**Study Guide: He Must Return-Lesson 4**

**Sunday PM-November 15, 2026**

Introduction

This study guide reviews the core biblical teachings regarding why Jesus Christ must return to Earth. Based on the lesson "He Must Return," God's plan is revealed through His program for three distinct groups: the Church, the nations, and Israel.

By examining New Testament passages alongside Old Testament prophecies, this guide explores how the completion of the Church Age leads to the Rapture, how God will judge sin among the nations, and how He will fulfill His promises to Israel. Ancient cultural customs, such as Oriental marriage traditions, are also analyzed to illustrate the deep spiritual relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church.

---

Review Quiz

1. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:18, what is God's will for believers in Christ Jesus?
2. What key phrase did the Holy Spirit add in Acts 15:16 that clarifies when God will rebuild the tabernacle of David?
3. How does 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 describe the return of the Lord in the air during the Rapture?
4. What are the three cultural stages of a wedding in the ancient Oriental world described in the lesson?
5. In the marriage metaphor, how did Jesus Christ pay the legal dowry for His Bride, the Church?
6. What warning does 1 Timothy 4:1 give regarding the condition of the church in the latter times?
7. Why must Jesus Christ specifically return to judge the nations according to John 5:22?
8. What dramatic transformation of farming tools is commanded to the nations in Joel 3:9–10?
9. How does Matthew 25:31–46 describe the judgment of the nations when the Son of Man comes in His glory?
10. According to Romans 11:25, how long will the partial blindness of Israel continue?

---

Answer Key

1. God's will for believers in Christ Jesus is to give thanks in everything. This memory verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds Christians that they should always maintain a thankful attitude regardless of their circumstances.
2. The Holy Spirit added the phrase "after this" in Acts 15:16, which does not appear in the original Old Testament text of Amos 9. This phrase clarifies that God will rebuild the tabernacle of David only after the Church Age is completed and believers depart.
3. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven into the sky with a shout, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first, and then living believers will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet Him in the air.
4. The three stages of an ancient Oriental marriage are the legal contract, the betrothal, and the final marriage ceremony with a feast. The legal contract involved families setting terms and paying a dowry, the betrothal involved exchanging gifts before witnesses, and the final stage brought the bridegroom to the bride's home to consummate the marriage.
5. Jesus Christ paid the legal dowry for His Church by dying on the cross and shedding His own precious blood. This sacrificial act legally secured the binding covenant between Him and believers long before the final marriage feast occurs.
6. First Timothy 4:1 warns that in the latter times, some people will depart from the true Christian faith. They will follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, leading to widespread apostasy within the church movement.
7. Jesus Christ must return to judge the nations because God has committed all judgment directly to the Son. Because God's program requires the complete removal of sin from the Earth, the Son must return physically to execute that divine judgment.
8. Joel 3:9–10 commands the nations to prepare for war by beating their peaceful farming tools—plowshares and pruning hooks—into weapons like swords and spears. It calls all foreign nations to assemble in the valley of decision for a final confrontation.
9. When the Son of Man comes in His glory, He will sit on His throne and gather all nations to separate them as a shepherd divides sheep from goats. The righteous sheep on His right hand inherit the Kingdom, while the cursed goats on His left hand are sent into everlasting punishment.
10. According to Romans 11:25, a temporary spiritual blindness has come upon the nation of Israel. This condition will remain until the full number of Gentiles who make up the Church has come into God's kingdom.

Essay Questions

1. Explain how ancient Oriental marriage customs parallel Jesus Christ's relationship with the Church, detailing the legal contract, betrothal, and final marriage feast.
2. Contrast the event of the Rapture described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17 with the final return of Jesus Christ to judge the nations on Earth.
3. Describe the battle gathering in Joel 3 and Revelation 14, explaining how the nations' attempt to wage war results in their judgment at God's tribunal.
4. Analyze the spiritual warnings provided in 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Peter 2:1 regarding false teachings and apostasy in the church during the end times.
5. Discuss the relationship between the completion of the Church Age and the resumption of God's plan for Israel as outlined in Acts 15 and Romans 11.

---

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Apostasy**: A total departure from or rejection of religious truth and faith, which characterizes the church during the end times.
- **Betrothal**: The second stage of an ancient marriage custom where gifts are exchanged in front of witnesses, symbolizing the spiritual gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit.
- **Dispensation**: A specific period or age in biblical history through which God executes His purpose and works with humanity, such as the Church Age.
- **Dowry**: A payment or property made by a bridegroom or his family as part of a legal marriage contract.
- **Furlong**: An ancient unit of distance measuring approximately one-eighth of a mile; used in Revelation 14:20 to measure the extent of judgment (1,600 furlongs).
- **Minor Prophets**: Twelve books of the Old Testament (including Joel and Amos) termed "minor" due to their shorter length rather than their importance.
- **Rapture**: The event when Jesus Christ descends into the air to catch up living and resurrected believers to be with Him forever.
- **Tabernacle of David**: The house or royal line of David that God promises to rebuild and restore when Jesus Christ sets up His earthly Kingdom.
- **Tribunal**: A court or seat of judgment; used to describe how nations gathering for war will instead find themselves standing before God's judgment bar.
- **Valley of Jehoshaphat**: Also referred to as the "valley of decision" in Joel 3, it is the location where God will gather and judge the nations.

Greek Words and Terminology

During the explanation of the New Testament marriage metaphor and the believer's guarantee of salvation, reference is made to the Greek concept of the engagement ring or pledge given by God.[^1]

- **Arrhabon** (ar-rah-BOHN)[^2]: A Greek noun meaning a pledge, earnest money, down payment, or engagement ring. It represents a legal guarantee that the full obligation will later be fulfilled. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is given to believers as an arrhabon, guaranteeing their eternal security and final union with Jesus Christ at the marriage feast.

[^1]: Referenced in the source transcript as the divine guarantee or "engagement ring" provided to believers by the Holy Spirit. [^2]: Transcribed phonetically in the source context as "oton," referring to the Greek biblical term for a legal guarantee or pledge (arrhabon).