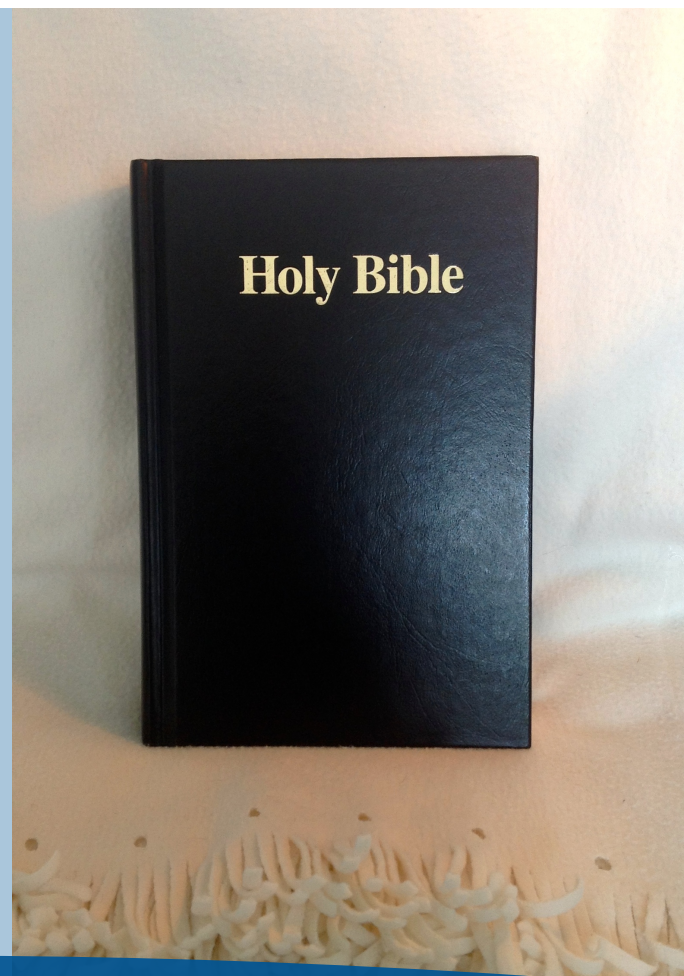


*Unlock the passages of the Bible for yourself*

# Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EXPLORING  
WHAT THE  
BIBLE SAYS  
ABOUT THE  
RETURN OF  
CHRIST



Paul taught the Thessalonians to turn “to God from idols to serve the living and true God And”(v9)

### **1 Thessalonians 1:10**

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

And in chapter 4:-

### **1 Thessalonians 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:

So we see Christ has to return at the last day, to raise the responsible dead, and so after he had ascended to heaven, Jesus says in his revelation to John

### **Revelation 16:15**

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

We find Christ's promise to return repeated several time in the book of Revelation, as:-

### **Revelation 22**

**:7** Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed [is] he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

**:12** And, **behold, I come quickly**; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

“to give every man according as his work shall be” means Christ returns as Judge of living and the resurrected dead.

### **Rev 22:20**

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely **I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

### **Rev 3:11**

Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

**Rev 2:25** But that which ye have [already] hold fast **till I come**.

“come quickly” in the original Greek signifies ‘suddenly’.

All these quotes from Revelation were communicated through the Apostle John after Christ had ascended to heaven.

Jesus also has to return and save the Jews from gentile enemies and re-establish Israel as the Kingdom of God:-

### **Zechariah 12**

**:9** And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

**: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.

The Apostle John refers to this passage and applies it to Jesus, for at his crucifixion John records:-

### **John 19**

**:34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

**:35** And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

**:36** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

**:37** And again another scripture saith, **They shall look on him whom they pierced**.

So when Jesus returns the mark of the spear wound will convince the Jews of who he is, as Referred to also in:-

**Revelation 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.

Returning to Zechariah in the Old Testament we find more detail of Israel's deliverance by Christ:-

#### **Zechariah 14**

**:1** Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

**:2** For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

**:3** 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,.....

“his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives”. Jesus had much association with the mount of Olives. He walked to and from Jerusalem via the mount of Olives, and often slept in the olive yards on the mount.

We find that after his resurrection Jesus ascended to heaven from the mount of Olives

#### **ACTS 1:**

**3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

**6** When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

**7** And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

**9** And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

**10** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

**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.

**12** Then returned they unto Jerusalem from **the mount called Olivet**, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey."

So Jesus must return to restore "the kingdom to Israel" (verse 6) as "the Kingdom of God" (verse 3). After 40 days instruction "pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Act 1v.3) it only remained for them to enquire as to the "time" when this promise shall be fulfilled (Act 1v6). Christ's answer is that its not for them "to know the times", (Act 1v7) but as they are told in verse 11, it shall be when "this same Jesus....shall so come in like manner" as he ascended.

The book of Revelation is a prophecy, which also speaks of the end times.

#### **Revelation 11:**

**17** Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

**18** And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest **give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great;** and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

So we see Christ has to return to raise the responsible dead and judge them and reward the faithful and to rebuke the nations.

#### **Revelation 11:**

**15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

So Christ has to return also to rule the nations. These things are foretold in both the New and Old Testaments.

**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.

Jesus “the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” is spoken of by this term in the Old Testament also:-

**Daniel 7:**

**13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

**14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

And turning to Zechariah 14 again

**Zechariah 14:**

**9** And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

**10** All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

We see Christ's throne will be in the restored kingdom of Israel the Kingdom of God on earth.

**Zechariah 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.

Delegations from the nations will be obliged to pay homage to Jerusalem and celebrate the annual feast of tabernacles. Peter refers to the restitution of these things in The Acts of The Apostles:-

### **Acts 3:**

**19** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

**21** Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

And so the Kingdom of Israel is to be restored by Christ:-

### **Micah 4**

**:1** But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

**:2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**:3** And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

This is one of many passages that show that as well as ruling Israel as the future Kingdom and Paradise of God, Christ will also rule over all the nations as a great empire subject to the Kingdom of God and of Israel:

**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.

### **Luke 1**

**:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

**:32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

**:33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

So Christ is to be the great king promised in the prophets

**Jeremiah 23**

:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

:7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

:8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

So we see that both Old and New Testaments show that Christ must return to the earth, otherwise there is no hope for anyone.

**PSALM 2:**

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

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

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

The hope is to share in this kingdom and worldwide empire at Christ's return, as Jesus quotes Psalm 2 and extends it to the believers in:-

**REVELATION 2:**

26 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.

So Christ must return to raise from the dead the **responsible dead**  
**to judge them**

**to reward the faithful with power over the nations**  
**to deliver and restore Israel as the kingdom of God on earth**  
**to subdue the nations and rule them**  
**with his resurrected and immortalised faithful followers**