

The Wonder of Jesus Lesson 13 2Q 2008

His Return as King and Friend

Thoughts about the title, about the expectation of Christ's return and any questions about the entire issue of Christ's return?

SABBATH

Read memory text – thoughts? What does it mean “not to deal with sin”? What does it mean to “deal with sin”? Why is He not coming back to deal with sin?

Read second paragraph “Though unpleasant....” Thoughts? What anxiety provoking nightmares have you heard? Does our church present any of its own?

Read last sentence – thoughts? Why are people afraid of the second coming?

- They are not ready?
- Lies about God?

What is the final message of mercy to go to the world? Is it not the truth about God's character of love? Is the final message of mercy just about how much Jesus loves us or is it presenting the Godhead back in unity, doing away with the disparity hangover from the reformation and realizing the Father is just like Jesus?

Doesn't Jesus come sitting at the right hand of the Father?

"But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64

Does it make a difference? Is it possible God is waiting for us to come into the truth about Him, the unity of the Godhead before He can come and get us?

Let's read the end of Jesus prayer to His Father right before His crucifixion:

JN 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

JN 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

JN 17:25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

What do you hear in these words?

Christ is praying that we will all be one, unified just as Christ and the Father are unified, would this require we come to know the truth about God, that He is just like Jesus?

Jesus wants us to see His glory, what is His glory? Character and is this character the same as the Father's? And notice

how He ends by reminding us the world doesn't know the Father but Christ has revealed Him – is it possible Christ is waiting for us to come back into the truth about the Father?

Can we come into unity with Christ and the Father, knowing their character if we believe God is vengeful, must inflict destruction and suffering on His creatures?

SUNDAY

Read second paragraph – thoughts?

What is the work Christ has been doing since 1844? Where is this work taking place?

One of the founders of our church, who espoused the importance of 1844 wrote in the book the GC:

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in *Daniel 8:14*; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in *Daniel 7:13*; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by *Malachi* [3:1-3], are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” (p. 426).

Read Malachi 3:1-3:

MAL 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

MAL 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a

refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

What is being cleansed in this passage, which is the same event as Daniel 8:14? The Levites, who are? The Priesthood of believers.

Can God cleanse the “record books” of the recorded sins of the people, without cleansing the people? So, then in which Temple is Christ working?

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

What Temple is God working to cleanse?

The Bible teaches that heaven is God's throne and earth His footstool – what does this mean? Is there insight in this regarding the heavenly sanctuary?

In the OT sanctuary what does the covenant box represent?

Shikinah represents God

Angels represents sinless heavenly beings

Lid represents Christ
 Box represents what?

The converted, healed heart, minds of the believers on earth

What was in it?

Manna, 10 Commandments and Aaron's Rod

In the NT what did Jesus say was the manna and where was it to go? He was the bread of heaven and we are to eat His flesh and drink His blood. In other words the manna is to be in us!

Where is the law in the OT system? In the box, where is it in the NT? In the heart and mind (Heb 8:10).

Notice the order, we partake of the bread of heaven, the truth of Christ and are won to trust, God writes His law on our hearts and minds and then we who were dead in our trespasses and sins come to life and bring forth fruit of righteousness.

So the lid, which represents Christ connects everything, brings everything back into oneness, unity, atonement.

Eph 1:9, 10 "And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."

Col 1:16-20 "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the

firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Why 1844?

2TH 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Any insights from this passage? What temple does this man of sin set himself up in? In heaven or in the minds of people on earth? Then which temple is Christ working to cleanse?

God in His foreknowledge knew that after Christ came and won the victory on earth Satan would counter attack and cause a period of darkness and confusion and it would be 2300 years from the time the decree to rebuild the Temple until enough truth had been recovered to finish the work of cleansing the spirit temple from the lies Satan has told.

Revelation 7:1-3 tells us God has His angels holding back the four winds until something transpires, what? Until His people are "sealed" in their foreheads. He is waiting until we get ourselves so settled into the truth about Him, that like Job, nothing will shake us out of it and then He will come.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts?

Is Jesus coming the dark side or is it the events that precede His coming? What events precede His coming and why do they take place?

Why will the wicked run and hide from Christ and beg for rocks to fall on them? What causes this? Is God angry at them? Is He wrathful? Does He have a two face where He is smiling at the righteous and snarling at the wicked?

Or is it that the very condition of the wicked causes them anguish and pain of mind in the presence of truth and love?

Paul tells us that if we treat our enemies with kindness we “heap burning coals on their heads.” How much more intense will that be when the wicked are in the presence of God’s love and goodness?

Read last paragraph – thoughts? Why will the wicked suffer? Why will this be terrifying for them? Would it be criminal to misrepresent God and the reasons for their anguish?

Remember the story of Moses coming down from the mountain and how the children of Israel shrank away and begged to be hidden from Moses’ face – was Moses their enemy? Was the radiance causing physical pain and suffering? Did it harm Moses? Are there lessons here for our understanding about what happens in the end?

One Christian writer thinks so:

During that long time spent in communion with God, the face of Moses had reflected the glory of the divine Presence; unknown to himself his face shown with a dazzling light when he descended from the mountain... Aaron as well as the people shrank away from Moses,

and "they were afraid to come nigh him." Seeing their confusion and terror, but ignorant of the cause, he urged them to come near. He held out to them the pledge of God's reconciliation, and assured them of His restored favor. They perceived in his voice nothing but love and entreaty, and at last one ventured to approach him. Too awed to speak, he silently pointed to the countenance of Moses, and then toward heaven. The great leader understood his meaning. In their conscious guilt, feeling themselves still under the divine displeasure, they could not endure the heavenly light, which, had they been obedient to God, would have filled them with joy. There is fear in guilt. The soul that is free from sin will not wish to hide from the light of heaven. {PP 329.5}

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? What about the Father is He not our Friend also? Is it important to include this in our presentations?

WEDNESDAY

Read number 1. thoughts? Why are these traumatic and devastating events increasing? Do we have lessons from the book of Job? God has been interceding with sin and the powers of darkness to protect us since Adam sinned, in the end as more and more people close their hearts and minds to the HS, the HS is withdrawn from the earth and God's restraining hand is removed, (Rev 7:1-3) and Satan has more control over the earth bringing calamity and devastation.

Read 2. thoughts? Are we facing conflict in the church? About what? Why is the conflict occurring?

Read 3. Thoughts? What should we not be naïve and gullible about? False Messiah's? What about who is causing the calamities? What about a being of light coming to rescue?

What about solidification of church state powers? Will God restrict liberties in order to save life?

Read 4. Thoughts? What gospel? What is the final message of mercy? The good news about God, that He is exactly like Jesus. Does this mean we have to be able to present all doctrines in a way that reveal the loving character of God? Are there any that you have had a hard time reconciling with the loving character of God as revealed by Jesus?

Read 5. Thoughts, why is it important

Read 6. Thoughts? What are those signs? Have the signs already happened? Will they happen again? GC talks about the Dark day of 1780 being a sign – do you agree? Several questions – is it a sign for the entire world? Is it a sign for people living when the end events occur? Was it a sign useful to start the last day movements and occurred in the area of the world where people were open to God's last day message? Will there be a more global sign to alert people in the end?

Interesting news article:

May 19, 1780: Darkness at Noon Enshrouds New England

By Randy Alfred  05.19.08 | 12:00 AM

1780: In the midst of the Revolutionary War, darkness descends on New England at midday. Many people think Judgment Day is at hand. It will be remembered as New England's Dark Day.

Diaries of the preceding days mention smoky air and a red sun at morning and evening. Around noon this day, an early darkness fell: Birds sang their evening songs, farm animals returned to their roosts and barns, and humans were bewildered.

Some went to church, many sought the solace of the tavern, and more than a few nearer the edges of the darkened area commented on the strange beauty of the preternatural half-light. One person noted that clean silver had the color of brass.

It was darkest in northeastern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine, but it got dusky through most of New England and as far away as New York. At Morristown, New Jersey, Gen. George Washington noted it in his diary.

In the darkest area, people had to take their midday meals by candlelight. A Massachusetts resident noted, "In some places, the darkness was so great that persons could not see to read common print in the open air." In New Hampshire, wrote one person, "A sheet of white paper held within a few inches of the eyes was equally invisible with the blackest velvet."

At Hartford, Col. Abraham Davenport opposed adjourning the Connecticut legislature, thus: "The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of an adjournment; if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty."

When it was time for night to fall, the full moon failed to bring light. Even areas that had seen a pale sun in the day could see no moon at all. No moon, no stars: It was the darkest night anyone had seen. Some people could not sleep and waited through the long hours to see if the sun would ever rise again. They witnessed its return the morning of May 20. Many observed the anniversary a year later as a day of fasting and prayer.

Professor Samuel Williams of Harvard gathered reports from throughout the affected areas to seek an explanation. A town farther north had reported "a black scum like ashes" on rainwater collected in tubs. A Boston observer noted the air smelled like a "malt-house or coal-kiln." Williams noted that rain in Cambridge fell "thick and dark and sooty" and tasted and smelled like the "black ash of burnt leaves."

As if from a forest fire to the north? Without railroad or telegraph, people would not know: No news could come sooner than delivered on horseback, assuming the wildfire was even near any European settlements in the vast wilderness.

But we know today that the darkness had moved southwest at about 25 mph. And we know that forest fires in Canada in 1881, 1950 and 2002 each cast a pall of smoke over the northeastern United States.

A definitive answer came in 2007. In the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, Erin R. McMurry of the University of Missouri forestry department and co-authors combined written accounts with fire-scar evidence from Algonquin Provincial Park in eastern Ontario to document a massive wildfire in the spring of 1780 as the "likely source of the infamous Dark Day of 1780."

Read 8. Does Christ not know? While He didn't know while a human on earth and denying Himself access to divine abilities, would it not be possible for Him and the Holy Spirit to know now?

THURSDAY

How do we explain the delay in Jesus coming? What is He waiting for?

For people to get ready? For the 144,000 to get sealed? For the gospel to be preached to the world? Do we have any role in this? Can we hasten the day of the Lord? What can we do?

FRIDAY – read and discuss questions 3 and 4.