

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 125- Jesus Instructs the Apostles- Part 2

Church April 13, 2025

Matthew 10:5-15

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

9 Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts,

10 or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

11 And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city.

12 As you enter the house, give it your greeting.

13 If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace.

14 Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

15 Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

Now we are moving right along in our verse-by-verse "Journey" through the **Gospel of Matthew**. We began this "Journey" on November 14, 2021, and today I will preach the 125th Sermon. And again, the Goal I have established for our "Journey" through this magnificent Book is to learn just what God the Holy Spirit "moved" on the Apostle Matthew to teach us about the Birth; Life; Ministry; Death; Resurrection; and Ascension of Jesus, the Christ- the incarnate God- So that we may wonder after God and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

And as I have told you many times- Matthew was a Jew, who had betrayed the Jewish people and had been a Tax-collector- who imposed *confiscatory* taxes on his own people in order to help finance Rome to continue to keep their boot on the neck of the Jews. So, when Jesus sovereignly opened Matthew's heart and

mind to the Truth about Himself- Matthew became determined to reach the Jewish people with the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

So, the Gospel of Matthew is the most “Jewish” of the four Gospel Records. It was written by a Jew; to the Jews; and contains more Jewish Symbolism and Substance than the other three. So, as Jesus revealed Himself to the Apostle John in **The Revelation 4:7**- John saw Matthew, the Evangelist, as a “Lion”- which was *symbolic* of the Reality that the Jews were looking for a Messiah who would be the **“Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (Genesis 49:9/The Revelation 5:5).**

So, where we are in our “Journey” is that Jesus has just finished choosing the twelve Apostles and now He is going to train them to be His own private “*Shahlia*”. We need to remember that back in the 1st Century there were no telephones; no Libraries; no newspapers; no magazines; no television; no radio; and no internet. So, when a Teacher wanted to spread his Teachings to more people than he could reach himself- he gathered a group of men together, who would help him do that. And those Shaliah had what we would call today, a “*Power of Attorney*” in that when they spoke- they spoke with Authority- on behalf of the one who had sent them. So, a Shaliah did NOT develop their own Teaching- they simply helped to spread the Teaching of the one who had chosen them. And throughout Jewish History- there were many Shaliah.

So, in verses 1-4- Jesus chose twelve very ordinary men to carry out a very unordinary and special Ministry. In the “sister Passage” over in **Luke 6:12-16**- the good doctor told us that Jesus actually spent the whole night in Prayer as He agonized over which men to choose.

So, these men were, initially, part of a much *larger* Group of people called, “*Disciples*”. And the Greek word that was translated into English as “*Disciples*” is “*mathetes*”- which means: *a Student or a Learner*. And these Disciples were divided into four Groups:

1. Those who were genuinely saved
2. Those who were Lost- but who were moving *toward* being saved
3. Those who were Lost- who were moving *away* from Jesus and would soon leave Him
4. Those who were following Jesus for no other reason then what they could get out of Him

... and there were probably literally tens of thousands of these Disciples that went everywhere Jesus went.

So, out from this much *larger* Group of Disciples- Jesus chose twelve men to belong to a much *smaller* Group- His own personal “*Shaliah*” or what we call today, the “*Apostles*”.

And the twelve Apostles were men, who were given the Authority to:

- Go in Jesus' Name
- Preach Jesus' Message

... and it is from this shallow; simple; and short list of Duties as to why people come up with a shallow; simple; and short Definition of what Apostles are- as...

Those who are sent

... which is what allows some even in our Day- to lay claim to be Apostles.

But we should realize that the Apostles were much MORE than merely “those who were sent”. Because in addition to them going in Jesus' Name and preaching Jesus' Message- the Apostles were also those who were given the very SAME supernatural Authority to perform Miracles; heal the sick; and cast out devils- which those who lay claim to be Apostles in our Day- do NOT have.

But what is often overlooked when talking about Apostles is the breathtaking Way in which these men suffered. With the exception of Judas Iscariot- the Apostles- to a man- suffered some of the *worst* physical Attacks and Persecution that anyone has ever experienced- before or since. In fact, with several of them- including both John as well as Paul- had it not been for God supernaturally intervening- those men would have died early on in their Ministry.

Now as you read the Bible- you come across several powerful and “non-repeatable” Events or Ministries that were ordained by God to accomplish as a very narrow and specific Goal. And once that Goal was accomplished the Gifts or the Event or the Ministry that God had ordained- ceased. And it didn't cease because God lost His Power or because some of us supposedly don't believe in what the Bible teaches- as some say. No! Those Ministries; those Gifts; and those Offices ceased for a very Good Reason: they accomplished the Goal God had for them. So, they ceased because they were finished.

For example, the Events surrounding what we call, “*Creation*” was a series of non-repeatable Miracles- where God brought everything that exists into Existence- all by Himself- from NOTHING (*ex-nihilo*)! And Creation has NOTHING to do with the Way that all things operate today. Those are the various “*Processes*” by which all that God initially sovereignly created one time- keep on going. So, the Answer to the proverbial Question, “*What comes first- the chicken or the egg?*”- is “*The Chicken!*” God created a fully mature chicken- out of the ground- using NOTHING except His spoken Word.

But once Creation was complete- there was no more Need for God to *continue* to create. So, the Bible says He rested. And God did NOT rest because

He was tired- but because Creation was finished! And now- all of the things God sovereignly created- one single time- continue to propagate; and replenish; and extend; from one generation to the next- at God's Command; and by God's Power; and to God's Glory. But they are NOT "created".

So, Creation was a "one-time" Event that will NEVER happen again. And the ONLY one who was present at Creation was God- which is why we should trust what God said about Creation rather than anyone else.

But the "Office of Apostle" was also a "one-time" Ministry- where those men were personally chosen by Jesus Himself; they were trained to operate at His Command; taught what to preach and teach; and then "sent out" to do several things- ONE TIME- like:

- Become the Foundation of the Christian Church
- Correctly interpret the Old Testament
- Receive; develop; articulate; and write down the final, full, and completed Revelation of God to Man in the 27 Books of the New Testament
- Give "Divine Credibility" to those 27 Books by them performing Signs; Wonders; Miracles; and by them operating in various Gifts of the Holy Spirit

... so, the Apostles were the ones who were gifted and anointed to be able to explain several things- *fully and infallibly*- like:

- Who Jesus was and is
- What Jesus did and What He *continues* to do
- What it all that meant then; what it means today; and what it will mean in the Future
- How all that Jesus was; and all He said and did- ties in with the Old Testament

... which is all articulated; written down; and explained in the 27 Books of the New Testament.

So, the Apostles were NOT merely preaching the Gospel and healing sick bodies. They weren't simply building church Buildings. They were actually *formulating* the Christian Church itself by *establishing* Christianity on the earth! And that ONLY happened one time! So, once the Apostles succeeded in their Task- their Ministry stopped. But their Office and their Ministry ceased precisely because these men successfully accomplished what God had called and chosen them to do!

The Gifts; the Anointing; the Power; the Wisdom; the Abilities; the Signs and Wonders; the Miracles; and the Ministries that God gave and that God used to *establish* the Church in the Beginning are NOT the same Gifts; Anointing; Power;

Wisdom; Abilities; Signs and Wonders; Miracles; and the Ministries that God gives and that God uses today to propagate the *already* established and *already* articulated and *already* set up Church around the world. Once the Church has been established on the earth- it will NEVER need to be established again.

In other words, once the final, full, and completed Revelation of God to Man- out from which flows Christianity- has been received; articulated; and written down- it will NEVER need to be received; articulated; or written down- ever again. Once the 27 Books of the New Testament has been given “Divine Credibility”- it will NEVER need to have that Divine Credibility be given again.

What needs to be done now- AFTER the final Revelation of God to Man has been received and written down; AFTER the Old Testament has been interpreted correctly; and AFTER the New Covenant has been given Divine Credibility- is to take that already received and credible Revelation and preach it and teach it and publish it and explain it to every creature in every Tongue and Tribe and Language and Nation on earth!

Likewise, Jesus Himself was NOT merely preaching the Gospel and performing Miracles while He was on the earth. He was doing things that ONLY God could do- so that the Law of Moses would be *fulfilled* and the Prophecies of the Old Testament would come to pass! So, through His Birth; Life; Ministry; Death; Resurrection; and Ascension- Jesus was...

- Living a perfectly sinless Life so He could EARN the Righteousness that the Law of Moses promised
- Proving that He was the promised Messiah; the 2nd Adam; the new Moses; and Immanuel
- Bringing the Old Covenant to a decisive End
- Establishing the New Covenant
- Satisfying the Justice of God against the Sins of all of God’s elect

... all of which would ONLY happen one time!

So, now, Jesus has about 1-1/2 years left before He will be murdered on the Cross just outside Jerusalem. And so, it is Time for Him to gather His own “Shaliah” together; train them; and then send them out. 12 men preaching the very SAME Message; backed up by the SAME divine Credibility; can reach MORE people than Jesus can reach by Himself.

So, from **Matthew 10:5** all the way down to **Matthew 11:1**- Jesus is giving these twelve men- the Apostles- their *initial* Training about HOW they should carry out the Ministry God has sovereignly called and chosen them to carry out.

Now last week- I told you why Jesus said this in **Matthew 10:5b&6**:

Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

... but now let's look at **Matthew 10:7&8** and see what Jesus wants these men to do and preach in their new Ministry:

And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

Now there was a very important Reason WHY Jesus told them to tell the Jews, **“The kingdom of heaven is at hand!”** And that Reason has to do with what the average Jew had been taught about this over the last 400 years from the Pharisees.

By the 1st Century- it had been over 1,000 years since King David had ruled over Israel. And David represented Israel at its Zenith. And back then- Israel had David as her King- which meant that Israel was a “Kingdom”. So, Israel was NOT a Democracy or a Republic. They didn't have a Constitution or a Bill of Rights. Israel was a *“theocratic Dictatorship”* operating as a “Kingdom”.

And David's Reign represented the “Glory Days” as far as the average Jew was concerned. And so, they prayed and longed for God to give them what they had under David.

And for the last 400 years- God had NOT spoken to His people. There was a period of over 400 years from the Prophet Malachi's “Burden” until the Angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias behind the Veil in the Temple- where there was NO Sign; NO Wonder; NO Miracle; NO Angel; NO Prophet; and NO Word from Heaven.

And it was during that 400 years- that the Jews *invented* the Pharisees and the Concept of Synagogues- that God had NEVER commanded. And it was, primarily the Pharisees, who had fabricated a Man-made Religion which, by the 1st Century- now dominated religious Life in Israel- that had NOTHING in common with what God had revealed in the Old Testament.

In addition to all of that- by the Time Jesus walked the earth- the Jews had been dominated and ruled over by pagan Gentiles for well over 300 years. So, the Jewish people were weakened by the pagans; weakened by the false Teachers; and weakened by their own Sin and Unfaithfulness to what God had revealed in the Old Testament.

And so, by the 1st Century- messianic Fervor was very high. The Jewish people were clamoring for a “Deliverer”; a Messiah- to come and raise up an

Army; engage the pagan Romans; utterly defeat them; and re-establish the “*Kingdom of Israel*” like they had enjoyed under King David.

Now there was a “Remnant” of faithful Jews- who had NOT collapsed under the weight of all the Sin and Compromises of the average Jew. These are people who believed God; were genuinely saved; and who were awaiting a “Messiah” to come and “save God’s people from their Sins”.

And some of that faithful Jewish Remnant had joined in with John the Baptist while others began following that itinerant Preacher named, “Jesus of Nazareth”. But for the most part- the vision of the Messiah as well as the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven- and even Salvation itself- was far different than what Jesus meant by using those terms.

When we hear people say, the “*Kingdom of Heaven*” today- we think of Heaven; or maybe the Sphere or Area over which Jesus reigns supreme- which *includes* Heaven. But when a 1st Century Jew heard that term, for the most part, they thought of “*greater Israel*”- which under King Solomon- went all the way down to Egypt in the South and as far North as the Euphrates River.

The Point I am making here is that Jewish Eschatology- the Way the 1st Century Jews understood the Future- was all about their physical Nation and their Ability to live their Lives without being subjugated by the pagans. So, even in the term, “Messiah”- which, biblically has ONLY to do with spiritual Salvation and spiritual Forgiveness and spiritual Restoration. When the Jew thought about the promised Messiah- they did NOT think, for the most part, about a man, who would rescue them from the Wrath of God against their Sins. They thought about a political and military Leader who would remove the Gentile yoke from off their necks and restore the Glory that Israel had under King David.

And to prove that I’m correct about this- please look at **The Acts 1:6:**

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

So, AFTER Jesus has risen from the Dead and AFTER Jesus has just spent 40 Days with them – teaching them about the Kingdom- these men were so steeped in the false Teaching they had received from the Pharisees that they were trying to look at everything Jesus had been teaching them through the Man-made “lens” of the natural; physical; and political Nation of Israel. But look at how Jesus answered them in the next two verses:

The Acts 1:7&8

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Now by telling them, **"It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority"** that was simply a very nice and polite Way of telling those men, *"It's none of your Business!"* And then Jesus told them to stop worrying about the Nation of Israel and focus on preaching the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth, when He said,

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

So, over and over again, Jesus made it crystal clear that the Way they thought about the *"Kingdom of God"* and the *"Kingdom of Heaven"* was NOT what God had revealed in the Old Testament; and it was also NOT what He was talking about when He said things like,

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst. (Luke 17:20-21)

... so, Jesus was teaching that HE is the Kingdom! And there will be NO Kingdom at all- without Jesus!

So, when Jesus told the Apostles to,

... preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand ...

... He was telling them to preach about Heaven and the Sphere over which Jesus reigns supreme and NOT about the restored Nation of Israel.

But then Jesus told them to... **... Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons...**

Now many teach in our Day that whatever Jesus did while He was here and whatever the Apostles did at the Beginning of the Church- we should be doing. But that is NOT at all what Jesus was talking about here.

First of all- the authority to heal sick bodies and perform Miracles and to cast out demons- was NEVER meant to be permanent. It was also NEVER meant to touch every human on earth. These miraculous Signs and Wonders were designed to, very narrowly, give “*Divine Credibility*” to the radical and breathtaking Truths about the New Covenant- so that people would know that Jesus Himself as well as the Teachings about the New Covenant were from God and NOT from the mind of Man. And this is what would give people- especially the Jews- the Courage they needed to abandon the inferior Covenant and fully embrace the New.

God through Moses had commanded animal Sacrifices- but now the Apostles would teach that Jesus was the Lamb of God, who would take away the Sins of the world. God through Moses had commanded Temple worship- but now the Apostles would teach that Believers should look for the Temple in Heaven. God through Moses placed emphasis on the city of Jerusalem- but now the Apostles would teach that Believers should look for a City, whose Architect and Builder is God. God through Moses established the Levitical Priesthood- but now the Apostles would teach about the Priesthood of ALL Believers. God through Moses established the Sanhedrin Court- but now the Apostles would establish the Church- run by a plurality of Elders, who would settle all Disputes. God through Moses set up the dietary and ceremonial Aspects of the Law- but now the Apostles would teach that all of the Signs; Symbols; and Types of the Old Covenant have been *forever* replaced by the Reality of Jesus and His finished Work in the New. And God through Moses had set aside one Day in seven to rest. But now the Apostles would teach that Jesus is the ultimate Sabbath’s Rest for the believer who no longer has to “Labor” in order to try to earn God’s Favor.

When Jesus comes back to this earth and His Reign becomes Total and Absolute- there will be NO Sickness- at all! There will be NO physical Infirmities or Weaknesses- at all! So, NOBODY in the Kingdom will have Alzheimer’s! NOBODY will have kidney failure! NOBODY will have heart trouble! NOBODY will have cancer! NOBODY in the Kingdom will die- because Death itself will be cast into the Lake of Fire (**The Revelation 20:14**)!

Dear friends, we must try to understand that- in its *fullness*- God’s Kingdom is forever! It is NOT going to last 1,000 years- God’s Kingdom will last forever! So, when Jesus comes back to this earth- the *fullness* of God’s Kingdom will be realized in totality- and we will live in that glorious Kingdom- forever!

So, Jesus told them to preach that the Kingdom was “at hand” meaning it is soon to come. But wait! Jesus told them that- 2,000 years ago! How is it that it is soon to come- if it is now MORE than 2,000 years since Jesus said that? Compared to our Days on earth- 2,000 years is a long, long time. But compared to Eternity- 2,000 years is but a few days! And so, every Generation of Believers are supposed

to believe and hope that Jesus could come back at any moment; and then to live our Lives in such a Way that proves that we believe that! So, the “Imminent Return of Jesus to this earth” has been a key Doctrine of Christianity for over 2,000 years now. And we should embrace this Doctrine in our Day as well.

Listen, I believe with every fiber of my Being that Jesus is going to come back to this earth. And even though so many today seem to be able to know about when that will be- I will tell you straight up- I have NO idea when that will be. So, I try to live my Life in such a Way that proves that I believe in the Imminent Return of my Lord and Savior.

But I think that, if we are not careful- we could miss the entire point of that Promise. Because, while we are waiting on Jesus to come back- in one sense- Jesus is actually waiting on us! Please look at **Ephesians 5:24-27** quickly:

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

The Bible teaches that Jesus desires to give Himself a Present when He gets back down here. And that Present that He wants to give to Himself- is the Church. But look how the Church is described here:

... in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

... in all her Glory! Having NO Spot or Wrinkle; or anything like a Spot or a Wrinkle; Holy; Blameless!

Now I realize that, spiritually speaking, ALL genuinely saved people are ALREADY like this- in one sense! The precious Blood of Jesus has made it so! And I believe that- in a sense! And yet, even though that's true- Jesus *continues* to sanctify each one of us. So, even though we have been imputed with the spotless Righteousness of Jesus- we are still being sanctified and made progressively MORE holy! And all I'm trying to say right now- is that what is true about us- *individually* is also true with the Church- *collectively*!

So, the Lord Christ has left the Church on the earth- for over 2,000 years now and has tarried for a long time. But He didn't do that so we would merely “be here”. No, Jesus wants His Church- as a whole- to be ongoingly sanctified and

purified and made more and more Holy- even as He wants us- as individuals- to be MORE holy!

So, over the last 2,000 years- the Church of Jesus- which is nothing more nor less than the accumulated Body of ALL genuine Believers- has NOT simply taken up space on the earth- but we have been tried; and tested; and proven; and rebuked; and encouraged; and disciplined; and corrected in a million different Ways while we have been here!

So, the 2,000 year- old Church SHOULD be MORE godly; MORE holy; MORE pure; MORE hopeful; MORE trusting; MORE believing; and MORE humble; MORE loving; and MORE fruitful than the Church was in the beginning! In other words, IF it is true- that you and I- *individually*- have experienced the progressive sanctifying Work of God the Holy Spirit from the very moment we experienced the Miracle of the New Birth until right now- and IF it is true that this progressive Sanctification has served to cause us to- *individually*- be MORE like Jesus in every Way- then is it not also true that- *collectively*- as a Body- that the Church of Jesus – *as a whole*- has gone through the SAME thing?

And would that not then mean that one of the Reasons Jesus has tarried now for 2,000 years- is NOT that He is not ready to come back- but that we are NOT ready for His Return? And would that not be why the Apostle John said this in **The Revelation 19:7&8:**

7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

So, in addition to reaching all of God's elect; and in addition to being a glorious Witness to the lost world; and in addition to growing from a small, insignificant mustard Seed into a great green bay tree- the Church, over the last 2,000 years- has been very busy- MAKING HERSELF READY- in the same Way that a Bride prepares herself for the Bridegroom! And maybe- just maybe- we have a bit left to do before we are truly ready for Jesus to come back! I suggest we at least consider this.

Now from the End of verse 8 all the Way down to verse 15- Jesus gave us a Way for the Apostles to carry out their Ministry that He wanted at the Beginning. Jesus did NOT want the Apostles to be "self-sufficient". Jesus wanted these men to be TOTALLY dependent on Him for EVERYTHING- including their Food; Clothing; and as well as their Shelter. And while that is something we should ALL do- yet we found out last week- that Jesus Himself changed this Pattern toward the

End of His Time on earth. And by the Time we get to The Book of the Acts of the Apostles- we see that people sold Land and gave in order to finance the Ministry of the Gospel. So, what should we say about this?

We should say that as the Ministry of the Apostles was beginning- Jesus was working with these twelve men- in such a Way that they would learn how to trust Him and Him alone. And so, later on Jesus changed it when He said this in **Luke 22:35b&36**

35 ... When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing."

36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.

Now look, it is ALWAYS great when people can learn how to trust Jesus for everything. But- in Context- Jesus was doing something very *unique* with the Apostles in **Matthew 10:8-15** that was NEVER designed to be for everyone or for every Ministry; and was NEVER designed to be permanent- even for the Apostles!

But I will tell you what IS permanent- and that is when other people- saved or lost- support your Ministry- God will bless them. And when they *reject* you and your Ministry- that Individual; or that Home; or that City; or even that Nation- will NOT enjoy the Blessings of God. And God will visit that Individual or that Home or that City or that Nation with His Judgment- because Jesus said this in **Matthew 10:14&15,**

14 Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

15 Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

And that brings up something that is important to understand about the Way Jesus spoke about Judgment in connection to His "Coming". We must understand that while it is true that there is a "2nd Coming of Jesus" to this earth at some point in the Future- that is NOT the only Way we should understand the term, "Coming"; nor the Concept of God "Coming" to an Individual; a Home; a City; or even a Nation.

The biblical writers also used the term, "Coming" to denote God "Coming" to people in Judgment. And this is NOT merely a New Testament Way of speaking. This is how God spoke in the Old Testament as well. And there are numerous Example of this- all through the Bible.

So, the 2nd Coming of Jesus to this earth- is the Coming of the Lord that is the BEST; and the most IMPORTANT; and in the HIGHEST Way for the Lord to come. Yet without Jesus “Coming”: the 1st Time- the 2nd Coming would have little or NO meaning to us. So, Jesus has ALREADY been a part of a “Coming” to this earth. And we call that- “Jesus’ 1st Advent” and the whole world celebrates it around the End of December. And that 1st “Coming” paved the Way for the 2nd. So, without the 1st Advent- there would be NO 2nd Advent.

But in addition to the two special and unique “Comings” of Jesus to this earth- that we call, “*Advents*”- there have also been; there are right now; and there will be in the Future- *numerous*- more than one- “Comings” of the Lord God to this earth- in Judgment! God *periodically* “comes near” to an Individual; a Home; a City; or even a Nation to judge them; to damn them; and to curse them!

And what you see in the Bible and in History about 1st Century Israel; and the Jews; and Jesus; and the Apostles; are BOTH kinds of “Comings”. There IS the 1st Advent- the 1st “Coming of Jesus to this earth- as He is born of a Virgin and lived a sinless Life for 33-1/2 years. But there is also at least 1 other kind of “Coming” of God to the Nation of Israel at that same Time. And that is a “Coming” of God in Judgment and in Damnation and in Cursing.

So, we MUST try to put this all in Context. We have THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT Event in all of human History- and that is God taking on human Flesh and “Coming” to the Nation of Israel- to the Jew first- to save His people from their Sins. But, for the most part- the Jew REJECTED their King. And they blasphemed against Him; arrested Him; tried and convicted Him; and then they murdered the Prince of Life! And this was, perhaps, the SINGLE GREATEST and MOST EVIL SIN of ALL- with the possible Exception of Adam’s Sin in the Garden that damned the entire human race.

And in addition to that- we must also acknowledge that through the Life; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus- it was Time for the Old Covenant to come to a *decisive* End and that the New Covenant would be put into place. So, there are two things to consider that are happening *simultaneously*:

1. The Judgment of God against the Rejection of Jesus by the Jews
2. The End of the Old Covenant

... and *both* of these are dealt with through a “Coming” of the Lord in Judgment. And this is what Jesus meant when He said this in **Matthew 10:22&23**:

22 You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

23 "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

Now for 2,000 years people have twisted themselves into theological knots trying to equate this verse with the 2nd Coming of Jesus. And MOST of their Explanations have failed very badly. So, let's go back and review what we know to be true and move forward with that.

First of all- there IS a 2nd Coming of the Lord to this earth that will be both "*Great*" as well as "*Terrible*" (**Malachi 4:5**). But there are also several different "Comings" of the Lord in Judgment to unrepentant rebels- that are different from the 2nd Coming. And so, the Lord "Coming" in Judgment against wicked Sinners is a very biblical Truth to consider in this verse- because as of right this Moment- Jesus has NOT yet come back to this earth!

So, even if we are very generous- the Reality is that Jesus spoke these very words more than 2,000 years ago. And it has NOT taken over 2,000 years for the Disciples of Jesus to go through all the cities of Israel. Israel is NOT that large! Israel is actually a very small Country. And the Apostles had time to go through all those cities within their own natural Lifetime.

But Jesus was speaking both *prophetically* as well as *hyperbolically* here. And the Point that Jesus was making is that His Apostles would NOT run out of cities to go to- before God would "come" to judge the people who were tormenting them and rejecting their Message. So, this is a Statement by Jesus that was designed to both comfort the Apostles as well as give a Promise that those who torment them would NOT go unpunished. And that Prophecy came to pass around 38 years from the very moment Jesus spoke these words in 70 AD- which accomplished BOTH of God's Goals:

1. The Jews who rejected Jesus were judged
2. The Old Covenant was brought to an End

So, in the SAME WAY that God judged His own people with the pagan Babylonians in 586BC- God will now bring *cataclysmic* Judgment upon unbelieving and faithless Israel by using the pagan Romans in 70AD. And the Goal of God in BOTH Judgments is also the SAME. God is NOT about annihilating the Jewish people. God desires genuine Repentance.

But the Repentance God seeks from the Jews in 70 AD is different than what was required back in 586 BC. Then- the Jew was judged; and the Temple was destroyed- because they had departed from the Law of Moses. And so, Repentance in 586 BC required that the Jew return to adherence to the Law.

But in 70 AD- in addition to God “Coming” in Judgment against the Jew for rejecting Jesus- God was also bringing the entire Old Covenant to a decisive End. And that was made abundantly clear when God allowed the evil pagans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem and bring to an End- the entire Jewish Way of Worship based on Old Covenant Law.

And so, Repentance in 70 AD is NOT about the Jew returning to the Tents and Statutes and Commandments of the Law- but that they bow their knees to Jesus and embrace Him as Lord and Savior and the King of a new and infinitely better Kingdom!

And that is what the Apostles will help to facilitate. Because after Jesus trains them with His words- He will send these men out into the world so that the glorious Gospel of Jesus will be heralded to the Ends of the earth!

And today- you and I are a part of this very SAME Ministry! And today- we herald the very SAME apostolic Message about the very SAME Lord to a new generation of people who desperately need what we have to offer. And so, we must also take Courage ourselves that when we are persecuted; and when they reject our Message- that God will ALWAYS “come” to support us and to judge the Wicked for their rejection of Jesus, the Christ!

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

