



Session 1

Why study the Return of Jesus?

I. Welcome

A. Announcements

1. Offerings
2. Restrooms
3. Beverages
4. Ways you can participate in the House of Prayer
 - a) Classes
 - b) Sunday Night corporate prayer & worship
 - c) Friday Night Worship & Teaching & Ministry
 - d) Come throughout the week and spend time in the presence of God as He rests here in a unique way.
5. Recordings online
6. Bring a friend

B. ERHOP

1. Mission
 - a) Our assignment here House of Prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David with night & day worship & intercession
 - b) Through prayer & worship we seek the change the spiritual climate of our region in agreement with what Jesus wants to do here.
 - c) To help prepare the Bride for the return of her Bridegroom God & King
 - d) To train and equip forerunners – those who will boldly speak of Jesus and His return.
2. Essential for the Church, individual believers and the corporate body to be prepared for the time of Jesus' return, it is critical that we really KNOW HIM.

C. Course outline

1. Why is this topic important?
2. Positive trends, people & events
3. Negative trends, people & events
4. Keys to unlock the mysteries
5. The Church Victorious, Persecuted, Raptured
6. Why Israel?
7. Putting it all together
8. Outlining the Book of Revelation

II. Why is this Important to me?

A. More than an intellectual pursuit?

1. Just for those who get excited about such things?
2. Aren't there so many differing opinions that no one really knows what is right?
 - a) We are meant to wrestle with this, it's part of our relational conversation with the Holy Spirit. It can be understood. Most parts are not difficult. It was written to people who did not have degrees in greek, hebrew, latin, etc.
3. Not a peripheral or lesser important doctrine
 - a) Included in both the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed
 - b) Core doctrines of the Church

B. If it's important to Jesus, ought it not be important to me?

1. If Jesus doesn't come back, then He is a liar!
 - a) Do you think it's important to Him?
2. To know Him more – this is His desire, His purpose, His Will for us.
 - a) To know Him in every way He will allow me
 - b) He has given us much about His return and as a bride who is longing for the return of her bridegroom who was called away until their wedding, she would pour over every word he wrote to her about his coming.
 - c) Mt 25 – Wise & Foolish virgins – Jesus ultimately said to the foolish virgins – I do not know you – therefore you cannot come in and participate with what I am doing in this time.

C. Gospel Message

1. Shouldn't we just focus on the Gospel? Isn't that what Paul did? I determined to know nothing among you but Christ and Him crucified.
 - a) 1Co_2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
 - b) 1Co 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
2. It's part of the story from Genesis to Revelation
 - a) Prophecy of the Seed
 - (1) Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
 - (2) Joh 12:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
 - (3) Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."
3. Old Testament Gospel
 - a) Isaiah 52
 - (1) Isa 52:6 "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.'" Isa 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God

reigns!" Isa 52:8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes **When the LORD restores Zion**. Isa 52:9 Break forth, shout joyfully together, You waste places of Jerusalem; For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

b) Isaiah 40

- (1) Isa 40:1 "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. Isa 40:2 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD'S hand Double for all her sins." Isa 40:3 A voice is calling, "**Clear the way for the LORD** in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Isa 40:4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; Isa 40:5 **Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together**; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isa 40:6 A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. Isa 40:7 The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. Isa 40:9 **Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news**, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "**Here is your God!**" Isa 40:10 **Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might**, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. Isa 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

4. **The gospel of the Kingdom**

- a) It's about a King
b) It's about his Kingdom
c) It's about the coming of the King – the whole gospel includes both comings
(1) **It's about his 1st coming** – to become like us so He could lay down His life and make a way for us to be reconciled and brought back into His Kingdom.
(2) **It's about his 2nd coming** – where He brings to fullness, to completion His plans and purposes as King who has a Bride.
d) Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
e) Mat 4:23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
f) Mat_24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

5. **Paul's insistence on preaching on Jesus' Return as part of the gospel.**

- a) **Acts**
(1) Acts 17: 2-3 Weeks
(2) Act 17:1 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Act 17:2 And according to Paul's custom, **he went to them, and for three Sabbaths** reasoned with them from the Scriptures, Act 17:3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I

am proclaiming to you is the Christ." Act 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. Act 17:5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

(3) Act 17:10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

b) I Thessalonians

(1) 1Th 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

c) 2 Thess

(1) 2Th 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

(2) 2Th 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

(3) 2Th 2:14-15 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

d) 1 Cor 4

(1) 1Co 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

e) 1 Cor 15 - Christ's Resurrection/Our Resurrection

(1) 1Co 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

(2) 1Co 15:12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 1Co 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

(3) 1Co 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 1Co 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 1Co 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

(4) 1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 1Co 15:24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

(5) 1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

f) Titus

- (1) Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Tit 2:15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

g) Timothy

- (1) 2Ti 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

h) Philippians

- (1) Php 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- (2) Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, Php 1:10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; Php 1:11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- (3) Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; Php 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

6. Peter

- a)** Act 3:18-21 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Act 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; Act 3:20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, Act 3:21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
- b)** 2Pe 3:1-18 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.
- c)** 2Pe 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
- d)** 2Pe 3:5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
- e)** 2Pe 3:8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a

thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

- f) 2Pe 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
- g) 2Pe 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
- h) 2Pe 3:17 **You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

7. Jude

- a) Jud 1:14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "**Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones**, Jud 1:15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."
- b) Jud 1:17 But you, beloved, ought to **remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ**, Jud 1:18 that they were saying to you, "**In the last time there will be mockers**, following after their own ungodly lusts." Jud 1:19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. Jud 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, Jud 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, **waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.**

8. The Mystery

- a) Mystery of the Kingdom
 - (1) Mar 4:11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the **mystery of the kingdom of God**, but those who are outside get everything in parables,
 - (2) Jesus then tells them the meaning of the parable and states the the seed is the word of the Kingdom that is proclaimed: ie. the Gospel
- b) Mystery of the Gospel
 - (1) Eph 6:19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness **the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
 - (2) Paul identifies the mystery of the Gospel as the message that he proclaims.
- c) Mystery of God
 - (1) Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the **mystery of God is finished**, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

D. Transitional Generations

1. **The generation of Jesus' Return is supposed to know they are in that time.**
 - a) Generation of Noah – those who didn't listen, didn't make the boat
 - b) Generation of Jesus & Apostles – those who didn't listen, lost everything – including their lives – Jesus spoke sternly in judgment against those who missed the reality of who He was.
 - c) Generation of His Return - there is a great cost to those who are not ready for His return, watching, waiting, longing. We are not be caught unawares – suffering loss at His return.

E. Let's make this personal

1. **Pan-trib/Pan-Mil**
2. **If pre-trib - no worries.**
3. **If no-trib - no worries, life goes on as it always has.**
4. **If post-trib/7th Trumpet - will your heart be prepared? Will you know Him well enough and what He is doing to be able to participate with Him?**
5. **In the end, if you are still alive on that day, how will it pan out for you?**
 - a) Will you be taken by surprise?
 - b) Will you be shaken by His activities & actions?
 - c) Will you be one of the wise virgins who were ready to meet Him at His coming?