

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do we try the spirits?
2. How great is God's love? (Romans 8:35-39)
3. How can we show our love toward God?
4. What does Christmas mean to you?

SUMMARY:

As we come to the end of our study of the Book of Revelation we should also consider why all these things must come to pass. We should think about the provision God has made so that we can enter into His eternal kingdom.

In this season of the year people become bogged down with plans for Christmas - holiday festivities, giving of gifts, parties (not always good ones), school programs and various other things. We too, even as believers can be overcome with these things, but we need to do much sober thinking about the essence of Christmas. What is it all about? What does it mean to me?

Not desiring to belittle the giving of gifts or the many other festivities, but do they really portray the real message of Christmas? Certainly we can show our thankfulness to God for His unspeakable gift by seriously serving Him and trying more diligently to relay the message of God's love.

NOTES:

[SoF:4] We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life. He died on the cross for us. His shed blood is the atonement for our sins. **[SoF:8]** We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation.

[SoF:9] We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in spiritual unity with Christ

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 20, 2020

Fourth Quarter

GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE (Christmas)

LESSON TEXT: *1 John 4:1-21*

LESSON SETTING: John writes to the believers.

TIME: Approximately 90 AD

- I. THE TEST OF LOVE.** 1 John 4:1-8
 - A. Try the Spirits (vs. 1) Ephesians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:21
 - B. Christ Dwelling Within (vs. 4) Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17-19
 - C. Spiritual Knowledge (vs. 6) John 7:16-17, 17:3
 - D. Love One Another (vs. 7, 8) John 13:35, 15:12
- II. THE GIFT OF LOVE.** 1 John 4:9-14
 - A. God Sent His Son **[SoF:4]** (vs. 9) John 3:16; Romans 8:32; 2 Corinthians 9:15
 - B. The Reason **[SoF:4]** (vs. 10, 14) Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:25
 - C. The Gift of His Spirit **[SoF:9]** (vs. 13) Acts 2:38; Galatians 4:6
Note: PROPITIATION - ATONEMENT, RECONCILIATION
- III. THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE.** 1 John 4:15-21
 - A. Confess Christ (vs. 15) **[SoF:8]** Luke 12:8; Philippians 2:11; 1 John 2:23
 - B. Dwell in Love (vs. 16) Ephesians 5:2; Colossians 3:14
 - C. Love God (vs. 19) Deuteronomy 6:5; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Jude 21
 - D. Love the Brethren (vs. 20, 21) Matthew 22:39; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:22

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND WE HAVE SEEN AND DO TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER SENT THE SON TO BE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.*
1 John 4:14

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Revelation 22:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Ezekiel 47:1-12

John 4:5-14, 7:37-39

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, The Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: FOREVER WITH CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

The picture given us appears to be a restoration of the paradise that was lost to man when Adam and Eve sinned. We will remember they were cast out of the Garden of Eden lest they also eat of the tree of life. A curse was placed upon them. Now the tree of life appears again and the curse is removed. "No more curse!" What a wonderful state to be in when we shall be able to experience continual communion with God. The right to have access to the tree of life is conditional on keeping His commandments (vs. 14).

Three times in this chapter, Jesus says, "*I come quickly.*" It seems to be a warning to those who put off the most important decision of life. Verse 11, stating that "*he that is unjust let him be unjust still, etc.*", seems to emphasize the fact that when He comes there will be no time to repent or make amends. Those found in these conditions must pay the terrible price of the full punishment for their sins.

May we be counted among those who will be able to say "*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*"

CENTRAL TRUTH: Someday God will completely renovate the entire universe.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY; AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME, TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING AS HIS WORK SHALL BE.* Revelation 22:12

It may seem strange that Jesus should say in the conclusion of the Book of Revelation, "*I come quickly.*" Already almost 2,000 years have passed and He still has not come. However, we need to accept God's measurement of time as being greatly different from ours. We can be assured that He will come and it will be quick in man's preparation for this time. There will be little forewarning other than that already provided. Many will be found unprepared for His coming. To come "quickly" may well be termed to come "suddenly."

Jesus, while among men, compared His coming in judgment to the coming of a thief. In other words it will be when men least expect it. Then it will be too late to make preparation for His coming. Then it will be too late to repent. He will come quickly to establish His cause, comfort and support His followers and bring judgment and punishment upon all the wicked.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 21 – 27

M. The Redeemer Promised. Isaiah 7:10-16

T. The Redeemer's Glory Foreshadowed. Isaiah 9:1-7

W. The Savior's Suffering Foretold. Isaiah 53:1-12

T. The Savior's Lowly Birth. Luke 2:4-20

F. The Savior's Mission Accomplished. Hebrews 1:1-8

S. *The Paradise of God. Revelation 22:1-7

S. *The Bible's Last Message. Revelation 22:8-21

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