

## LESSON 11: WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END?

**INTRODUCTION:** A person's world-view is the lens through which he/she understands life, and it touches four areas: 1) Origin 2) Meaning 3) Morality 4) Destiny. How has your sense of destiny shaped your view of life?

### What happens when a person dies?

- Ecclesiastes 12:7, “the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
- **Luke 16:19-26** (Jesus' story of The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus)
  - <sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.
  - <sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
  - <sup>25</sup> “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’
- Luke 23:43, Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- Revelation 14:13, Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

The soul \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ and is taken immediately either to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

- John 5:28-29, “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

The body will \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ and will be \_\_\_\_\_ with the body either in eternal \_\_\_\_\_ or eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

### When will Jesus come again?

- **Read Matthew 24:4-14 and 42-44.**
  - <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains.
  - <sup>9</sup> “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come...
  - <sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and

would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

\_\_\_\_\_ knows the day of Jesus' return. But as the day draws closer, the world will become more and more \_\_\_\_\_. Some signs in society include an increase of \_\_\_\_\_; in nature we'll see \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; and spiritually, we'll see more \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, false \_\_\_\_\_, and, ironically, a spread of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **In what manner will Jesus come again?**

- Matthew 25:31, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne."
- Revelation 1:7, "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him."

He will come \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, with all his holy \_\_\_\_\_.

### **What two great events will take place when Jesus returns?**

- John 5:28-29, "'Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.'
- Acts 17:31, "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed."

All the dead will be \_\_\_\_\_ to life, and the world will be \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus Christ.

### **What will Jesus' verdict be?**

- **Read Mathew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

<sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

<sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

- John 3:18, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

He will say, “\_\_\_\_\_, you who are \_\_\_\_\_ by my \_\_\_\_\_, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” to all who \_\_\_\_\_ him as evidenced by their new lives.

He will say, “\_\_\_\_\_ from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ prepared for the devil” to all who \_\_\_\_\_ him and gave evidence of this in their lives.\

### **What will happen then?**

- 2 Peter 3:10-13, “<sup>10</sup>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 done in it will be laid bare... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup>But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”
- Philippians 3:21, “By the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, [He] will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

The world as we know it will be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, but God will give believers a new home that will be absolutely \_\_\_\_\_. They will also receive new, \_\_\_\_\_ bodies like Jesus glorious body.

### **Why will Judgment Day be a joyous day for a believer?**

- Luke 21:27-28, “At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
- Also read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**  
<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This will be the day of final \_\_\_\_\_, when we will be \_\_\_\_\_ with all our loved ones in Christ.

- Revelation 21:3-4, And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

The \_\_\_\_\_ of life in this painful world will cease to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Revelation 7:9-10, “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

We will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in glorious \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

**FOR REFLECTION:** Am I ready? What is my destiny? In whom do I trust? For whom do I live?