

Who Is Jesus

Part Fourteen / Wednesday, March 13, 2019

REVELATION ON THE MOUNTAIN

Mount Moriah

1850 years before Christ, two men - one quite old and the other around 20 years of age - laboriously climbed a rugged hill in the Middle East. The hill was known as Mount Moriah. The old man was named Abraham; the younger, his son, Isaac. Scriptures give us the dramatic encounter:

Genesis 22:1-4

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt (test is a better rendition) Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. [2] And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

[3] And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. [4] Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

God was only testing Abraham. He passed the test! God did not require the actual sacrifice, but instead provided a ram:

Genesis 22:13-14

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. [14] And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. *Calvary is part of Moriah. But where God did not require Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, God Himself offered His Son Jesus the Christ (Messiah) to be sacrificed for the sins of humanity.*

From the time of Abraham on, the mountain (really a hill) was considered very sacred to the Jewish nation. Almost 900 years later, King Solomon constructed the first Temple on Mount Moriah, as recorded in Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament. That beautiful Temple lasted only until 586 BC, when the Babylonians made their third and fatal attack on the holy city of Jerusalem; the Temple was destroyed.

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The model of King Herod's Temple (the model which is about the size of our sanctuary) is located at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. You can see that the Temple occupied a very large section of the city. This view of it would have been from the Mount of Olives summit looking west with the Kidron Valley between. Several biblically and historically important sites are numbered: (1) Where it is believed Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2; (2) The Eastern Gates; (3) The Antonia Fortress where Pontius Pilate had Jesus whipped and condemned; and (4) Believed to be the location of Calvary where Jesus was crucified.

When the Persians, under Cyrus, defeated the Babylonians, any captive Jew in old Babylon who wanted to return to Jerusalem was allowed to go. The returnees found Jerusalem and the former Temple built by Solomon in charred ruins. The exiles wanted a Temple again and a rather modest structure was erected under the new governor Zerubbabel.

The number of Jews who returned were fewer than 50,000 by most informed estimates. They returned after completing the long and dreary four-months journey from the banks of the Euphrates River to Jerusalem. They were driven by a strong nationalistic impulse and one of their first concerns was to restore their ancient house of worship. First they erected and dedicated the altar of God on the exact spot where it had been in Solomon's Temple (and where they believed Abraham was to offer his son Isaac). Then they cleared away the charred heaps of rubble which lay in the spot where Solomon had built the first Temple.

For you historians, Cyrus the Great who allowed the Jews to return to Judea, died and was

1 succeeded by his son Cambyses (poor leader). He did not rule long and he was
2 succeeded by Darius) 522 BC (who was so ably counseled by his friend, the Jewish
3 prophet Daniel).

4
5 A few hundred years later, Herod became King (by permission of Rome) and decided to
6 totally renovate the Temple (into the one Jesus would have known - pictured above.)
7 The second Temple lasted until 70 AD when it was destroyed by the invading Romans.
8 Herod's structure was the pride and joy of the Jewish people. Some writers of ancient
9 history have suggested that the Temple might well have been named one of the ancient
10 wonders of the world, along with Babylon's hanging gardens, the great pyramid near
11 Cairo, the statue of Zeus in Olympia, the Temple of Artemis (Diana) in Ephesus, Turkey,
12 and others.

13
14 This sets the basis for the story of Jesus we read in Matthew 24 and 25. The disciples of
15 Jesus wanted to brag about their Temple, when Jesus shocked them:

16
17 Matthew 24:1-3

18 **And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him**
19 **for to shew him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not**
20 **all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon**
21 **another, that shall not be thrown down.**

22 **[3] And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately,**
23 **saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming,**
24 **and of the end of the world?**

25
26 The days are now ticking down to Thursday night when Jesus would be betrayed by Judas
27 and arrested by the Temple guards. And to Friday morning when He would be nailed to
28 a cross of death. Jesus knew it, yet He took time now to give His followers a prophetic
29 revelation. When He told His men that the Temple would not be standing all that long,
30 that night when they arrived under the olive trees on the Mount of Olives, He unfolded
31 the future to them.

32 33 The Question The Disciples Asked Jesus

34
35 Doubtless shocked by Jesus' seeming lack of interest in their Temple, they cornered Jesus
36 with this question: "Tell us....when shall these things be? And what will be the sign of
37 your coming?"

38
39 There are a lot of theories, but only one answer! Jesus gave that response in these
40 chapters - 24 and 25. Let's look into His answer:

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DECEPTION!

Matthew 24:4-11

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. [5] For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. [6] And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. [8] All these are the beginning of sorrows. [9] Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. [10] And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. [11] And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Satan's howitzers are aimed at believers! For a great part, the ammo is deception! Look how Jesus returns to that theme in these two chapters:

- ★ Verse 4 "deceive"
- ★ Verse 5 "deceive"
- ★ Verse 11 "deceive"

And a bit further into the passage, Jesus really hit this issue hard: Matthew 24:23-24
Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. [24] For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

1 Why Deception Of Even Believers Is So Wide-spread Today

2
3 2 Tim. 4:2

4 **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with**
5 **all longsuffering and doctrine.**

6
7 The Apostle Paul addressed II Timothy to his young protégé, Timothy, a pastor in Europe.
8 Note how he opened this segment of instruction: **PREACH THE WORD!** Don't
9 preach "about" the Word - preach the Word itself! There is precious little of that today.

10
11 There was a day when it was not so easy to fool church people. There was a powerful
12 Sunday School movement, attended by millions every week, where attendees were trained
13 in Scripture. Pastors preached the Word - not psychology, and they understood they
14 were proclaimers of the Gospel, not mental therapists. There was a time when you
15 would have been hard-pressed to find a true minister of the Gospel preaching about
16 prosperity or "positive thinking" as the "main course" of their agenda. (Matthew 24:24
17 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and**
18 **wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.)**

19 Professing believers read the Bible more than they read books ABOUT the Bible. To
20 put it bluntly - church people in those days knew far more about the Bible than today's
21 generation!

22
23 We followers of Jesus Christ have a sure guide for our lives and that is Holy Scripture. 2
24 Peter 1:19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy (the scriptures); whereunto**
25 **ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the**
26 **day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

27
28 Those law officials who deal with counterfeiters and "funny money" can tell a phony bill
29 just by looking at it. How? They are so familiar with the REAL bills that a counterfeit
30 bill is recognized almost immediately. So it is with the follower of Jesus: we are to
31 know the Word (the sure word!) so well that the deceivers are noted very quickly.

32
33 I was 17 years old when I entered Bible School in 1954. We freshmen were required to
34 take a course called Old and New Testament Survey. Several days into it, I found
35 myself saying to myself, "I learned this in Sunday School when I was still in grade school
36 and junior high." I could have just about passed the course without going to class.
37 Today in so many churches, teens know more about colored lights and smoke machines
38 than they do the Holy Word of God. And their parents are almost as illiterate when it
39 comes to the Bible as the children. Small wonder then that Jesus said that in the last
40 days even "the elect", the Christ-followers, could be so easily deceived.

1 The Vultures

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3 **Matthew 24:28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered**
4 **together.** (The word “eagles” is better rendered “vultures” - specifically carrion kites.)
5 Vultures gather over creatures that are already dead.)

6
7 On one major network TV news program (NBC) it was announced that there are
8 currently over 8 million cults in the United States alone. A cult is any religious group
9 that differs from the doctrines and practices of historic Christianity. Quite often cultists
10 gather about a central figure of charm and charisma who knows “something” of the Bible
11 and has taken key parts of scripture out of context. (Context means the “who,” “why,”
12 “when,” “where,” and so forth about a subject, the background.) *So while the leader*
13 *seems to be quoting the Bible, he or she is instead foisting a counterfeit religious counter-*
14 *culture on the unsuspecting flock of listeners.*

15
16 Now note that Jesus prophesied wars and rumors of wars among other indications of the
17 last days; but there was one “sign” He repeated again and again: **DECEPTION OF**
18 **BELIEVERS!**

19
20 What a teaching from our Lord Jesus! What a revelation today! Those who do not
21 know the Scriptures become the carcasses for the vultures, the false prophets. A person
22 who will not stand for something is quite likely to fall for almost anything. They
23 become mere ventriloquists’ puppets for Satan’s first lie, **“Yea, hath God said?”**
24 (Genesis 3:1)

25
26

<p>I have heard this said any number of times, “Well, that teacher can’t be wrong....why he or she uses words right from the Bible.” Yes, perhaps; but to the cultist the words mean something one hundred percent different than what Scriptures are actually saying. <i>The Christian realizes that for every Biblical or doctrinal term mentioned, a redefinition light flashes on in the mind of the cultist, and a lightning-fast redefinition is accomplished thus allowing the cultist to apparently agree with the doctrine under discussion, while firmly disagreeing in reality with the historical and Biblical concept.</i></p> <p>Dr. Walter Martin</p>
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28 The Fig Tree

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30 Matthew 24:29-36

31 **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the**
32 **moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of**

1 **the heavens shall be shaken: [30] And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in**
2 **heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of**
3 **man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. [31] And he shall**
4 **send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his**
5 **elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. [32] Now learn a**
6 **parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye**
7 **know that summer is nigh: [33] So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things,**
8 **know that it is near, even at the doors. [34] Verily I say unto you, This generation**
9 **shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. [35] Heaven and earth shall pass away,**
10 **but my words shall not pass away.**

11
12 Jesus application here is easily understood: Israel has thousands of fig trees. When the
13 tree starts to bud, the long winter, rainy season is over and summer is close at hand.
14 Then Jesus applied this truth: “When you begin to observe fulfillment of these things
15 I’m telling you, be alert! Be aware! My return is at hand!

16 17 18 The Error Of The “Date-setters”

19
20 Matthew 24:36-44

21 **But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my**
22 **Father only. [37] But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of**
23 **man be. [38] For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and**
24 **drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the**
25 **ark, [39] And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also**
26 **the coming of the Son of man be. [40] Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be**
27 **taken, and the other left. [41] Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall**
28 **be taken, and the other left.**

29 **[42] Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. [43] But**
30 **know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief**
31 **would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be**
32 **broken up. [44] Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the**
33 **Son of man cometh.**

34
35 The media are filled with would be prophets. When they proclaim dates for the Rapture
36 of the Church, you can be sure they are false prophets. For what did Jesus say? No
37 man knows the hour His appearing. No man! Or woman! We can watch those “fig
38 leaves” dropping to the ground, those signs that indicate Christ’s coming could be
39 approaching. But to set a date is error. While I cannot know the time of the Rapture, I
40 CAN know I’m ready when He does come!

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:1-13

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. [2] And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. [3] They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: [4] But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. [5] While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. [6] And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. [7] Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. [9] But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. [10] And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. [11] Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. [12] But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. [13] Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

There are several interpretations of this parable. The most believed would be that we are to be ready for the return of Jesus, born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ. Saving faith in Jesus manifests itself in every aspect of our lives. For example, the fruit of the Holy Spirit becomes evident in our day-to-day activities: Galatians 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance...** The five virgins who had the oil represent the truly born

1 again who are eagerly anticipating Christ's return. The five virgins without the oil
2 represent false believers who enjoy the benefits of the Christian community without true,
3 authentic love for Jesus Himself. Someone has observed, these latter five love "the
4 wedding party" more than the Bridegroom (who is Jesus).

5
6 When unmasked for the interlopers they were, the five foolish virgins asked the wise ones
7 for some of their oil. As if their oil would somehow redeem them – or, you know, Mom
8 and Dad's faith will somehow save the kids. Won't happen! Every person must have
9 his or her own oil, SALVATION, to enter.

10
11 Someone says, "Well....someday...." Like the foolish virgins, you'll be off to make the
12 purchase when Jesus returns. Too late.

13 14 Using What God Gave You

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16 Matthew 25:14-30

17 **For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his**
18 **own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. [15] And unto one he gave five**
19 **talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several**
20 **ability; and straightway took his journey. [16] Then he that had received the five**
21 **talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. [17] And**
22 **likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. [18] But he that had**
23 **received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. [19] After a**
24 **long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. [20] And so**
25 **he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord,**
26 **thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents**
27 **more. [21] His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou**
28 **hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter**
29 **thou into the joy of thy lord. [22] He also that had received two talents came and**
30 **said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other**
31 **talents beside them. [23] His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful**
32 **servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many**
33 **things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. [24] Then he which had received the one**
34 **talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where**
35 **thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: [25] And I was**
36 **afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. [26]**
37 **His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou**
38 **knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: [27]**
39 **Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my**
40 **coming I should have received mine own with usury. [28] Take therefore the talent**
41 **from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. [29] For unto every one that**

1 **hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall**
2 **be taken away even that which he hath. [30] And cast ye the unprofitable servant**
3 **into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
4

5 We read about people who own great businesses. Their property. But they require
6 managers, people who know how to care for the boss's business. God owns you, He
7 owns your life on earth. But He expects you to manage it under His guidelines. In this
8 story by Jesus, one of the last He would give us before His crucifixion, He emphasizes
9 our responsibility of stewardship - or utilization - of the gifts, the talents, He has provided
10 to us. In this story of three servants, one was given 5 talents, another two, and the third,
11 one.

12
13 The first two invested those talents (units of money) and doubled their value, while the
14 third, out of fear or intimidation, hid the one talent he had been given. As you can read
15 in the story, the Master was NOT HAPPY with that third man's efforts.
16

17 Everyone of us has been given at least one ability to be used for the Master. It may be an
18 upfront place where you are seen, or it may be one behind the scenes, but just as valuable.
19 Our purpose is to "profit the Master" (verses 27-30). Don't bury what God has given
20 you.
21

22 The Judgment Of The Nations

23
24 Matthew 25:31-46

25 **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,**
26 **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered**
27 **all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his**
28 **sheep from the goats: [33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats**
29 **on the left. [34] Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye**
30 **blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of**
31 **the world: [35] For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye**
32 **gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I**
33 **was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall**
34 **the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed**
35 **thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took**
36 **thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison,**
37 **and came unto thee? [40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say**
38 **unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye**
39 **have done it unto me. [41] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart**
40 **from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: [42]**
41 **For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no**

1 **drink: [43] I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not:**
2 **sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. [44] Then shall they also answer him,**
3 **saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or**
4 **sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? [45] Then shall he answer them,**
5 **saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye**
6 **did it not to me. [46] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the**
7 **righteous into life eternal.**

8
9 This is a little-known judgment, seldom addressed from pulpits. Following the seven-
10 year Tribulation period, Jesus returns to set up His Millennial thousand-year reign on
11 earth. In those seven years of the Tribulation, most of the earth will have been ruled by
12 the triumvirate from Hell: Satan, the unholy father; Antichrist, the unholy son; and the
13 False Prophet, the very unholy spirit. Those people who lived for Jesus during that time
14 will have been severely abused (at best) and executed (at worst). But payday has now
15 come.

16
17 “When Jesus shall come in His glory – the second coming of Christ - and all the holy
18 angels with him - then shall Jesus sit on the throne of his glory and before Him shall be
19 gathered all nations.” (Verses 31 and 32)

20
21 Although untold multitudes of earthlings (people) will die during the tribulation, not all of
22 humanity will be destroyed. There will be those who survive the tribulation - both saved
23 and unsaved. Jesus, the King, will set up His perfect kingdom on earth and to do this,
24 He will separate His loyal subjects from those who denied Him and served Antichrist.
25 He will separate the “sheep” (those who pass His tests) from the “goats,” those who will
26 now feel the wrath coming from His throne.

27
28 Jesus tells the “sheep” that when they served His people, they really served Him. It is at
29 this time that those who opposed the Jews in particular will now feel punishment such as
30 they have never known before. It won’t matter their station in life, whether unknown or
31 even higher-ups in government, they will realize that Jesus is now in charge and they will
32 have to answer for their crimes against Him and His people.

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35
36 Next week: Joel Rosenberg will be here!