

# Living for Jesus

## EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM

**To the reader:** Keep your Bible beside you. Always read your Bible first, then read these notes. Check the references and read them also. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.

### FEW MEN SAW HIM

The prophet said Messiah Christ would come, born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; 40:1-4). Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:8).

The angel told Mary, "You will give birth to a son, and you will give Him the name "Jesus," Saviour. "The Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:31,35). All heaven and earth waited for the Son of Promise to be born at Bethlehem.

A company of angels announced His birth to poor shepherds in the fields outside Jerusalem (Luke 2:11). They cared for the sheep and lambs that would be used to celebrate Passover.

The shepherds were startled. They said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see the thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:15). So they hurried into the town of Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus. Their eyes grew wide with wonder when they found Him lying in a manger.

Wise men living in Arabia saw a bright star in the east. They made the long journey to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One that has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:1-12).

King Herod heard that men had come to Jerusalem seeking One born to be king. He called the Jewish priests and teachers and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They replied, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for that is what the prophet has written" (Micah 5:2).

When the wise men turned to go to Bethlehem, the star went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They saw the child, Jesus, with His mother Mary and worshipped Him.

### GOD'S SERVANTS SAW HIM

On the eighth day, Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple to give Him back to God. A few servants of the Lord saw Him there. Simon took the baby in his arms and praising God said, "My eyes have seen Your salvation . . . a light for the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-35).

"There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old . . . She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:36-38). Anna knew she was looking at the Saviour of the world (John 1:29).

Simeon did not represent the priesthood or the clergy, but the long line of men of faith who had waited for the coming of the Messiah. Anna stood for the women of faith of all ages who saw in Christ the fulfillment of God's promise. In the garden in Eden God cursed Satan and promised Eve, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and hers; He (Jesus Christ, Galatians 3:16) will crush your head (Satan) and you will strike His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

Jesus Christ, the babe in arms, would grow up to crush Satan's head - his power and authority over us - by his death on the cross (Hebrews 2:14-15).

The apostle Paul, writing to the Galatians said, "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem (save) those under the law . . ." (Galatians 4:4).

### TALK ABOUT

1. God promised to send a Saviour to save men and women from their sins. Who did He tell (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14)?
2. Who heard the news of His birth first (Luke 2:8-16)?

3. Who named God's Son?
4. What name did the angel give Him (Matthew 1:21)?

### **A FEW OTHERS SAW THE MESSIAH**

A privileged few knew who Jesus was, the Son of God, incarnate in human flesh. The old man Simeon saw Joseph and Mary bring baby Jesus into the temple. Simeon took the babe in his arms and exclaimed, "Sovereign Lord . . . my eyes have seen Your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-31).

Few others noticed Jesus as He grew up. Only His mother and father believed that He was a special child. "They marvelled at what was said about Him" by Anna and Simeon at the Temple.

Some saw Him in the temple courts teaching the common people. Some saw Him on the hillside with the crowds. Some saw Him in the market place. Their curiosity stopped them for a moment, then they passed on.

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus read Isaiah the prophet's words. They were written about Him 700 years before: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me . . . He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind . . . to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2). The Messiah said the most amazing words, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). He was the One, sent by the Father, to proclaim the "good news" of God's favour toward all who would repent and believe (Mark 1:15).

God opened the eyes of a few to see Jesus Christ for who He was: "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

### **THEY SAW HIM IN HIS GLORY**

Some saw His glorious person with their natural eyes. Peter, James and John saw their Lord transfigured before them (Matthew 17:1-13).

Jesus took the three disciples up a high mountain. As they watched Jesus "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:2). Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus and a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son . . . with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

God's prophets had come and gone, now they must listen to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets . . . but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things . . ." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

### **THEY SAW HIM AFTER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD**

A few saw Jesus Christ after He rose from the dead. "He appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve (disciples). After that He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:5-6).

Mary saw Him in the garden, but she thought He was the gardener (John 20:15-16). The disciples saw Him when He came to them in the upper room, but Thomas doubted that it was He, their Risen Lord,

Jesus said to Thomas and the other disciples, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:27).

That same evening of the first day of the week, two of His disciples walked along the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27). They were sad and talked to each other with low voices about the things they had heard.

As they walked toward Emmaus, a stranger drew near to them. He asked them, "What are you discussing together . . ." Cleopas and the other disciple stopped.

Cleopas asked the stranger, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days" (Luke 24:18)? "What things?" the stranger asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed . . . The chief priests and our rulers sentenced (Him) to death . . . and they crucified Him, but we had hoped that He was the One who was going to redeem Israel."

"What is more, it is the third day since all this took place." Then "some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning, but they did not find His body. They told us they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive . . ."

He said, "How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory" (Luke 24:25-26)? He took charge "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27). Yes, Moses spoke of Him (Deuteronomy 18:15).

They invited the stranger into their home and He ate with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, "Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him" (Luke 24:30).

The Holy Spirit opened their eyes and they saw Him, the Risen Lord.

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Did everything the prophets said about Jesus come to pass? Who did Jesus speak with on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-30)?
2. What happened when Jesus ate with them (Luke 24:30)?
3. Who else saw Jesus Christ after He rose from the dead?

## **JOHN HAD A VISION OF JESUS CHRIST**

John was on the Isle of Patmos, a rocky island off the coast of Greece. He was put there by the Romans because he preached Christ and the gospel. He was a prisoner.

While John prayed and meditated on the Scriptures, he had a vision of the Risen Christ in heaven. All those who had believed the gospel were there with Him. The saints of all ages had been gathered from all the earth (Matthew 24:30-31).

Jesus Christ revealed to John that great and final day of judgment. A loud voice that sounded like a trumpet spoke to him. When John turned to listen, the voice said to him, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches . . ." The Spirit of God named seven churches at seven cities in Asia Minor.

Then John turned and saw another vision. The aged apostle saw a vision of the King - "someone like the Son of Man . . . His head and His hair were like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice like the sound of rushing waters . . . His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance" (Revelation 1:12-16). John fell at his Lord's feet, like one who is dead. Jesus put His hand on John and said, "Do not be afraid . . . I am the living One; I was dead, behold I am alive for ever and ever!"

"In His right hand He held seven stars . . ." John also saw seven lampstands. He heard a voice say, "The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches" (Rev 1:17-20).

The Risen Christ was watching over these seven churches. They had angels that watched over them also. Heaven was very concerned for their witness in the world.

Jesus Christ gave John a special message for each church. John did not want them to be ashamed when Jesus Called them to higher service.

Christ said He would present His Church as a bride "a radiant Church, without wrinkle or any other blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). But that does not mean there won't be shame for those who have lived unholy lives or missed the Master's "Well done!"

## **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN**

Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

From beginning to end, the Bible speaks of faith. God said, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. . . . By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command . . ."

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:1-6).

Faith is a verb, an action word. Faith always shows itself in what we do. James wrote, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? . . . faith, if not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:14,17).

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How do we know if a person has true faith in God (James 2:17)?

## **GOD IS JUST - HIS WORDS ARE TRUE**

Because God is just and righteous, He has no favourites. David wrote, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne" (Psalm 97:2), It would seem not fair for some to see the Lord Jesus in the flesh and others not. But we must not quarrel with God's purposes.

Many wish they could have lived when Jesus walked on the earth. They wish they could have heard the gracious words that came from His mouth as He taught the people. As we have seen, God gave this privilege to a very few.

Every word spoken by our Lord is truth. He said "I am the way and the truth and the life..." (John 14:6). At the last day, His words of truth will be proved to all. All His words will come to pass and every person will know there was nothing false in Him.

He said to the Pharisees, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the One I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins" (John 23-24).

These men - and all others who rejected His words - must see Him to prove that every word that came out of His mouth was true.

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Who saw Jesus changed before their eyes (Matthew 17:2)?
2. Where was John the apostle when he had a vision of Christ in glory (Revelation 1:9)?
3. What did Jesus say about Himself (John 14:6)?

## **EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM**

On that final Judgment Day all eyes will be fixed on the Messiah Christ. The aged apostle wrote, "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him" (Revelation 1:7, Zechariah 12:10). The Saviour will be their Judge (Romans 2:16).

"All the nations of the earth will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

Jesus said that His coming would, be spectacular. It would be seen universally, "As the lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:27).

Isaiah wrote, "And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it" (Isaiah 40:5).

God will open the eyes of all to see the Christ coming to gather His own - dead eyes, living eyes, all will see the King. "All the nations of the earth" will see Him. We believe this will happen in one split second of time (Matthew 24:30-31; 25:31).

Many who saw Him when He walked on the earth refused to believe that He was indeed the Son of God. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'." (Luke 13:35).

We all have two kinds of eyes, physical eyes and the eyes of our hearts or spiritual eyes. These Pharisees saw Him with their physical eyes, but a veil shrouded the eyes of their hearts (2 Corinthians 3:14-15). Some of the priests and leaders believed on Him. They saw Him with spiritual eyes and believed (Acts 6:7).

The Pharisees would see Christ again, but as their Judge. Those who rejected Him will see Him coming in His glory, but they will not share in it. Those who received Him in His humility will share in His glory and "they will be like Him."

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Will all Christ's words come true?
2. Who will judge those who do not believe (Romans 2:16)?
3. What did Jesus say to doubting Thomas (John 20:29)?
4. Have you believed?
5. Will God bless those who doubt His word (James 1:6-7)?

## **TERROR WILL STRIKE THEIR HEARTS**

The sight of Christ's coming will put terror in the hearts of those who pierced Him. They rejected Him at His first coming and brought judgment on themselves (John 3:36; Mathew 23:38-39). And they will reject Him to the end (Revelation 16:9). John's words draw on the vision given to Zechariah.

God said, "I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication" (12:10), The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of grace and truth. He bids all men and women make prayers and supplications to the Father in heaven.

In this context Zechariah said, "They will look on (to) Me, the One they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child..." (Zechariah 12:10). The people of Jerusalem wept over the death of young King Josiah when he was killed in battle fighting the Egyptians on the plains of Megiddo (Zechariah 12:11-14). And their weeping will be like the weeping of those who mourn for their young children. John may have thought of Zechariah's vision when he wrote of Christ's return to gather His people (Revelation 1:7).

In Isaiah's Servant Song, Christ is the One 'they' pierced (Isaiah 53:12; John 19:37), but we cannot be sure who 'they' are. Some think 'they' are the weeping people in Jerusalem, and the ones they pierced the sons of Judah who died in the battle of Megiddo.

## **ALL THE EVIDENCE WILL BE PRESENTED**

All hearts will be open before the Judge. God said, "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:12-13). The record of our lives and works of faith, or lack of them, will reward or condemn us on that day.

Paul wrote, "There will be no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). The saved ones will not be judged for their sin, Christ already bore that in His own body on the cross. But all Christians will give an account for their deeds done while they were living in this world (Romans 14:12).

The prophet Daniel had a vision of this great multitude. He saw two groups of people and no more: some had been "awakened (and raised from the dust of the earth) to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan 12:2). Daniel also saw in a vision "the court and the Judge and His throne "flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze . . ." (Dan 7:9).

### **TALK ABOUT**

1. Does God see everything we do and hear everything we say (Hebrews 4:12-13)?
2. What were the two groups of people Daniel saw in his vision (Daniel 12:2)?
3. Where were they gathered?
4. What is the difference between the two?

## **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**

God raised Our Lord Jesus Christ to the highest place. Peter told the Jews, "Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). And God the Father gave Jesus Christ a name that is above every name. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth (Sheol), and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

Every eye will see Him and know that He is the Christ, the exalted One (Revelation 1:7). And every spirit will fall before Him in worship. Every spirit will confess "that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

## **OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE**

Moses had seen God judge Egypt with "an outstretched arm" (Psalm 78:42-55). He had seen God judge sin in the camp by "a consuming fire" (Numbers 11:1). He knew first hand what he was talking about when he told the people, "Our God is a consuming fire" (Deuteronomy 4:24).

1. **The fire of God's jealousy.** God said to Israel, "I am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5). God said this when He gave the people His commandments. He told them "You shall not make for yourself an idol . . ." He alone must be worshipped.

Moses told them again, "Be careful not to forget the covenant of the Lord your God that He made with you (at Mount Sinai); do not make for yourself an idol . . . For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deuteronomy 4:24-25).

2. **The refiner's fire.** God could have wiped all sinners off the face of the earth. He said the same to the Pharaoh of Egypt (Exodus 9:15). But God was jealous for His own glory. He worked wonders in Egypt to show forth His power and His grace and He will continue to show His love to mankind until the end.

He spared the people of Israel for the same purpose - to refine them and bring forth a remnant that would be "holy unto the Lord."

This remnant of faithful people would show forth His grace and power to their own generation and to all generations to come.

He spares you and me for that same purpose only - to be His witnesses in the earth and to show forth His power and glory,

## THE DAY OF THE LORD'S JUDGMENT

3. **Final judgment of this earth.** God told Moses, "For a fire has been kindled in My wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvest and set afire the foundations of the mountains" (Deuteronomy 32:22).

Peter declared, "But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10).

4. **Final judgment will come to all who rejected Jesus Christ.**

In the Revelation Jesus Christ gave the apostle John a vision of the dead, great and small, standing before the throne "and the books were opened" (Revelation 20:12).

"The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them" (Revelation 20:13). The "sea" may mean the sea of nations.

Some Jews thought that only bodies buried in the earth could be resurrected, but John saw that the spirits of all men and women of all ages standing before the Judge.

### TALK ABOUT

1. Where did Moses see God do wonders?
2. Why did God say, "I am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5)?
3. Why does God leave wicked men on the earth?
4. Are you showing Christ's love to others?

## THE LAST AND FINAL COURT

Most nations have a Supreme Court, the final judge in the affairs of our citizens. Jews had the Sanhedrin, the highest court in Israel. The Romans had their Senate.

In Daniel's vision of the Court of Heaven, the last and final judgment, the Ancient of Days took His seat . . . ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9-10). After this final judgment, there would be no need for such a "judgment."

The Father gave the Son authority to judge those standing before the throne (Matthew 25:31-40; Rom 2:16), "And the books were opened . . ." (Revelation 20:12).

Some see these books as

- a) Books of man's conscience (Romans 2:15-16).
- b) Books of idle words (Matthew 12:26).
- c) Books of dead works (Hebrews 9:14; Matthew 16:27).

Then the Lamb's Book of Life was opened. Every person born into this world, every spirit given by God, has his or her name written in the Book of Life, God's register in heaven. But the names of multitudes who rejected Christ have been blotted out (Exodus 32:33; Revelation 3:5). Only those who have fully trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, have their names in the Book of Life (Revelation 3:6; 20:12).

Jesus will say to them, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

None of these solemn words are written to reveal the course of events on that last Great Judgment Day. They are written to lead us to faith in Christ and to eternal life in Him.

Jesus said, "Whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life . . ." (John 5:24).

#### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How can a person be saved from his or her sins?
2. Who is the final Judge (Matthew 25:31-40)?
3. Whose names will be found in the Book of Life (Revelations 3:5)?
4. Is your name in God's Book of Life?

### **IT IS NOT TOO LATE**

Did this short study bring fear to your heart? Perhaps you are not sure if you are a Christian. It is not too late to repent of your sins and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. God commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). If you have never told God you are sorry for your sins, do it now. He is ready to forgive you and to take away your sins. God said, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

Jesus died to take away all sin, past, present and future. Now God says to those who repent, "The Spirit of Life has set you free from the law of sin and death" and "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1-2).

Nothing you can do can save you. God's word says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 5:23). Forgiveness and salvation from sin are God's free gift. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Jesus said you will "cross over from death to life" (John 5:24).

Without Christ you face everlasting punishment in hell. Jesus Christ offers you life in heaven forever. He promised His followers, "I will come back and take you to be with Me . . ." (John 14:2). God has given you the freedom to choose (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

When Jesus Christ comes again you too will see Him. On that great day, will you stand before Him as a condemned sinner or as a saved saint?

#### **TALK ABOUT**

1. How will Jesus Christ come the second time (Matt 24:30-31)?
2. What promise did He made to the disciples (John 14:2-3)?
3. Can our good deeds save us from judgment?
4. What is the greatest choice God has given to mankind?
5. Have you made that choice?

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