

The Mailbox Club

Course 1

Lesson 5



When JESUS Comes!

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16*

Dear Friend,

In our last lesson we discovered many wonderful things about the Bible. One amazing thing about the Bible is that it tells us about the future. God knows the future, and in His Word He has told us many things that are going to happen.

Perhaps one thing you have been wondering about is this: "Will the Lord Jesus ever come to this earth again?" The answer is, "Yes, He will!" The Lord Jesus said,

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN...." John 14:2,3

In this lesson we are going to see what will happen when Jesus comes again. But, first let us think briefly what happened when he was here the first time. The Lord Jesus did many wonderful things while he

was on earth, but the main reason he came was to die for us.



Jesus is coming again!

The Lord Jesus was crucified about nine o'clock in the morning. He died about three o'clock that afternoon.

A man named Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus. He and a friend named Nicodemus tenderly prepared the body of Jesus for burial. They wrapped his body in linen clothes with spices. Then they placed Jesus' body in a new tomb carved in the side of a hill. A large stone was rolled across the entrance.

Jesus was dead. The disciples were very sad. Even though the Lord Jesus had told them that He would rise from the dead on the third day, they did not really believe it at that time.

Early in the morning on the third day, three women came to the tomb of Jesus to put spices on his body. When they arrived at the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled away. An angel spoke to them and said:

*"Fear not ye: for I know that you seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay"
Matthew 28:5,6*

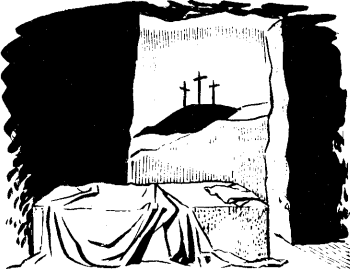
The women saw that the body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb. They were puzzled and frightened. They ran to tell the disciples.

When Mary Magdalene met Peter and John, she told them what had happened, and Peter and John ran to the tomb. They, too, found the tomb empty except for the grave clothes.

Later, Mary returned to the tomb. As she was standing outside the tomb weeping, the Lord Jesus

appeared to her. She thought He was the gardener. She said to Him, "Sir, if thou hast borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him." Jesus said, "Mary." When she turned and recognized Him, she exclaimed, "Master!"

That night, ten of the disciples met in a closed room. They were talking about the strange things that had happened that day. Thomas was not with them.



Suddenly, Jesus appeared in their midst, and He said "Peace be unto you." They were frightened. They thought that perhaps they were seeing a spirit. But the Lord Jesus said,

"Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have." Luke 24:38,39

The Lord Jesus had arisen from the grave in His body of flesh and bones! How did the disciples know that He had a body? They saw Him, they touched Him, they talked with Him, they ate with Him.

Jesus was alive! They could hardly wait to tell the wonderful news of His resurrection to Thomas, but when they told Thomas he did not believe them. Thomas said:

*"Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."
John 20:25*

Eight days later, the disciples were again in the same room. This time Thomas was with them. Again the Lord Jesus appeared to them and said: "Peace be unto you." Then the Lord Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

Thomas did not doubt any longer. He worshipped Jesus saying, "My Lord and my God!"

The Lord Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou has seen Me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

The Lord Jesus appeared on earth for forty days after His resurrection. He was seen by many people. On one occasion, He appeared to over 500 believers at one time. Before the Lord Jesus went back to Heaven, He said to His disciples,

*"All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth."
Matthew 28:18*

Then, one day, when the disciples were with Him, the Lord Jesus was taken up from them. A cloud received Him out of their sight. Jesus had gone back to Heaven.



Jesus ascended into Heaven while they stood looking toward the sky, two men in white clothing stood by them and said:

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven."

Acts 1:11

What does this verse say?

It says that the Lord Jesus will come again in the very same way in which He went back to Heaven.

The disciples saw Jesus go back to Heaven, and the believers who are living when Jesus comes again will see Him at that time.

The Lord Jesus is preparing beautiful mansions in Heaven for us, and one day He is coming back to take us to be with Him. He said,

*"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto Myself..."
John 14:2,3*

The Lord Jesus is coming again! We know He is coming because He said, "I will come again."

For those of us who have received Him as our Saviour, His coming will be a time of great joy. Why? Because He is coming to take us to be with Him. Here is what the Bible tells us about that glorious day:

*"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: 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."
I Thessalonians 4:16,17*

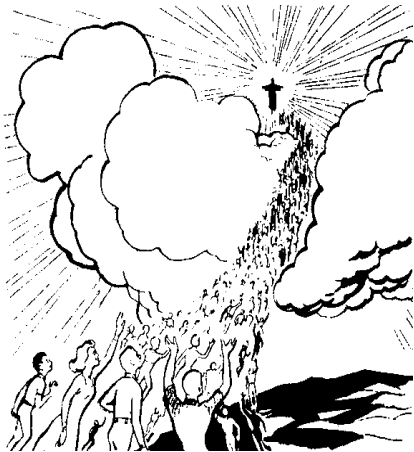
When Jesus comes again, all the children of God will be taken up to meet Him in the clouds, both...

① "the dead in Christ" -- that is, those believers who have died before He comes again, and

② "We which are alive and remain" -- that is, the believers who are still living on the earth when He comes again.

There, you understand that, don't you? The believers who have died and the believers who are living on the earth when Jesus comes will be taken up together to meet Him in the clouds. What a happy time that will be! Of course, our bodies will be changed and will be made like His glorious resurrection body.

What about those who have never taken Christ as their Saviour? They will be left behind. There will be a time of great trouble on the earth for them. Jesus said, "For then shall be great tribulation (great trouble), such as was not since the beginning of the world." It will be a terrible time on the earth. How important it is for us to win others to Christ now!



Jesus is coming for His believers

After these events, the Lord Jesus will return to the earth with His believers. All those who have been with Him in Heaven will return with Him to reign with Him, First, He comes **FOR** us; and then He

returns **WITH** us. What a great time this will be!



Jesus will return with His believers

But you ask "When is Jesus coming? Does anyone know?" No, no man knows exactly when the Lord Jesus will come again. Jesus said:

*"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only."
Matthew 24:36*

Jesus may come at any time. Since this is true, we should be ready to meet Him at any time.

How can we be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus? We can be ready for His coming by: (1) loving Him, (2) obeying Him, (3) serving Him, and (4) looking for His return. If we do these things, we will not be ashamed before Him when He comes. The Bible says,

*"And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence (boldness and joy), and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."
I John 2:28*

If we truly love the Lord Jesus, we will want Him to come soon. May our prayer each day be:

*"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20*

Discovered Gem

◆ Jesus is coming soon! I must be ready when He comes.

Here are your Memory Verses for Lesson 5:

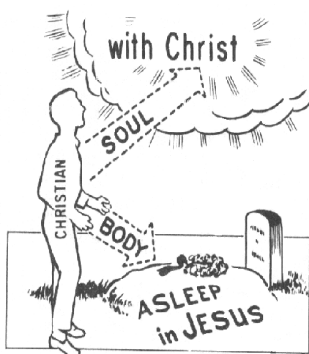
*"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
John 14:2,3*

*"for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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."
I Thessalonians 4:16,17*

What Happens When A Christian Dies?

The Bible tells us that the body is the "house" in which the soul lives. Our body is not really us; it is just the house in which the soul lives. We can understand this because we live in a house. The house is not us; it is just the place where we live.

What happens when a Christian dies? His soul simply moves out of the "house" in which it has lived and goes to be with the Lord. The Apostle Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Why did he say that it was "gain" to die? Because to die is to go to be with Christ, and this is far better than being here.



When a Christian loved one dies, we are sorrowful because we miss them. This is natural; but we must remember that they are with Jesus which is far better than being here. If we could see how beautiful it is in Heaven, we would never want to bring them back here.

We do not have to fear death. For a Christian, the Bible calls death simply "falling asleep in Jesus." The Lord Jesus said,

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 25

When Jesus comes again 11:, He will raise the bodies of those who belong to Him; and He will give

them new, resurrection bodies which can never die. The Bible says,

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (our body) were dissolved (were to die), we have a building of God (a new resurrection body), an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
II Corinthians 5:1*

What will we be like then? We shall be like Jesus! The Bible says,

*"...when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."
I John 3:2*



In our next lesson we will learn the answers to these important questions:

- ⇒ Can we be saved by our good works?
- ⇒ What is grace?
- ⇒ How can we earn rewards?
- ⇒ What will happen to a child of God who continues to do things that are displeasing to God?

★ **Don't forget.....**

A beautiful certificate is awaiting you when you send in Lesson 7!

QUESTION PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Turn to the Question Page as you finish each lesson. Fill in the answers for that lesson before going on to the next lesson.
2. When you have studied the lesson and completed the Question Page, carefully detach the question page from the lesson.
3. Print your name and address in the space provided at the bottom of each Question Page. Be sure your correspondence school name and your return address is on the return envelope.
4. Fold the Question Page and place it a return envelope with a First Class stamp in the proper place and mail back to your Correspondence School.

Don't Forget to write in your name and return address

Send in Your Answer Sheet Only for each lesson!

QUESTIONS: Fill in every blank!

1. Did Jesus arise from the grave in His body of flesh and bones? _____.
2. How did the disciples know that He had a body? They _____ Him, they _____ Him, they _____ to Him, they _____ with Him.
3. Did Thomas believe the wonderful news of Jesus' resurrection? _____.
4. When Thomas saw the risen Christ he worshipped Him saying, " _____ and _____."
5. How many days did Jesus appear on earth after His resurrection? _____. Was He seen by few people or by many people? By _____ people. He appeared to over _____ believers at one time.
6. Who will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air when He comes again? (1) "The _____ in _____," and (2) "We which are _____ and _____."
7. Will our bodies be changed when we are taken up to meet the Lord in the air? _____.
8. What about those who have never taken the Lord Jesus as their Saviour? They will be _____ and there will be a time of _____ on the earth for them.
9. First, the Lord Jesus comes _____ us (believers); then He returns _____ us. Does any man know exactly when the Lord Jesus will come again? _____.
10. We can be ready for His coming by (1) _____, (2) _____, (3) _____, and (4) _____.

PLEASE PRINT**You must return answer sheet before you get next lesson.**

Name _____ Age _____

Parent's name _____

Mailing address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send in your answer sheet only!