

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

This morning, we will continue with the warning that Jesus gave His disciples of the things that were to come.

You might remember from our study last week, that Jesus exits the temple at the beginning of Chapter 13 and He reveals to His disciples that the temple was going to be destroyed – that not one stone was going to be left standing.

And in 70 AD, this was fulfilled as the Roman army destroyed the temple.

Jesus then takes them down the Kidron Valley and up to the Mount of Olives where He begins to reveal to them that they too are going to suffer persecution for His sake.

And of course we know through scripture and church history of the persecution that the disciples and the early church endured.

Now, Jesus is going to continue to speak to them about events that are going to happen in the future, some of them, these disciples will see and be impacted personally and some of them, we are still waiting for them to occur.

So let's get started.

[Mar 13:14-37 NKJV] 14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. 16 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter. 19 "For [in] those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

So in verse 14, Jesus mentions the abomination of desolation.

The Greek word for abomination is the word - bdelugma – which means a foul thing, a detestable thing.

And Jesus references the Prophet Daniel.

And the best resource we have to study the bible is the bible itself.

Turn with me to Daniel 9,

[Dan 9:25-27 NKJV] 25 "Know therefore and understand, [That] from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, [There shall be] seven

weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it [shall be] with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

There are a few significant events that the Prophet Daniel discloses here in these three verses.

In verses 25 and the first half of verse 26, we have a countdown.

From the time that Artaxerxes gives his decree to rebuild Jerusalem

to Nehemiah (In the book of Nehemiah), there will be a total of 483 years.

How do we get 483 years?

Seven weeks = seven * sevens = 49 years

Sixty Two weeks = 62 X 7 = 434 years

If one adds them, we get 483 years.

So if you multiply 483 years X 360 days in a year – Jewish calendar.

173880 days.

It brings us to the exact day that Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday, we covered this three weeks ago.

Remember the people laid the street with branches and the clothes as Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem to the chants of Hosanna.

We also see that the Messiah would be killed. (vs 26) cut off! – not for Himself

Jesus presented Himself on Palm Sunday, and was put to death the following Friday. He didn't die because He deserved it, he didn't die for Himself. He died for you and me.

We also see the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Roman army.

And we also see the day that the Antichrist will reveal himself – and he does this at the midway point of the seven year tribulation period – where Paul tells us that he will erect an image of himself for the Jews to worship.

The antichrist will go into the Temple in Jerusalem and declare that he is God – this is the abomination of desolation.

So, back to Mark...

So the warning that Jesus is giving His disciples is twofold. It is written for the Jews during the time of Christ and the Jews during the Seven Year Tribulation period that still has not happened.

1. For the Jews during the time of Christ – He is saying, “When you see the Roman army coming to conquer Jerusalem – run!” Because when the Roman army came into the city, they slaughtered everyone.

The only reason that they stopped killing Jews was because there were none left in the city – many ran to the mountains.

Some say that they ran to the city of Pella to hide. The Jewish historian Josephus writes about a group that fled to Masada, a fortress on top of a mesa. He writes that the Roman Army surrounded the mesa and starved many of the Jews to death until they committed mass suicide as the Romans entered the fortress.

2. The warning is also intended for the Jews that will witness the abomination of desolation 2000 years after Jesus gives this warning to His disciples. And Jesus tells them to run as well. Many theologians believe that many will flee into the ancient city of Petra which is located in Jordan and hide there until the end of the seven years.

Because of the urgency, those that are nursing or pregnant will have the hardest time trying to escape the slaughter.

Let's look at verse 19 again.

[Mar 13:19 NKJV] 19 "For [in] those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

No single event or time period will come close to the chaos that will exist during the tribulation period.

Think about that...

The destruction of Jerusalem by Rome and the Holocaust will not even come close in comparison to what is going to happen during the tribulation period.

[Mar 13:20 NKJV] 20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

While intense, this period of future tribulation will be short-lived.

And it has to be — because so severe will the trials be that if they weren't of limited duration, no one would be left alive.

And the reason God will shorten the time & bring the Tribulation to a hasty end is because He wants to protect "the elect."

Who are the elect???

Because in scripture, "the elect", can be in reference to all Christians (Col 3:12), to Jesus Himself (Isaiah 42:1) and even angels (1 Tim 5:21).

However, reading this passage in context, it is clear the Jesus is referring to the elect as the Jewish people.

Where do you find that???

[Isa 45:4 NKJV] 4 For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

And when the abomination of desolation occurs in the middle of the tribulation, that is when the Jews are going to realize that Jesus Christ was the Messiah that they had rejected 2000 years earlier. And once again, God will deliver them – like He has throughout scriptures.

21 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here [is] the Christ!' or, 'Look, [He is] there!' do not believe it. 22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to

deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

Jesus then exhorts His disciples to use discernment so that they will not be deceived.

Because of the anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – there will be many imposters who will claim that they are Jesus Christ.

And people will be deceived and fall away.

As believers, we are told to test everything.

[1Th 5:21 NKJV] 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

And the only way to test these false prophets and false christs is through the Word of God.

When I was a young child, wayyyy before the era of caller ID, we had to answer the phone every time someone called to see who it was.

When my grandmother called on the phone, because I was familiar with her voice, I was able to tell my parents – grandmas on the phone.

However, if they spoke with a deep voice and claimed to be grandma, I knew they were imposters.

If we spend time in the Word of God, we will become familiar with His voice. We will know when something doesn't sound right.

When the Mormons ride their bikes up your driveway and say they are Christians and preach a different gospel – that originated from a false prophet, something is not right.

When you go to the store and someone hands you a watchtower pamphlet that says that Jesus already returned in the early 1900's – something is not right.

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 "the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Here is the greatest event in human history, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth in power and glory.

This is the event that puts all false prophets, all atheists, all doubters out of business.

Turn with me to the book of Revelation 19,

[Rev 19:11-16 NKJV] 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and

True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

One of the ways to know that all the pretenders before Jesus' 2nd coming were fakes is that they don't come in this kind of majestic, sky-rending power that is described here.

If everyone doesn't see Him coming in the skies with all of heaven's power & glory at His back, guess what? it's not Him!

That glorious day, there will be no denying the truth of God and His word when Jesus returns to the earth to set up His millennial kingdom for one thousand years. (You could read about that in Rev 20)

27 "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Upon His triumphant return, Jesus will send angels to collect the elect, the Jews that survived the Tribulation period.

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 "So you also, when you see these

things happening, know that it is near--at the doors! 30

"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Now, a few weeks ago, in chapter 11, we went over the event where Jesus withered the fig tree.

And the reason that He withered the fig tree was because it did not bear fruit even though it had the appearance that it was supposed to bear fruit.

And I mentioned that the fig tree was a representation of the spiritual condition of the Jews during this time.

They had religion, they had the temple – but there was no spiritual fruit even though they presented themselves as having fruit.

So here Jesus gives them the parable of the fig tree.

Earlier in the chapter, the disciples had questioned Jesus about when all these things were going to occur - **This is as close as**

Jesus is going to get to telling them when He's coming back. He's giving the information they need to know that it's getting close.

And once again the fig tree represents that nation of Israel.

When Rome conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple, the nation of Israel ceased to exist. No fig tree.

Then in 1948, something happened that has never happened before in history. An ancient nation was reborn. After 2000 years of being dormant, the fig tree made it through the long winter and has begun to put out it's leaves.

Israel became a nation again and it was a declaration to the world that summer is approaching – that Jesus Christ is coming soon.

31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Some people would try to dismiss or manipulate the word of Jesus and say that Jesus was simply speaking allegorically.

But scripture should be interpreted literally whenever possible.

The words of Jesus are dependable and they aren't going away.

His prophetic word is sure and we can live confidently by it.

If Jesus says it going to happen – guess what? It's going to happen.

Now, before we proceed, I want you to underline verse 32 – all of it.

32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

The Greek word that is used here for no one – guess what??? It means no one.

In the late 80's before I accepted Jesus Christ, there was this black sedan that was always parked in the shopping center close to our house and on the car, the owner had printed all over the car the date that he thought Jesus Christ was going to come back.

Every time I would go to the store, I would see the car and then I would look at my calculator watch and think that day is approaching.

That day came and went and the owner had to get a new paint job with a new date on it – maybe he forgot to carry the one – who knows???

Hal Lindsey doesn't know, John Hagee doesn't know – no one knows.

What about those that say they figured it out and speak of the blood moons – church no one knows.

We cannot know the “day” or the exact “hour.”

To get caught up in date setting is to disregard Jesus own words here. Not even He knew the day or hour of His coming.

Let's see what Apostle Paul tells us in the book of Thessalonians.

[1Th 5:1-11 NKJV] 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or

sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

The reason that Jesus reveals this to His disciples was not so they could spend their time and energy trying to figure out when His return was going to be.

It was so that they would be prepared for His Second Coming.

For 2000 years, every generation from the time of Jesus has been anticipating His return.

Whether Jesus comes back in the next hour or if He tarries comes back in 50 years, our job as believers, is to continue to be faithful to His will.

33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

These are our instructions – take heed, watch and pray

34 "[It is] like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- 36 "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Jesus wants us to be like the doorkeeper. To be watchful for His return.

However, as we await His return, we are prone to becoming spiritually lazy in our relationship with Him.

We backslide and become indifferent to what God wants from us.

We are to watch for Him, and as we watch, we are supposed to continue the commission that we have all been given.

To make disciples of all the nations –

We don't sit on the couch waiting for His return.

Find out what He's given you. Read the parable of the Talents.

And take what He's given you and learn to use it for the Kingdom

As we await His return we are to continue the good work that He has started in us and through us to proclaim the gospel to everyone He puts in our path.

Amen.

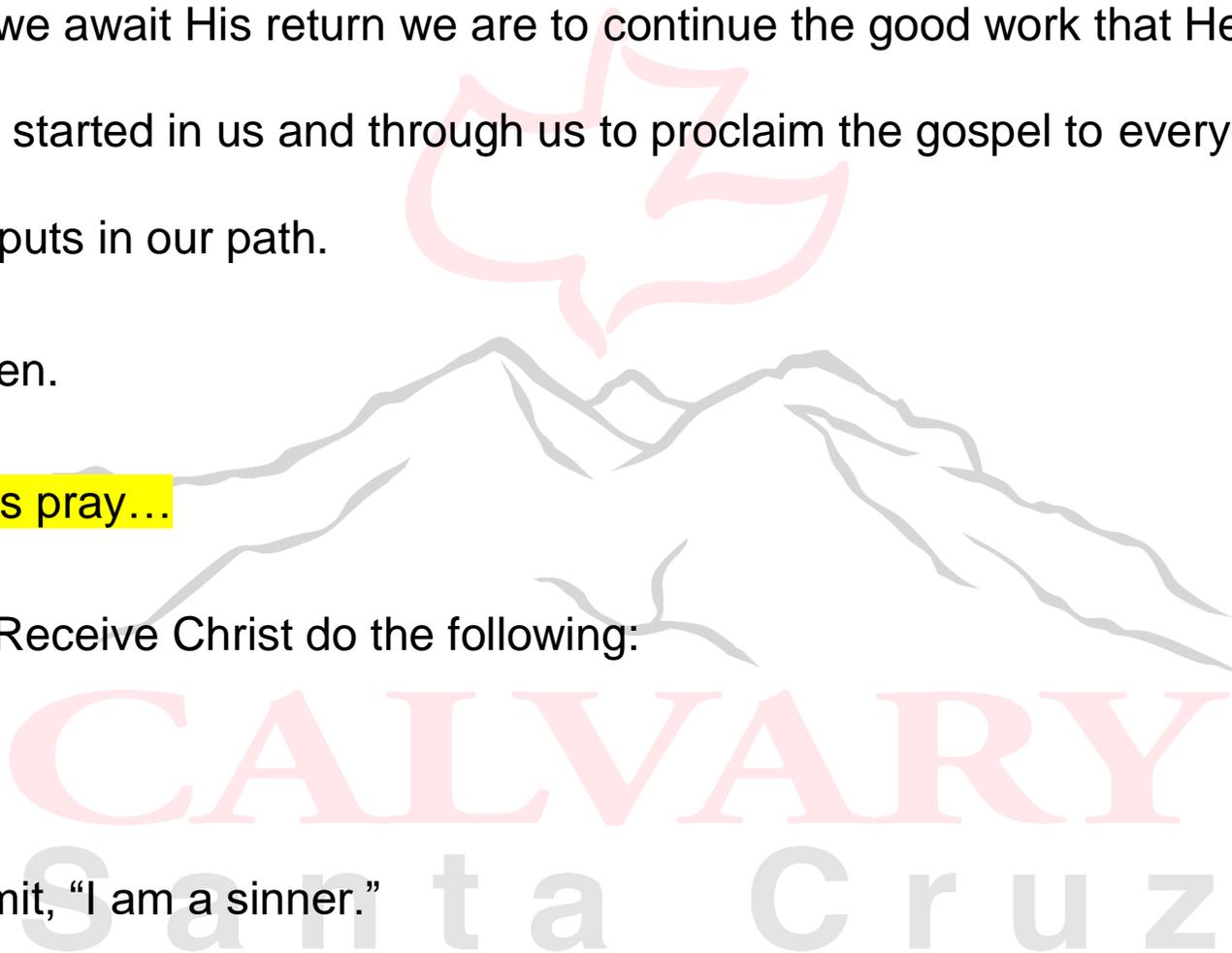
Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

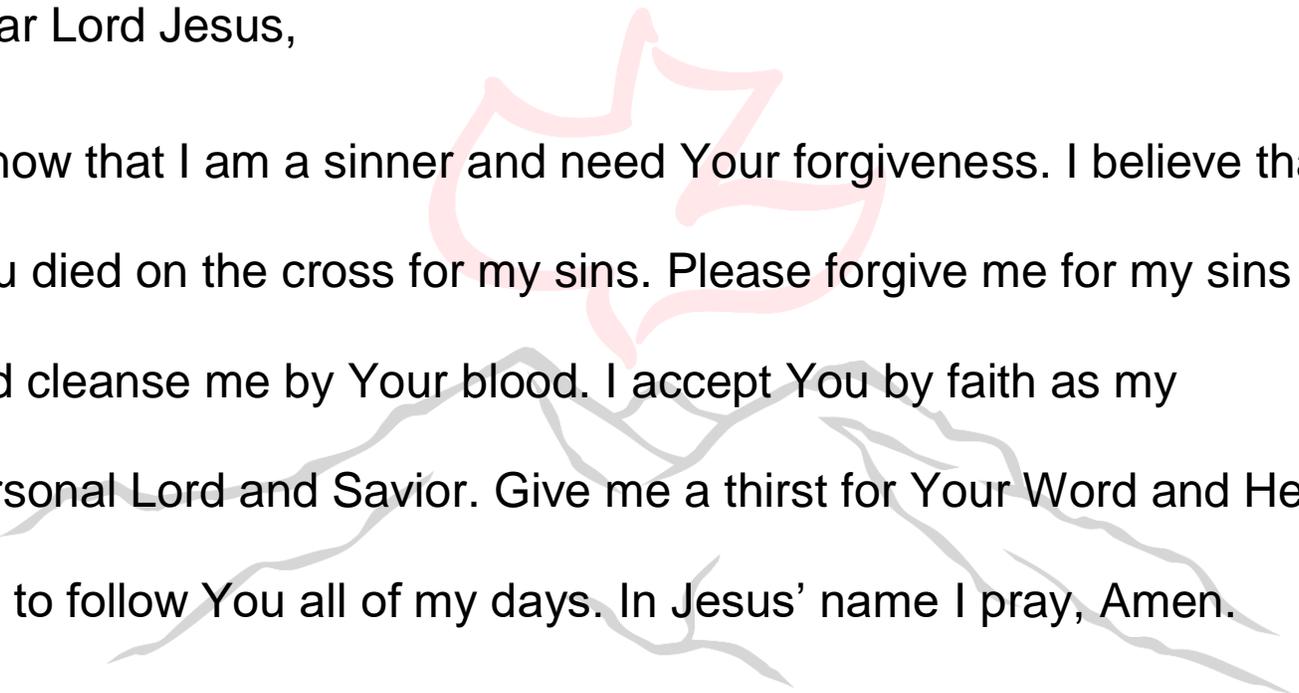


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Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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