

THE 13TH CCCPC PROPHETIC BIBLE CONFERENCE

The Signs of Christ's Second Coming

Holiday Plaza Hotel, F. Ramos St., Cebu City
Saturday, August 25, 2012, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

P R O G R A M M E

Master of Ceremonies – Ptr. Antonio “Leo” Gemino, Jr., CCCPC Program Coordinator

8:00 AM - Registration: Bro. Fred & Sis. Linda Gulane

8:30 AM - INVOCATION: Rev. Samuel Geroy, CCCPC Music Coordinator

- Philippine National Anthem

COMMUNITY SINGING

He is Coming Soon

Words by Thoro Harris, 1918, Music adapted from the song "Aloha Oe"

*In these, the closing days of time, What joy the glorious hope affords,
That soon – O wondrous truth sublime! He shall reign, King of kings & Lord of lords.*

Refrain:

*He's coming soon, He's coming soon! With joy we welcome His returning.
It may be morn, it may be night or noon – We know He's coming soon!*

*The signs around in earth and air, Or painted on the starlit sky,
God's faithful witnesses declare, That the coming of the Saviour draweth nigh!*

*The dead in Christ who 'neath us lie, In countless numbers, all shall rise
When through the portals of the sky, He shall come to prepare our paradise.*

*And we, who living, yet remain, Caught up, shall meet our faithful Lord;
This hope we cherish not in vain, But we comfort one another by this word:*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Elder Eugene K. Co, CCCPC Conference Coordinator

SPECIAL MUSICAL NUMBER: Grace Baptist Church Choir, Mandaue City

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Richfield A. Cudal, CCCPC Adviser

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Sessions 1 & 2 Dr. Godfrey A. Catanus, Speaker

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM – 11:50 AM Sessions 3 & 4 Dr. Godfrey A. Catanus, Speaker

OFFERTORY

- 11:50 AM** Doxology & Offertory Prayer: Ptr. Aleth Cero, CCCPC Promotion Coordinator
- 12:15 PM** Thanksgiving Prayer for Lunch: Ptr. Alvaro Sarael, CCCPC Logistics Coordinator
- 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM** LUNCH
- 1:15 PM – 1:30 PM** COMMUNITY SINGING: Ptr. Antonio “Leo” Gemino, Jr.

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

Words and Music by James M. Black, 1856-1938

- 1. When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more
And the morning breaks eternal, bright and fair
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!*
- 2. On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise
And the glory of His resurrection share
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!*
- 3. Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care;
Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!*

Chorus:

*When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder
When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there!*

PRAYER: Bro. Gabriel G. Bernedo, CCCPC Church Relations Coordinator

- 1:30 PM- 2:30 PM** Sessions 5 & 6 Dr. Godfrey A. Catanus, Speaker
- 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM** Coffee Break

SPECIAL MUSICAL NUMBER: Grace Baptist Church Choir

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM OPEN FORUM & VIDEO CLIP (Optional): Ptr. Alvaro Sarael

4:00 PM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Sis. Gloria Zabala, CCCPC Secretary /Treasurer

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Richfield A. Cudal, CCCPC Adviser

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

An Exposition of the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25

Dr. Godfrey A. Catanus

I. Significant Preliminary Considerations:

- a. A proper understanding of Bible prophecy will affect ones beliefs in the other major areas of systematic theology, namely: Bibliology, Ecclesiology, Christology, and most importantly, Eschatology. As a practical consequence, beliefs D_____ behaviors.
- b. Hermeneutical presuppositions on prophecy will obviously determine ones views on the teachings of the Olivet Discourse. The method applied in this presentation is the L_____ method in contrast to the other interpretive methods used by liberals, neo-orthodox, and some conservatives. The literal method is the "interpretation of the Bible as the basis for proper exegesis...presupposing the use of normal canons of interpretation. Remember that when symbols, parables, types, etc. are used they depend on an underlying literal sense for their very existence, and their interpretation must always be controlled by the concept that God communicates in a normal, plain, or literal manner. Ignoring this will result in the same kind of confused exegesis that characterized the patristic and medieval interpreters." Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, Victor Books, 1988, p.16-17.
- c. "The program of literal interpretation of Scripture does not overlook figures of speech, the symbolisms, the types, and the allegories that as a matter of fact are to be found in Holy Scripture. It is not blind L_____ nor a wooden literalism as is so often the accusation." Bernard Ramm, Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics, 3rd edition (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1970), p. 126.
- d. But even with careful exegesis of prophetic truths, there is no claim of clear-cut answers to all of the many difficult questions on the subject. The "literal method" of interpretation, however can attempt in a logical and systematic way to "M_____ S_____" of the events in the total program of God for man and the world as He revealed it in Scriptures.
- e. Obviously, this exposition of the Olivet Discourse presents the premillennial, pre-tribulation view of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. While it recognizes that there are variant views on the subject, yet it will attempt to present it with respect, humility, and Christian L_____. Accepting these disagreements on the nuances of doctrines should even be a motivation to love and study the Word more deeply for us to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- f. The main subject of Prophecy is J_____. In this study, may we see "only Jesus", because to know Him is to love him, and to love Him is to worship and serve Him.

- II. **Selected Topics for Exposition** : The Signs of Christ's Second Coming Revealed in the Olivet Discourse – Matthew 24-25. This is a long recorded teachings of Christ and in view of our limited time, just four one hour sessions, we limit our discussions only on these selected topics.

GENERAL OUTLINE

Matthew 24: 1-26 - The Signs of Christ's Second Coming
The Preface: Christ's Farewell Address to Israel
The General Signs – at the start of the Tribulation
The Specific Signs - at the middle of the Tribulation
The Promised Deliverance of the Church

Matthew 24: 27-31 - The Sign of the Son of Man: A Climactic Sign at the End of the Great Tribulation

- The Contrasts Between the Revelation and Rapture
- The Physical Signs
- The Personal Sign
- The Purpose of His Coming

Matthew 24:32-51 -The Imminent Return of Christ

- The Definition
- The Descriptions in Context
- The Disposition of the Present Age and Imminency.

Matthew 25: 14-30- The Challenge to Faithfulness and Fruitfulness

- The Recurring Theme of the Parables
- The Responsibilities of Christians
- The Rewards and Judgments

III. EXPOSITION PROPER:

Since we selected as a theme, “The Signs of the Second Coming of Christ” we will seek to focus on the “signs” as Jesus Christ himself taught it in his Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25.

A. THE SIGNS OF CHRIST’S SECOND COMING – Matthew 24: 1-26

Introduction :

The Olivet Discourse of Jesus Christ is probably considered the most important p_____ in all of Scriptures. This is because Jesus Christ himself, the greatest prophet and “the Son Of Man” taught it, and the subject of it is himself and his continuing work of redemption involving Israel and the Gentile nations.

Admittedly this is also the most difficult teaching to interpret because he did not really specify the order of events that will take place. But one thing is certain: He is C_____ again and he warns his followers to wait, watch and work. In interpreting this passage we bear in mind Dr. Warren Wiersbe’s suggested principles: 1) Look at it in the light of the rest of Scriptures, 2) Keep in mind the Jewish atmosphere of the things Jesus spoke of. 3) This chapter describes a period of time known as “The Tribulation” which the Old Testament prophets wrote calling it “The Time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7), “Time of Wrath” (Zeph. 1:15-18), “Time of Indignation and Punishment” (Isaiah 26:20-21).

1. The Preface: Christ’s F_____ address to Israel.

The divinely inspired introduction to this discourse is in the last verses of the previous chapter, Matthew 23: 37-39, a pronouncement of judgment to Israel, but also a proclamation of hope that in the future, they will “see Him come in the Name of the Lord.” This passage under consideration is Christ’s prophecies on the events in the end-time. Here he gave helpful insights in understanding the Olivet Discourse. Some observations:

- a. To whom was this addressed: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem”- represents the nation, Israel.
- b. Christ’s mission : “ I would have gathered you...to “re-gather Israel” (24:31).
- c. Christ’s mission postponed: From now on you will not see me ...but He is coming again- until you say, “ Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (24:30). (Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Vols. 5&6, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1976, pp. 116-117).

2. The Context : The Destruction of the Temple - 24: 1-2

Their inquiry reveals their eschatological belief at that time – they intermingled the first coming of Christ and His Second Coming. They have no idea about the inter-advent time in the program of God for the church, and of the nation of Israel before he comes to establish his kingdom. – Luke 24:25-27., Luke 19:11, Acts 1:6.

- a. The Disciples' Threefold questions: Jesus answered all their questions. The questions were:
 - i. WHEN will these things happen? This refers to the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - ii. WHAT will be the sign of your coming? – To be the Messiah King to Restore the Kingdom.
 - iii. WHAT will be the sign of the end of the age? – The Jewish age to usher in the Kingdom as prophesied.
- b. Obviously, the disciples have in mind only the ONE coming of Christ to fulfill these prophecies. Unknown to them was God's program of the C_____, which was a later revelation.
- c. The answer to the FIRST QUESTION was not included in Matthew's account. The parallel passage in Luke explains it. In Luke 21:20-24 Luke described the near future destruction of Jerusalem. His prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Titus came to destroy the city – this prophecy was fulfilled to the details. "Almost all scholars are agreed that this was fulfilled in 70 A.D." But this prophecy foreshadowed the destruction of Jerusalem by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (John Walvoord, Thy Kingdom Come, Kregel, p 187).
- d. Then Jesus moved on to answer the two other questions, but he did it in the reverse order. He answered the third question first, after which he answered the second question. The answers came by way of giving the GENERAL SIGNS about his coming,- (v2. 2-14) then he answered the question by giving a SPECIFIC SIGN .. V. 15.

3. THE GENERAL SIGNS: P_____S_____ vs. 4-14

- a. These are predicted events and situations that will occur between the first and second coming of Christ which will grow in their intensity to indicate the approaching end of the age. Eugene H. Peterson translates this verse as, "This is routine history. This is no sign of the end." The real "birth pains" will start at the beginning of the tribulation and will terminate at the glorious return of Christ, v. 29.
- b. The following are the signs with the accompanying warnings "not to be alarmed", because " the end is not yet."

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Deceptions: False peace, false christs | 4-5 |
| 2. Global Wars and Rumors of War | 6-7 |
| 3. Devastation: Famines, Pestilences | 7 |
| Earthquakes "in various places". | 7 |
| 4. Many Martyrs | 8-10 |
| 5. False Prophets to mislead many | 11 |
| 6. Spiritual declension | 12 |
| 7. Worldwide Preaching of the Gospel | 13-14 |

- c. The Rapture is not taught in these passages in view of the imminent return of Christ, therefore there are no preceding events for it, yet these General signs could also be preparatory events for the Rapture of the church. Accordingly, “these signs have been at least partially fulfilled in the present age and have characterized the period between the first and second coming of Christ.” John Walvoord, *Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come*, Kregel, p. 183).

4. THE SPECIFIC SIGN : _T _____ P _____ V. 15

- a. When you see the “abomination of desolation” – a reference to Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11. A future prince that will come who will do exactly what Antiochus Epiphanes, a Syrian king (175-168 B.C) did. This historical experience foreshadowed the future “abomination of desolation” as prophesied by Daniel.
- b. MORE details: “The prince that shall come...” Dan. 9:27, 2 Thess. 2:4, Rev. 11:2, Rev. 13: 5; 14-15. This prince is the Anti-Christ.
 - The time of his appearance- Right after the Rapture of the Church to begin the Tribulation, before His glorious second coming, before His millennial reign.
 - What he will do : He will make a treaty for the peace of Israel
 - The result of this – there will be a temporary peace in Israel, but at the middle of the tribulation, (v. 15), after 3 ½ years, the treaty will be broken.
 - The events that will unfold -Then the time of unprecedented distress will come – the order of intensity as predicted in Revelation 6-19. These are the successive judgments of the seals, the trumpets, the bowls (vials.)
- c. Jesus’ answer to the question as to when will be the destruction of Jerusalem was fulfilled in 70 A.D. To the question as to what the signs will be of the end of the age, He gave them the signs in a general way –almost all are now progressively fulfilled as preparatory signs of the Second Coming of Christ. However, Christ answered their question in a more specific way that before the end of the age, and before he comes again, Israel will go through a period of tribulation, “such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will”. (Matthew 24:21). The specific sign is in Matthew 24:15 – the sign of the Great Tribulation. But at the middle of it, after 3 ½ years, anti-Christ will break his covenant with Israel then there will be “distress as never before, nor will ever be in the world.” Then “immediately after this”, Christ will come in his glory to set up his kingdom.

5. THE PROMISED DELIVERANCE FROM THE TRIBULATION

The One Second Coming of Christ has been revealed in Scriptures in two stages: The Rapture of the Church and the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The contrasts will be explored in a later discussion. The Rapture is not taught in the Olivet Discourse, but is taught in the other parts of Scriptures. This will occur B_____ the tribulation period because the church has been promised deliverance from it. Several Scripture verses to prove it:

1. The Lord’s Promise of Deliverance – Revelation 3:10 “keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world.”.
2. The Promise of Deliverance from the Wrath to Come – 1 Thess. 1:10.
3. The Church is not appointed to wrath- I Thess. 5:9 – “wrath- tribulation, but obtain salvation – deliverance.”
4. The Church is absent in Revelation 4-18 – a parallel teaching of Matthew 24-25.
5. Gives us the answer as to who will populate the earth during the millennial reign.

Conclusion: The Olivet Discourse teaches that Christ is surely coming again and the order of events that it presents if interpreted literally supports the Pre-tribulation and Pre-millennial view of the Coming of Christ.

There are preparatory General signs to comfort the believers in the present age, but they are also signs to warn the unbelievers of the coming judgments. These signs will become more evident as “birth pains” until the Specific sign, The Great Tribulation starts. For the believers, this is “the blessed hope”, as they are delivered from “the wrath to come.”

B. THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN - A CLIMACTIC SIGN Matthew 24:26-31

Introduction:

This section of the Olivet Discourse speaks about the sign of the Son of Man which is Jesus’ answer to the question of the disciples in 24:3, “...what will be the sign of your coming?” Here Christ referred to himself as the Son of Man (v. 27, 30). This title that he uses for himself is significant in view of his Messianic role – a suffering Savior but now coming back as a Sovereign King. In this discourse, Christ indicated the time, the attendant signs, and the purpose of His coming.

- I. The Time: “I _____ A _____ the tribulation of those days”. V. 29. Having described his coming as sudden like a stroke of lightning, v. 27, he indicated that this will be “immediately after the tribulation of those days”. Chafer explains that this coming “terminates the tribulation” or brings to consummation the time of “Jacob’s trouble” or Daniel’s 70th week.

2. The Contrasts between the Rapture and the Revelation : Two P _____ of One coming. It is important at this juncture that the two phases of the one Second Coming of Christ be clarified. The following verses speak of the two different events that will happen. Here are some obvious differences, to mention a few:
 - a. Who are involved: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 19:11-20:6
 Rapture: Christ comes F _____ His saints
 Revelation: Christ comes W _____ His saints
 - b. Where will this take place: I Thessalonians 4:17 and Zechariah 4:4-9
 Rapture: The church AS _____ to meet Christ in the air
 Revelation: Jesus DES _____ to earth – to Mount of Olives
 - c. What will Jesus do:
 Rapture: coming of Jesus with blessing in mind. I Thessalonians 4:18 and Matthew 25:31-46.
 Revelation: coming of Jesus with Judgment in mind.
 - d. When will these take place:
 Rapture: imminent – 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and Matthew 24:29-31.
 Revelation: always no less than seven years away (from the Rapture).
 - e. What begins:
 Rapture: Tribulation begins - Daniel 9:26-27 and Revelation 19:11-16.
 Revelation: Millennium begins.

3. At this glorious coming of Christ there will be supernatural signs:
 - a. P _____ SIGNS in heaven – a dramatic scene – Luke 21:25
 The astral Phenomena: Sun, moon, stars will not give light. Powers of heaven are shaken. Joel 3:15, Isaiah 13: 9-10
 - b. P _____ He is the sign... Some views on “the sign of the Son of Man”:
 The sign of the cross
 The clouds
 The Shekinah glory
 Jesus Christ Himself

The title, “Son of Man” is a reference from Daniel’s “son of man”- Daniel 7:13-14. This is a messianic title which is a combination of the Suffering Savior and now as a Sovereign King.

That the sign of the Son of Man is Jesus Christ himself is derived from the fact that the phrase, “sign of the Son of Man” is used as a subjective genitive – to refer to himself and not as an objective genitive- to which it points to. He is pointing to Himself. (John MacArthur, Signs of His Coming, Grace to You).

4. The Manner of His Coming:

He will come in a literal way, visibly, bodily- glorious – Rev. 19:11-16, Rev. 1:7

Suddenly - as a stroke of lightning (v. 27).-in power, -or Shekinah glory

Everyone will see him, recognize Him Zechariah 14- He will set foot in Mt. Olives and Israel will mourn (for rejecting him).

All who see Him will recognize the significance – this sign will be worthy as one of the greatest of all divine manifestations and its effect complete. (Lewis Spencer Chafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. 5 &6, p.126.)

5. The PURPOSE OF His coming

- a. R _____ -His coming terminates the tribulation, when he destroys the man of sin.Thess. 2:8
- b. R _____ – He will crush the armies who represent the nations of the earth Ps. 2:7-9, Rev. 19:11-21, Isa. 63:1-6
- c. He will judge Israel – Ezekiel 20:33-44
- d. He will judge the nations – Matthew 25:31-46.
- e. He will re-gather Israel (the elect) a supernatural re-gathering- Jer. 23: 7-8.
- f. He will R _____Set up millennial kingdom.

Conclusion:

The Sign of the Son of Man is Jesus Christ himself, coming in great glory, and everyone will see and recognize him. The time of his coming terminates the tribulation period as He will bring judgment to Israel, to the Gentile nations, and He will set up His millennial reign. This then is the answer to the second question of the disciples. This will happen at the end of the period of the Great Tribulation before Christ comes to set up His kingdom. While there is only one second coming, yet there are two phases, the translation of the church, and the revelation of Jesus Christ. Only a Pre-millennial, Pre-tribulation view can clarify these separate and distinct events.

C. THE IMMINENT RETURN OF CHRIST- MATTHEW 24: 32-35

Introduction :

The imminent return of Christ is being referred to as the UN _____, SIGNLESS event. The signs previously mentioned all point to the “glorious coming” of Jesus Christ which will take place after the tribulation period. But the warnings of Christ concerning His return in verses 32, and 36 speak about His any-moment coming. This is the doctrine of “Imminency”. In this section, we will consider its definition, descriptions, and the distinctions of the two phases of the one second coming of Christ.

1. Definition:

Webster defines imminence as, “about to happen”, or “ready to take place”. As applied to the second Coming of Jesus Christ, Dr. Renald Showers explains that “it carries the sense that it could happen at any moment. If something else MUST take place before the event can happen, then that event is not imminent. In other words, the N _____ of something else taking place first D _____ the concept of imminency.” He therefore warns, that “since a person never knows exactly when an imminent event will take place, then he cannot count on a certain amount of time transpiring before the imminent event happens... therefore he cannot legitimately set or imply a date for its happening.

As soon as a person sets a date for an imminent event, he destroys the concept of imminency.” (www. According to Prophecy, Renald Showers and Thomas Ice).

Dr. A.T. Pierson's definition will prove helpful when he says, "imminence is the combination of two conditions: C_____ and UN_____, to mean one which is certain to occur at some time, yet uncertain at what time."

John Witmer expresses it clearly when he says that it is "a belief that no predicted bible event must precede it and that as a result it could occur at any moment. This is the belief of many early Christians... that is why they are exhorted to "eagerly await" the Lord's coming, (Philippians 3:20)."

Imminency and the Doctrine of the Rapture:

The teaching on the imminent return of Jesus Christ is also understood as the teaching on the Rapture of the Church. The word, RAPTURE means, " CARRIED AWAY-From Latin, "Rapturo" – to seize, or snatch. In Greek, " harpazo" means to snatch or take away; The removal of people from earth to heaven.

2. DESCRIPTIONS:

Jesus Christ in teaching the concept of imminency told a series of parables to illustrate it.

Here are the stories he told to illustrate His any-moment return.

- a. The Analogy of the F_____ T_____ -... Now learn... you know ...(24:32). When the branch is tender and puts forth leaves – summer is near, right at the door. V. 33

Diverse views:

- 1) Refer to Israel re-gathered as a nation
- 2) Just a natural meaning to illustrate the certainty of the coming season, and that is near.

- b. The Analogy of the D_____ O_____ N_____ – 36-39

That day and hour no one knows- not even the Son, only the Father.

They indulged in the pleasures of life, did not understand the impending judgment and they were not prepared for it.

- c. The Analogy of People pre-occupied by their employment-v. 40-41

One will be T_____, the other L_____ B_____ (one taken to judgment the other to enter the millennial reign)

- d. The Analogy of the householder- v. 42-44

- e. It is as a thief in the night – His coming is unannounced, and least expected.– Matt. 24:32-25:13, I Thess. 5: 1-8, 2 Pet. 3:8-10

- f. The Analogy of the Two Servants – 45-51

The belief in the sure coming of the Master affect ones' behavior.

- g. The Analogy of the Ten virgins – 25: 1-13

A lesson on watchfulness (v. 13), only those who are prepared will enter the kingdom

- h. The Analogy of the Talents- the Faithful and Unfaithful Servants.

A lesson in contrast between those who make use of God's gifts and those who do not.

3. DISPOSITION OF THE PRESENT AGE AND IMMINENCY

The doctrine of the imminent return of Christ asserts that there are no signs of the rapture of the church and that the signs concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ refer mainly to the events after the rapture of the church, namely, the events of the great tribulation. However, there are foreshadowing or preparatory conditions leading up to the tribulation period which will characterize the final days of the church. David Jeremiah (What in the World is Going On?, Thomas Nelson, Tennessee, 2008) points to these conditions:

The THEO_____ and Moral Decay

- a. I Timothy 4: 1-3 – Apostasy and departure from the faith.
- b. II Peter 2-3 – The Denial of the Person and Work of Christ.
- c. II Peter 3: 3,4 – The Denial of the Second Coming of Christ
- d. Revelation 3:15-16 – Coldness and Indifference in the Church

The GEO_____ conditions particularly the Place of Israel in the World

The worldwide ECO_____ Upheaval

“The important conclusion which may be reached upon a careful study of prophecies dealing with the end of the church age is that all that is necessary before the rapture has been fulfilled, and that we can confidently await the coming of the Lord for His church as the next step in the fulfillment of prophecy relating to the church.” John F. Walvoord, *The Church in Prophecy*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids Michigan, 1975, p. 68.)

Conclusion:

The any-moment return of Christ is clearly taught in Scriptures. The early church believes in the imminent return of Christ. The doctrine of the imminent coming of Christ is not for date-setting or for the calculation of the time of his coming. The fact is that His coming is certain, but the exact time, the day and hour, not even the Son knows about it. This is His silence that we need to heed, but because He is coming at any-moment, He expects us to be always waiting, watching, and working.

D. THE CHALLENGE TO FAITHFULNESS AND FRUITFULNESS - Matthew 25:14-30

A. The Recurring theme of the Parables: W _____

This parable is part of Christ’s Olivet Discourse in answer to the disciples’ question concerning the signs of His Coming and of the end of the age.

The previous parables of the ten virgins, the house holder, and the other analogies to describe his coming emphasize the idea of WATCHFULNESS – of being ready or prepared when he comes – for in such a time as ye think not, the son of Man cometh. V. 13.

But this present text emphasizes the idea of FAITHFULNESS AND FRUITFULNESS. The key ideas would be as Luke puts it, (12:48) is responsibility because “ to whom much is given, much will also be required. And Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2 declares, “ It is required in stewards that a man be found F _____. We are all stewards of what God has entrusted to us, he therefore expects that we be FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL – until he comes. While faithfulness is required of us as stewards of God’s grace, the story puts another emphasis to this. It is Fruitfulness. It’s not enough to be a Christian, it is expected that we be graceful and gainful Christians. There should be fruits in our lives (John 15: 5-8).

THE THEME HERE IS NOT ABOUT SALVATION...This does not speak about SALVATION as a reward for Works.

Salvation is always by G _____ through F _____ in Jesus Christ. But here works become proofs of salvation. This parable is about responsibilities, especially on faithfulness and fruitfulness.

The judgment on the third servant – being not faithful is a sign, a MARK that he was not saved. – He was cast into outer darkness- weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This parable alludes to the fact that if you are a believer, you will have a fruit to prove or show for it. Thus, the parable teaches that in view of the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST- we not only will wait and watch for His return, but also WORK with faithfulness. He is coming again as He promised, and when He comes, it will be a day of reckoning or accounting.

B. The Responsibilities of Christians

1. We have a MAS _____ - He is Creator, Owner.
 - a. He is rich - He has all the resources
 - b. He entrusts (talents) money to his servants. – the servants are stewards
 - c. He gives according to our AB _____ – He is loving, caring, and just.
 - d. He instructs them to “ occupy- to trade, make profit “ of what he has given- He is for progress.
 - e. He delayed His coming- It takes obedience, patience, and faithfulness

C. The Time of Reckoning: Rewards and Judgments

He came back- even after a long delay – as He promised. (Certainty of His return)

He asks for Accounting – He calls for responsibility.

1). The Commendation on the two faithful servants

P _____ Well done, good, faithful Servant

P _____ Put you in charge of many things (responsibilities
in heaven) .

P _____ Enter into the Joy of your master

2). Words of Condemnation on the Unfaithful Servant.

-REJECTION – YOU WICKED, Lazy slave, v. 30 worthless slave

-CONFISCATION - take away the talents from him.

Why should the talents be taken, when in the first place he did not have it- he has it by way of opportunity. This is a case of wasted opportunity FOR ISRAEL – for REJECTING THE SAVIOR. This is true to so many today in our age of grace – the opportunities to be saved, and to work in faithfulness until our Lord comes again.

C_____ throw into the outer darkness, a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

He was not at all saved... a picture or illustration of some in the church – Pretenders, professors, but not possessors....

Walvoord explains, why he hid the talent and why he did not deposit it in the bank for interest: He thought: “if I hid it, when the master comes, then I will return it to him. This is a safe thing to do. I will not deposit it in the bank where I will be receipted for it – I don’t want a proof that it’s not my own. So If my Master will not come- then I can have it for myself, no one will question it, since they will have no proof that it’s not my own.”

THIS IS A CASE OF UNBELIEF IN THE WORDS OF THE MASTER THAT HE IS COMING AGAIN.

THUS THE WARNING... Wait, Watch, Work...

“I am coming again.”

His coming is certain - believe it.

The exact time is uncertain – Be ready at any moment. M A R A N A T H A!

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Becoming a Believer in Christ

Many people are looking for God. If you're one of those people, we'd like to share with you that the Bible has what you are seeking. It contains answers to life's vital questions, and—most important—can help you understand how to have a right relationship with God. Here are some selected verses:

God Loves You

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

All Are Sinners

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

As it is written: “ There is none righteous, no, not one”. Romans 3:10 (NKJV)

God's Remedy for Sin

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12 (NKJV)

All May Be Saved Now

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20(a) (NKJV)

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31(NKJV)

Receive Christ as Your Saviour Now

Confessing to God that I am a sinner, and believing that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and was raised for my justification, I now receive and confess Him as my personal Saviour. Amen

(Keep this prayer of acceptance & commitment for your record)

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date & Time: _____

Seeking a Church

After making your decision to receive Christ, we encourage you to prayerfully seek a local Bible-believing church that will assist you in growing as a new Christian.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen. II Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

Assurance as a Believer

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24 (NKJV)

Please tell us about your decision by filling out the following & mailing or emailing us at:

CEBU CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF PROPHETIC CONFERENCES, INC.
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CEBU PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES
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