

“WORD OF LIFE”

March 09, 2025

47. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (27) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P - 19. The Lightning Coming Forth from the East and Shining to the West

Hymns: # 65 / # 215 / # 50

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying, ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – Christ’s coming to the earth]

Matt. 24:3 - And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, When will these things be?

And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?

Matt. 24:27 - For just as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

✚ “...He taught them many things in parables... (Mark 4:2)

“...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)

“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ Christ will be in the air as the lightning for His coming to earth (Matt. 24:27).

➤ Lightning is concealed in a cloud, waiting for an opportunity to flash forth.

- Christ will also be clothed with a cloud (Rev. 10:1)
 - in the air for a time and
 - then will suddenly appear like a flash to the earth.

➤ The sign of His coming and of the consummation, the end, of the age.

✓ “As the lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matt. 24:27).

- The Greek word “coming”, is *parousia*, which means presence.
- Christ’s coming will be His presence with His believers.
 - This *parousia* will begin with His coming to the air
 - and end with His coming to the earth.
 - Within His *parousia* there will be
 - the rapture of the majority of the believers to the air (1 Thes. 4:15-17),
 - the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10), and
 - the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9).

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, ‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’ we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ As lightning concealed with a cloud, Christ is waiting for an opportunity to flash forth, after the great tribulation (Matt. 24:29). He will be clothed with a cloud (Rev. 10:1) in the air for a time and then will suddenly appear like a flash to the earth. This is Christ’s open aspect of His coming.

- ✓ when He comes to the air, He will be enveloped in a cloud
- ✓ but when He comes to the earth, He will be upon the cloud

✚ We need to watch and be ready for the Lord’s coming back so that we may be raptured earlier. We also need to be faithful and prudent in serving the Lord so that we may receive the reward. Thus, watchfulness is for the early rapture, and faithfulness is for reward

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 47 letter P – point 19)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 65
Praise of the Lord –
His Name

- 1** Jesus! that **name** we love,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
Jesus, all names above,
Jesus, the **Lord**!
Thou, **Lord**, our all must be;
Nothing that's good have we,
Nothing apart from Thee.
Jesus, our **Lord**!
- 2** As **Son of Man** it was,
Jesus, the **Lord**!
Thou gav'st Thy **life** for us,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
Great was indeed Thy **love**,
All other loves above,
Love Thou didst dearly prove,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
- 3** Righteous alone in Thee,
Jesus, the **Lord**!
Thou wilt a refuge be,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
Whom, then, have we to fear,
What trouble, grief, or care,
Since Thou art **ever near**,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
- 4** Soon Thou wilt **come again**,
Jesus, the **Lord**!
We shall be happy then,
Jesus, our **Lord**!
When Thine **own face we see**,
Then shall **we like Thee be**,
Then **evermore with Thee**,
Jesus, our **Lord**!

Phi 2:9 –
Therefore also God highly exalted
Him and **bestowed** on **Him** the **name**
which is above every name,

Act 4:12 –
And there is **salvation** in no other, for
neither is there another **name** under
heaven given among men in which
we must be **saved**.

Hymn 215
Praise the Lord –
Remembrance of Him

- 1** Jesus, **Lord**,
we **know** Thee **present**
At Thy table freshly spread,
Seated at Thy **priceless banquet**
With Thy banner overhead.
Precious moments at Thy **table**,
From all fear and doubt set free;
Here to rest, so sweetly able,
Occupied alone with Thee.
- 2** Here rejoicing in Thy **nearness**,
Gladly by Thy **Spirit** led;
Calmly in the blest **remembrance**
Of Thyself, Thy **blood** once **shed**.
Lord, we take each simple token
In fond **memory** of Thee,
Muse upon Thy **body broken**
And Thy **blood shed** on the tree.
- 3** Oh, what **joy it is to see Thee**,
In these chosen **emblems** here;
In the **bread** and **wine** of blessing—
Bread to strengthen, **wine** to cheer!
Lord, behold us **met together**,
One in Thee, our risen **Head**,
Thus we take the **cup** of blessing,
Thus we share the broken **bread**.
- 4** **Lord**, we know how true
Thy promise
To **be with us** where we meet,
When in Thy loved **name** we gather
To enjoy **communion** sweet;
Dearer still that looked-for promise
To each **waiting**, yearning heart,
That with Thee
we soon shall be, **Lord**,
Yes, "**forever**" where Thou art.

Mat 1:23 –
"Behold, the virgin shall be with child
and shall bear a son, and they shall call
His **name Emmanuel**" (which is
translated, **God with us**).

Mat 18:20 –
For where there are two or three
gathered into **My name**, there am **I in**
their midst.

Mat 28:20 –
...And behold, **I am with you** all the
days until the consummation of the
age.

Hymn 50
Worship of the Father –
His Praise from Many Sons

- 1** **Father**, Thy **Son** beloved
leads our praise
After the **banquet** feast
is had and done;
How dear, how sweet
to Thee the praise **He leads**,
And in His praises
joining **we are one**.
- 2** **Father**, we need
no goodness more than Thee,
Nor do we seek
a love that's less than Thine;
How we adore Thee
now that here we know
Thy searchless,
uncreated life divine.
- 3** **Father**, within Thy **love**
our love to Thee
Grows, far transcending
all our earthly ties;
Thine own dear love
in power leads our hearts
Where Thine **own presence**
deeply satisfies.
- 4** **Father**, by **joining**
with Thy **Son** beloved,
We all with gladness
praise Thee now again;
Joyfully feasting on Thy holy love,
Tasting, **as sons**,
the sweetness of Thy **name**.

Heb 2:11 –
For both He who sanctifies and those
who are being sanctified **are all of**
One, for which cause He is not
ashamed to call them **brothers**,

Heb 2:12 –
Saying, "I will declare **Your name** to
My **brothers**; in the midst of the
church **I** will sing hymns of praise to
You."