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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Luke 17.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Luke 17.

Topics.

- Woe to the one through whom temptations come!
- If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
- The parable of the mustard seed.
- When will the Kingdom of God come?
- As lightning flashes so will the Son of Man be in his day.
- Many will say, "Look, here is Christ," do not follow them.
- As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so will it be in the days of Christ.
- Let the one who is on the housetop and in the field not turn back.
- One will be taken and the other left.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus said to the Pharisees no-one can serve God and money and told the parable of the "Rich Man and Lazarus."

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Woe to the one through whom Temptations Come!

Luke 17:1-2 ----- ¹And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ²It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

Everyone will be tempted to sin, but it will be far worse for those who cause the temptations. The following is a simple example of those who create temptations that most of us can relate to.

Today many thirteen and fourteen year olds are judged for their lack of morals, but it should always be remembered that it is the adults not the teenagers who are making the movies and TV programs that are corrupting the morals of the young and these adults are making these programs because they love profits more than what is good to the well-being of the young, but temptation to sin is not only about poor morals.

Temptation to sin embraces anything a person does that tempts others to sin, following are some simple examples: -

- Big business that reward their executives with extremely large bonus' to oppress their workers so the company can make a greater profit.
- Companies tempting advertisers to deceitfully advertise their products so they will sell more and again make greater profits.
- Pharmaceutical companies tempting doctors to exaggerate the benefit of their drugs, again so the company will make a bigger profit.

Behind all of these temptations is the love for money, i.e., bigger profits through deception, oppressing workers or reward of material possessions, how true is Pauls words, "The love of money is the root of all evil," (1 Tim 6:10), obviously the temptations I have mentioned are only an example of multitudes of many more.

If your Brother Sins, Rebuke him, and if he Repents, Forgive Him.

Luke 17:3-4 ----- ³Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Repent: (metanoeo) means to think differently or afterwards, to reconsider and morally to feel compunction of remorse, guilt, shame and contrition.

Forgive: (aphiemi) means to go or to send forth, to cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let alone, suffer or yield up. It usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion or reversal, etc.

Jesus says if a brother or sister repents meaning if they feel guilt, remorse, shame and contrition forgive them and lay aside any sense of anger, revenge or bitterness that you may have toward them. Those that belong to Christ are to always be inwardly ready to forgive, but the healing of a broken relationship cannot take place until the guilty repents.

Jesus forgiveness is always available to everyone, but a sinner does not experience it until they repent toward God. Forgiveness is not something the believer turns off and on it is a constant attitude or willingness to be always ready to forgive. Having a heart that is in a constant mode of forgiveness is enormously powerful it is what stops people harbouring the destructive attitudes of resentment and bitterness, added to this God's Spirit abundantly dwells in a heart that is full of forgiveness, compassion and mercy, but flees from one the is engulfed in hatred, bitterness and resentment.

Forgiveness Sets a Person Free: Jesus told the twelve, if they do not forgive, neither will their Father which is in heaven forgive them their trespasses (Mark 11:25-26) it is absolutely imperative to forgive. Notice Jesus does not add, "Providing they repent" this forgiveness is independent of the other person's response, for the following three reasons: -

1. God freely grants to everyone in Christ forgiveness and righteousness every-day. Everyone who has eternal life is totally indebted to God, simply because without the righteousness that God grants to them because of their faith in Christ none of us would be counted worthy, added to this there is nothing we can do to repay God for the life of His Son or repay Christ for his suffering.
2. God wants to set us free from the mental torment that comes with unforgiveness, but he can only do it when we forgive. If we do not forgive whoever offends us bitterness, hatred and a craving for revenge (i.e. to see the other person suffer) will take hold of our hearts and fill it with every other destructive attitude and in extreme cases even murder.
3. As long as we remain in unforgiveness we continue to allow the person we are not forgiving to have control over our thoughts and our hearts and that will hurt us mentally and emotionally and rob us spiritually. The Spirit of God (i.e. joy, peace and contentment cannot dwell in a human heart that is filled with bitterness, the lust for revenge and hatred). Forgiveness keeps our hearts free from all these destructive attitudes such is its tremendous healing power.

Forgiveness and Repentance: Jesus heart is always open and ready to forgive whoever comes to him in repentance, his heart is continually overflowing with forgiveness, but only those who come to him in repentance enter the family of God. The following verses show that it is a Bible principle, that before forgiveness can be received a person must acknowledge (confess) their wrongdoing. God in the Old Testament said: -

- If Israel confesses their iniquity that they committed against me and if their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, with Isaac and with Abraham, and I will remember the land (meaning bless it) (Lev 26:40-42).

David when speaking of himself in Psalms says: -

- I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32:5).

And in the New Testament the apostle John says: -

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Added to what God, David and John say God's forgiveness though permanently available to everyone through Jesus is only realised and experienced when a sinner comes to Christ in honest repentance and sorrow. If a person does not acknowledge their wrong doing how can they possibly be sorry for the hurt they have caused? Even more how can they put right something they don't acknowledge is wrong, thus God's forgiveness is always available, forever flowing, but confessing ones wrong actions is required before it can be received and experienced in the heart and before we can be reconciled to God. In some cases when possible restitution may be required to help repair the hurt caused to others. True repentance would automatically bring about this desire in the heart. Restitution in most cases may simply be saying sorry to the person offended or to God.

An amazing testimony: I remember listening to the testimony of a woman sharing how a man had thrown a bucket of hydrochloric acid into her face, her entire face was grossly scared and deformed (it still is). She said, "I made the choice to forgive, because I was not going to allow my grandchildren to grow up knowing a grandmother full of bitterness, hurt and resentment.

What a tremendous influence of good and strength this grandmother would have imparted to her grandchildren. It is certainly true that to make such a choice takes an enormous amount of fortitude and strength of character, but it is also true that there is no personal value or benefit in holding onto resentment and anger?

Forgiveness and trust: now trust is a totally different thing to forgiveness, a person may forgive another but that does not always mean that they will become a bosom friend or even have contact with the person who is forgiven, in many cases that would be foolishness.

The woman who had the acid thrown in her face or a girl who has been raped will have to forgive to set their own heart free from the hurt and bitterness and everything that stems from it, but they would be foolish to have immediate contact with the men who had so cruelly abused them until they had proven their honest heartfelt remorse and done whatever is needed to heal the deep wound they have inflicted on their innocent victims and proven they can be trusted.

Forgiveness is never easy because it always involves forgiving someone who has hurt or offended us, to overcome the reluctance to forgive it is helpful to look at Jesus who though we were sinners against God was prepared to be cruelly nailed to the cross, and even more while in tremendous suffering he prayed: -

- Father forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:32-34).

There is no malice in the heart of Christ only love and if we are to have a deeper relationship with God we cannot do it with malice in our hearts. Take the hurt and pain to the throne of God and before the bloodstained cross and forgive and embrace the eternal love and grace of God who showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).

The Parable of the Mustard Seed.

Luke 17:5-10 ----- ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree (sycamine tree in KJV) 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? ⁸Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹Does

he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.' "

The Mustard Seed, the Mulberry and Sycamine Tree.

A mustard seed is the tiniest of seeds it grows into a thick stemmed plant which under good conditions often grows higher than a man can reach. The field mustard was an important economic plant of the Holy Land, its leaves were used as greens and the seeds were either powdered or made into paste. The larger plants were the favourite haunts of the smaller birds (Matt. 13:31-32).

The mulberry tree, is a name that in Hebrew cannot be identified (2 Sam. 5:23-24) (1 Chron. 14:14-15) and the sycamine tree is a black mulberry tree that is cultivated throughout Palestine for its delectable fruit (Luke 17:6) botanists consider its leaves inferior to those of the white mulberry tree which is used as a food for the silk worms.

Mustard Seed Faith.

Jesus statement: -

- If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you (v6).

Is a true statement, but only God and Jesus had this kind of faith we know this because even though Jesus had given the apostles amazing faith to heal all manner of sickness there is not one miracle in which they displayed power over creation or even alter it in any way. There is only one man that God could trust with this kind of incredible power and his name is the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Jesus in these verses is talking about power that far exceeds the power of the atomic bomb and nuclear weapons. Throughout religious history there has always been church leaders who like the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, Pharisees, and scribes) use their exalted position in God for their own selfish ambition. How could God possibly trust sinful man with power so enormous that it makes man's weapons of war look like toys?

Jesus is talking about faith that is so powerful it can move trees, this is the same faith Jesus turned water to wine with, (imagine how much wealth corrupt religious leaders could make with this gift), the same faith he walked on water with and miraculously produced bread and fish to feed thousands, it is the same power that the world was created by.

Jesus tells the apostles if they had even the tiniest amount of this faith they could move trees. Jesus in this parable is not telling the apostles they can have more faith, but reminding them that they are servants to God and the faith that he has given them is more than enough for what they need for their ministry, they should not expect more just because they are faithfully serving him.

Jesus words "If you had faith you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and it would obey you,' should never be isolated from the apostle's question and Jesus answer to it in the following verses. Throughout history teachers in various circles of religion have isolated the verse and used it to teach their followers that if they had enough faith they could move mountains (i.e. do anything). But this is not what Jesus is telling his apostles. The apostles asked Jesus to, "Increase their faith!" and Jesus rather than increase their faith tells them the following story: -

- When a boss sends his worker out to do a job and the worker returns after completing it the boss does not say to the worker sit down while I serve you, rather the boss will give him another job to do. The boss does not thank his worker because they have done what they are employed to do.

The apostles have asked Jesus to give them more faith but Jesus response is to tell the apostles not to expect any special treatment or favours for doing what is expected of them to do.

Jesus words to the apostles, "You have only done what was your duty," means when you have done what you are called to do don't think of yourself as being someone great, but rather a servant who is still full of sin even though you have faithfully carried out what has been expected of you. The principal is that no matter how successful a ministry you may have count it only as your duty in serving God not something to exalt yourself by. Jesus in these verses is telling the apostles to always stay humble and not to think God will give them special favour just because they are faithfully doing what is expected of them, but rather always keep in mind that they are only doing their duty and to never think doing their duty entitles them to special favours, rewards or gifts.

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers.

Luke 17:11-19 ----- ¹¹On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well (made thee whole in KJV).

Samaria: means watchtower or watch-station and was the capital of the kingdom of the ten tribes of Israel. Today it is modern day Syria in Palestine on the west side of the Jordan River. During Israel's seventy-year exile in Babylon the king of Assyria set up foreign colonies in the land of Samaria and when Israel returned to their land they took foreign women for their wives and adopted many of their pagan practises, because of this the Jews at Jerusalem had no dealing with the Jews of Samaria.

Galilee: is the region in northern Israel on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus resided in Galilee and his disciples were chiefly from Galilee thus much of Jesus public ministry took place along its north-shore.

The law for the leprous person: under the Levitical law if the leprosy of a person who was suffering from the disease was said to be healed, the priest was to go and see if it was. If the disease was healed ceremonial washing and sacrifices were made over the next eight days after which the priest would make atonement for the leprous person. If a leprous person was wealthy they were to sacrifice two male lambs and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish and two clean birds. But if the leprous person was poor they were to take one male lamb and two turtledoves or two pigeons whichever they could afford (Lev. 14:21-22, 30).

Cleansed: (katharos) means to cleanse, purge, purify or make clean, Luke uses the word cleansed rather than healed because a person with Leprosy was by the Jews considered unclean.

THE STORY: ten lepers see Jesus and ask him to have mercy on them, but rather than instantly heal them he tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. The following is stunning, all ten were healed before they got to the priests, they were still not that far from the Lord, but even though they all realise they had been healed only one of them a Samaritan (who the Jews despised) ran with enormous excitement back to Jesus to give thanks.

Jesus words: -

- Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? (v18).

Implies that the other nine were not foreigners meaning they were Jews. Jesus is perhaps using this story to show that people who are despised and considered unworthy by the Jews actually have a better heart attitude toward God than those who think they are worthy.

Your Faith has made you Whole.

The King James Bible uses the word whole rather than well, all ten lepers were healed of their disease, therefore Jesus words to the Samaritan, "Your Faith has made you whole," Most likely refers to eternal salvation and not just his healing of leprosy. The faith of the Samaritan leper which made him whole was manifested in his action of asking Jesus for mercy and his returning to Jesus and praising and thanking him for his healing, contrasted to the other nine who never even turned to shout a thankyou to the Lord.

When will the Kingdom of God Come?

Luke 17:20-21 ----- ²⁰Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, ²¹nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst (within you in KJV) of you

Midst: (Within in the KJV) means inside or within. When Jesus said that the Kingdom is not coming with signs that can be seen he was not referring to healing signs but signs as in the days of Moses and Elijah.

The following are the two most common interpretations to Jesus words, "The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

1. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom so some teach that by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Kingdom of God is spiritually within a believer because Christ is pre-eminent in their heart and their mind and the King over their conscience and their life.
2. Jesus is talking to the Pharisees so others reason that it is hardly likely he would be saying the Kingdom of God is within them. Therefore they say Jesus was telling the Pharisees the Kingdom of God has already come because the King of the Kingdom is already amongst them. They support this idea by the fact the Pharisees never accepted Jesus so the focus of his answer is not on his return, but upon the present moment telling the Pharisees the Kingdom of God (Jesus Christ) is already amongst them.

NOTE: there is no need to be so dogmatic that one teaching must be right and the other teaching wrong simply because both interpretations can fit what Jesus is saying. There is no-doubt that in this present age the Kingdom of God is dwelling within the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ and that when Jesus the promised Messiah, the Christ and Saviour of the world appeared the Kingdom of God had come because its King had arrived, but this is not the final shape or form of the Kingdom since it will take on a far more majestic royal and glorious beauty when the Lord returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

As lightning flashes so will the Son of Man be in his Day.

Luke 17:22-25 ----- ²²And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you (the disciples) will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³And they will say to you 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them. ²⁴For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. ²⁵But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Jesus is now speaking to his disciples who are already in the spiritual Kingdom of God because of their faith in him, so his focus has shifted from what he was saying to the Pharisees in the previous verses to when he will return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's literal Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. We know he is not talking about his first appearing because he tells the disciples with him that a day will come when they will desire to see the Lord return and then tells them though they desire to see his return they will not see it (while they are alive) (v22). After Jesus death and resurrection the Pharisees and the Romans aggressively pursued the Christians church many were slaughtered, put in prison and killed no-doubt these horrific persecutions resulted in disciples desiring to see Christ return.

Many will say, “Look, here is Christ,” Do not follow them.

Jesus warns the disciples against false prophets and false teachers arising who gather followers to themselves by convincing them they have insights and secret knowledge to Christ's return that others don't. They imply that unless a follower of Christ has their knowledge they will miss the Lord's return and be left behind. Jesus tells his disciples not to listen to religious leaders who make such claims because when he returns it will be so spectacular that it will be clearly obvious to all who belong to Christ that their King is returning.

As it was in the Days of Noah and Lot, so will it be in the Days of Christ.

Luke 17:26-30 ----- ²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, ²⁹but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— ³⁰so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Noah's generation had no idea that a flood was coming nor did the generation of Lot both generations were taken totally by surprise Jesus says when he returns it will be the same as in the days of Noah and Lot. People will be buying houses, paying mortgages, starting businesses, marrying and raising families everyone will be going about life as per normal until Christ returns.

Some will think that God is enormously cruel because there will be overwhelming natural disasters and enormous sorrow, but it should be remembered governments literally spend billions of dollars to explore space, but no generation has spent money to care for the planet we live on. We send tons of pollution into the air every day and almost thirty-six football fields of rain forest are cut down every minute of every day.

We pollute the air and the oceans at a phenomenal rate and at the same time destroy the earth's filtration system that God so majestically designed to keep the planet healthy. Added to this the world has rejected the God of creation and replaced Him with a theory of evolution and the earth is covered with murder, wars, rapes, drugs blatant sexuality, young girls being sold as sex slaves and multinational companies oppressing the poor to make billions of dollars profit. Is it any wonder the earth is heading for chaos added to all this we run the entire world on credit which is totally against the will of God because it makes people slaves to those they borrow from.

The Earth is, Personified as a Woman: the Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant woman in labour pains waiting to give birth to the sons and daughters of God. Prior to Christ's return the labour pains of the earth (natural disasters) will increase in power and continue to become more rapid and more frequent. Those who live their lives without any thought toward God will not only be taken by surprise, but Luke later in this letter says, they will also be in fear and terror of what is coming next (Luke 21:25-28).

Let the one who is on the Housetop and in the Field not Turn Back.

Luke 17:31-33 ----- ³¹On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. ³²Remember Lot's wife. ³³Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

Jesus in this verse is saying, do not turn away from him for some other thing when he returns (as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other) (v24) this is not a time for hesitation and a clear reason why Christ must be first in the heart and mind of those who belong to him. This is not only about literally trying to save what we have in this world, but also about attitude (i.e., are we prepared to forsake everything to gain Christ and eternal life even those we love if we have too).

Lots Wife.

Lot's wife is a good example of what Jesus is saying, Angels came to Lot and told him to collect all his family and they will take him out of the city which God is about to destroy. The angels led Lot and his family out telling them not to look back toward the city, but when the LORD rained fire on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah Lot's wife in disobedience and most likely curiosity looked back and she became a pillar of salt.

God being a God of love does not takes delight in bringing destruction on nations and cities, but being a God of Holiness and justice is at times forced to judge and condemn the wicked and even His own people. Deliberately disobeying the word of the LORD brings consequences (Gen. 19:12-26).

Saving and losing Life and Losing and saving Life.

Jesus words, "Whoever seeks to preserve their life will lose it" (v33) refer to his return and eternal life (i.e., those who forsake the Lord will lose their salvation and eternal inheritance). Whereas the words, "Whoever loses their life will save it" carries the idea that a person is prepared to lose everything to gain Christ and therefore will be saved and resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting life.

One will be Taken and the other Left.

Luke 17:34-36 ----- ³⁴I tell you, in that night (Christ's return) there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. ³⁵There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left ³⁶Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken and the other left.

Taken: (paralambano) means to receive or take near, to take with or unto oneself, to associate with in any familiar or intimate act or relationship and by analogy it carries the idea of learning and promoting one to an office.

Left: (aphiemi) means to forsake, lay aside or put off, leave, to send away from something near (of place or relationship) and yield up it usually denotes the cessation of a thing or separation and departure.

One Taken the Other Left.

Two in a bed implies intimacy and closeness it implies that the couple are bonded to each other yet one is taken and one is not suggesting that one was saved and one was not. This is what Jesus was talking about in the previous verses, when he told his disciples not to turn back when he returns. For many it is going to mean leaving the ones they love behind, it could be valued friends, family members, children or a spouse.

It does not matter how much a Christian wife or husband may love their non-believing spouse they cannot become part of Christ's Kingdom when they deny the King himself. No amount of human love can save a person who denies the only one that can save them. A person who belongs to Christ must be prepared to leave any unsaved family member when the Lord returns and not turn back in an attempt to save those who have denied the Lord. Those who confess to be a disciple of Jesus must always have this attitude in their heart. Other verses in the Bible refer to this attitude as denying self and taking up our cross daily for the sake of the Gospel and to gain Christ.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One will be taken the other left refers to when the the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign.

Those taken will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) when the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God.

Christ the King united with his people (those taken out of the corrupted world) will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End