

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

BIBLE TEXT: Matthew 25:31-40; I Corinthians 15:19-23; Ephesians 5:23-32; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 11:15-18; 12:10, 11; 19:7-16; 20:4-6; 21:1-7.

LESSON 274 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

³⁵ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

1 Corinthians 15:19-23

¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Jesus' Second Coming

The Bible tells about the second coming of Jesus, which will take place soon, without a doubt. Jesus told His disciples that He would leave them and go to His Father. He said: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). Jesus did leave them. The people watched Him as He went up and was receive out of their sight by a cloud. Two men, clothed in white garments, told the people, "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" (Acts 1:11).

The Rapture of the Church

Jesus' coming will be in two events. The first, which the Bible refers to as the "first resurrection" (Revelation 20:5, 6), includes the Rapture of the Church. At that time the living and sleeping saints who make up the true Church will be raised and snatched away, transported by the Spirit, "caught up together . . . to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

Jesus told His disciples about the things which were coming to pass here upon earth. They asked, "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus told them about the wars, the famines, the pestilences, and the earthquakes that would be in various places. He told them that the people would hate, deceive, betray, offend, and kill one another. He also told them that the Gospel would be "preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." And He added, "And then shall the end come."

All these things have come to pass. All prophecies concerning events before the second coming of Jesus, have been fulfilled. Jesus could come at any time. That is why we are warned that we should be prepared for His coming. There will not be an announcement saying that Jesus will rapture the Church at a certain time. Jesus' coming will be sudden, "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west" (Matthew 24:27). None but God the Father knows the exact time of Jesus' appearance (**Matthew 24:36** ³⁶But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only).

The Christian's Hope

To be ready for Jesus' coming is the hope of every Christian. Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth that if we had hope in Christ in this life only, we would be "off all men most miserable." But a Christian has a hope in Christ in this life and also in the life to come, because he believes the promises of God. That hope, is an "anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). It is that hope which causes the believer to purify himself, even as Christ is pure (**1 John 3:3** ³And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.).

dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

²¹ For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

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:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Revelation 11:15-18

To Be with Jesus

Why does the second coming of Jesus mean so much to Christians? Why are they looking for and waiting for that event? Those who are ready for Jesus' coming will hear the "voice of the archangel" and the "trump of God." "The dead in Christ shall rise first"; then those who are alive will be "caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air" and forever be with Jesus (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** 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:** ¹⁷ **Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord**).

How many have longed to see the face of their Redeemer! How many have been homesick for Heaven! Those who have prepared for the First Resurrection will have more than a glimpse, more than a look, more than a meeting with their Saviour! They will be forever with Jesus. They will join the hallelujah chorus in Heaven saying, "Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God" (Revelation 19:1). They will be "priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." In Revelation 20:6 we read, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."

Preparation

Heaven is a prepared place (**John 14:2** ² **In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**) for a prepared people (**Revelation 19:7** ⁷ **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready**). Let us consider how a person can prepare for Heaven and be ready for the Lord's coming. The Bible gives us the instruction, which is the same for the children as it is for adults. In order to belong to the Lord, one must have his sins washed away by the Blood of Jesus (**Revelation 7:14** ¹⁴ **And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb**). When a person is saved, the Lord give him power to live without sin (**1 John 3:9** ⁹ **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God**.). When one sins he is no longer a child of God. "He that committeth sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:8) and "is the servant of sin" (John 8:34).

One must continue to do the will of God and to obey God's Word, in order to be His disciple (**John 8:31** ³¹ **Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed**.). "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22). The Bible teaches that one must walk in the light that Jesus gives (**1 John 1:7** ⁷ **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin**.). We who have been studying these Sunday School lessons have much light. We have light because we have heard about being saved (**Romans 10:9** ⁹ **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved**.), about making restitution (lesson 269), about the necessity of living a clean, holy, sanctified life (**1 Peter 1:15-16** ¹⁵ **But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation**; ¹⁶ **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy**. **2 Peter 3:11** ¹¹ **Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved,**

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.

¹⁶ And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

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 shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

Revelation 12:10-11

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 19:7-16

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship

what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Ephesians 5:26-27 ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.), and about the promise of the Father, which is the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus commanded His disciples to receive (Acts 1:4-5 ⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Acts 1:8 ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth).

When one is walking in all the light that he has received, that person will have a knowledge in his heart that he is ready to meet the Lord. He will keep himself "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27); He will be watching and waiting for the soon coming of Jesus (Titus 2:11-13 ¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;). Do you know that you are ready for the coming of the Lord? If not, why not pray and seek God until you know that you are ready for the Rapture?

Overcomers

In order to be ready for Jesus' coming, one must be a full overcomer. A full overcomer has victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). No wonder we are exhorted to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)! It is through our faith in Jesus Christ that we have victory. One can be an overcomer by faith, "by the blood of the Lamb," and by the word of his testimony (Revelation 12:11 ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.). Read what is promised to the overcomer in Revelation 2:7 ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Revelation 2:11 ¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Revelation 2:17 ¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*. Revelation 2:26 ²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: Revelation 3:5 ⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Revelation 3:12 ¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name*. Revelation 3:21 ²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.. All those blessings are summed up in this one promise: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:7).

him. And he said unto me, *See thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no

How one's heart thrills to read of the things that God has in store for His people! How one searches his heart, fearing lest he would come short of "entering into his rest" (Hebrews 4:1)!

Coming as King

Jesus' appearance and the Rapture of the Church is one part of His second coming. The other part takes place when the Lord comes back as Conqueror, "with ten thousands of his saints" (Jude 14) to be "KING OF KINGS, And LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:16). There will be 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" (Revelation 11:15).

That is the time when the "Son of man shall come in his glory." The people of the nations will be gathered before Him. The Lord will make a separation as a shepherd divides "his sheep from the goats" (**Matthew 25:31-32** ³¹ **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:** ³² **And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats**). The godly are the sheep — gentle, patient, useful. The ungodly are the goats — stubborn, rebellious, unruly. They have been permitted to be together here on earth, but a separating time is coming.

The sheep will hear the King say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The godly will be given an inheritance, a valuable possession planned for God's people. What is the reason for their reward? They were faithful and obedient. Their works proved that they were saved — purchased by the Blood of Jesus. They showed a love for others, denied themselves; and what they did was done in Jesus' name and for His glory.

The ungodly will hear these words: "Depart from me, ye cursed, . . . Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." The ungodly will receive punishment for the things they did not do. Their lives will prove that they did not have salvation, that they did not obey the Bible, and what they did do was not done for Jesus' glory. They will be reminded of the times that they did not help others when they should have done so. "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteousness into life eternal."

Conqueror

The godly will have eternal life because death, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed," will be "swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:26, 54). Christ will be the Conqueror of all His enemies (**1 Corinthians 15:24-25** ²⁴ **Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**

²⁵ **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.**) — Satan (**Revelation 20:10** ¹⁰ **And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**), Satan's followers (**Revelation 20:15** ¹⁵ **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**), and death and hell (**Revelation 20:14** ¹⁴ **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**). Because Christ will be a triumphant Conqueror, His people — the Church — will be a triumphant. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 21:1-7

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Then the Christian's salvation will be complete. They will be victors over death, hell, and the grave, through the power of Jesus. The Christians' final victory will be won. They will no more be tempted to sin! They will no more have to fight against Satan! They will feel no more sickness and suffering, no more sorrow and death, no more crying and pain! "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Revelation 21:4).

What rejoicing and what triumph! What victory and rewards! All this and more await those who dare to take their stand for Jesus, who prepare themselves for Heaven, and who are looking for their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. How do we know that Jesus is coming soon?
2. Name the two events which will make up Jesus' second coming.
3. What will take place when the Church is raptured?
4. What will happen to the Christians who have died?
5. How can one know that he is ready for Jesus' coming?
6. How long will the Christians be with Jesus?
7. How can one be an overcomer?
8. What is promised to the overcomer?
9. Who will be King of kings and Lord of lords?
10. Who will stand before Jesus to be judged?