless, trying their hardest to stamp out Christianity. But the disciples had a fire that burned in their hearts for God's Kingdom and the spread of the Gospel. Though they suffered the loss of all things they continued faithful to their Lord and to each other, often going into death with their loved ones and refusing to betray their fellow members in the church. FOXE'S BOOK OF MARTYRS (sold in any Bible bookstore) gives accounts of each of the disciple's sad deaths. Only John lived a full life for his Master. In spite of severe persecution they surprised those who looked on by loving their enemies and by their prayers and singing to uphold each other. This was most remarkable

Rome was the largest city in the world at that time. They built an immense arena holding one hundred thousand people. It still stands and it is called the Colosseum. It is most impressive for its huge size and arched