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PRESENTS

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LESSON ONE

1

A Planet in Upheaval

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1

LESSON ONE A Planet in Upheaval

1. The signs that Jesus gave us to watch for can be broken down into three general areas: the _____ world, the _____ world, and the _____ world. (Matthew 24:4-7)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
2. TRUE or FALSE: The Bible lays out signs of the times with such detail that we could probably figure out a date for Christ's return. "But of that _____ and _____ knoweth no man, no, not the _____ of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36)
 TRUE FALSE
3. Will we be able to tell when Christ's appearing is getting close? (Matthew 24:32, 33) YES NO. What does Jesus compare signs to in verse 32?

4. In Matthew 24:8, Jesus describes the signs of His appearing and "the end of the world" as the beginning of *sorrows*. The original word used in the Greek text is *odin*, and it means _____. The signs are all things we have seen before, but when the _____ become more intense and frequent, it is an indication that we getting close to the appearing.
5. Name some of the signs the Bible gives us to watch for. (Matthew 24:4-7, 11, 12):
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. In Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus makes reference to the fact that the world will resemble the "days of Noah" just prior to the appearing. What was the world like in those days? (Genesis 6:5, 6) _____

7. Many people have suggested that Christ's appearing could never happen in our lifetime. Some have actually suggested that the Second Coming is a myth, because so much time has passed since Jesus made His promises—yet the Bible anticipated this attitude (see 2 Peter 3:3, 4). What did Jesus say on this subject? (Matthew 24:44) _____

8. Jesus asked us to be ready. Is it your desire to be ready for His appearing?



NEXT MEETING: *Planet Earth's Last Battle!* With all the tension in the Middle East, many people have been talking about the battle of Armageddon. What should we expect? What is God trying to tell us in the book of Revelation?



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LESSON TWO

Planet Earth's Final Battle



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LESSON TWO

Planet Earth's Final Battle

1. Throughout history, many have suggested that the book of Revelation is a mysterious, sealed book that is virtually impossible to understand. What does the Bible itself say about this? (Revelation 1:3; 22:7-10)

2. The language of the book of Revelation is largely borrowed from other parts of the Bible. This is especially true of the book of _____.

3. The Bible gives its own best approach to interpreting its prophecies. What is this approach? (Isaiah 28:10) _____

4. The word "Armageddon" is derived from the Hebrew words *Har Megiddon*, which means what? _____

5. Which is the most prominent mountain at the valley of Megiddo, and what happened there? (See 1 Kings 18:19-21) _____

6. Revelation 16:12 refers to the drying up of the Euphrates. Historically, this literally happened in conjunction with which event? (See Isaiah 44:27-45:1; Daniel 5) _____

7. Historical, literal Babylon is used throughout the book of Revelation as a symbol of religious confusion and rebellion

against God. In Revelation 16:19, God promises that He will put an end to modern-day spiritual Babylon, and the spiritual battle ends with the appearing of Christ. (See Revelation 19:11) God gives His reasons for the overthrow of ancient literal Babylon in Jeremiah 29:10, which point to His reasons for overthrowing spiritual Babylon. What were these reasons?

8. Is the miraculous always a sign that God is at work? (Revelation 16:14, see also Revelation 13:11-14) _____

At the conclusion of the battle, Jesus has a sword coming out of His mouth. What does a sword represent? (See Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17)

What does this say about what is important when Christ appears?

9. The battle of Armageddon is ultimately a battle for the hearts and minds of human beings. It is a warning that time is running out. Today we are faced with the same decision that Elijah challenged ancient Israel with: If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him. In the end, the whole human race is gathered on the mountain of Megiddo to make a decision. Which decision will you make? _____

NEXT MEETING: ***The Appearing!*** *What will it be like when Jesus appears? How much do we know?*





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LESSON THREE

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LESSON THREE The Appearing

With more than 2,500 references or allusions to it throughout the Bible, the Second Coming is clearly an important subject to study and understand. Yet for some reason, Christians sometimes get a little hot under the collar when they find themselves in disagreement over the particulars! While there is always room for disagreement among Christians, the Bible *does* give us some things we can be certain about when it comes to Christ's return.

1. Jesus reveals an interesting principle when it comes to Bible prophecy (John 14:29). Even though prophecy clearly and accurately predicts the future, it has been given to us for what primary reason? _____

There are several irrefutable facts about the nature of Christ's appearing that we can know for sure. The following statements will review those facts:

2. "This _____ Jesus...will so come in like _____ as you saw Him go into heaven." This tells us that Jesus will come _____. (Acts 1:11)
3. Jesus had a body made of _____. This same Jesus will return, which tells us that He will appear _____. (Luke 24:38-40)
4. When Christ returns, _____ will see Him. This means that His coming will be _____. (Revelation 1:7)
5. When Christ returns, there will be a _____ with the voice of the _____, and there will be the sound of a _____. (See also Matthew 24:31) It will be so loud that it will wake the _____. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

Furthermore in John 5:28, 29 we learn that _____ that are in the graves will hear His _____. This tells us that Jesus will appear _____.

6. When Jesus comes back, He will come with how many angels? (Matthew 25:31) _____. How many angels are there? (Revelation 5:11) _____. Also, when Jesus comes, He will come with the _____ of His _____ (Matthew 16:27). This demonstrates that Christ's return will be _____.
7. When Jesus appears, what will He bring with Him? (Revelation 22:11, 12; John 5:28, 29) _____. This means that when Jesus returns, there will be no more opportunities to make things right with God—and this tells us that Christ's return is _____.
8. There will be only two groups of people when Christ returns, and each group reacts differently. One group is found in Revelation 6:15-17. The other is found in Isaiah 25:9. What is the difference between these groups? And which group are you making plans to be a part of? _____

NEXT MEETING: *When History Repeats Itself!* *When Jesus came the first time, many people had made a massive mistake about His appearance. Is it possible that we are being set up to do the same thing again?*





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When History Repeats Itself



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LESSON FOUR

When History Repeats Itself

When Jesus came to earth the first time, the children of Israel knew He was coming. In fact, a number of Israel's leaders were expecting the Messiah to show up at any moment. Many of the conditions of prophecy had been fulfilled, and the amazing time prophecies of the book of Daniel that pointed to the Messiah's appearing were coming to a close. Yet many people made a serious mistake regarding Jesus—in spite of all their knowledge, they refused to believe. They had their own ideas about what the Messiah was like, and they cherished them so much that they couldn't hear what Jesus was saying. If the devil was successful with this tactic once, is it possible he will try it again?

1. Many people in John the Baptist's day confused prophecies about the Second Coming with that of the first, and believed that the Messiah would overthrow the Roman government and establish a worldly kingdom. Even some of Jesus' most devoted followers made it—people like: (Matthew 11:2-6)

2. The concept of a two-phase coming of Christ finds its roots in the 16th century movement known as the _____.
3. One popular theory of end-time events has Jesus returning for His church, and then the antichrist appears. When did the Apostle Paul expect the antichrist to appear? (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4)

4. When would the antichrist be destroyed? (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

5. The original Greek word for Christ's appearing used in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 is *parousia*. It refers to the grand entrance a king makes when he makes an "appearance,"—not unlike the

"appearances" that movie stars make on the red carpet just before the Academy Awards®. This is how Christ's disciples thought He would return.

There is another place this word is used—in 1 Thessalonians 4:15—a passage that clearly describes Christ coming for His church. This event also takes place at Christ's appearing, or *parousia*. If the antichrist is destroyed at the *parousia*, and the church is caught up to meet Jesus at the *parousia*, what does this tell us about the timing of these events? _____

6. What warning are we given in 2 Corinthians 11:14? Does the devil only work outside of church circles? _____

Is it possible that he could try to pull off a large spiritual deception in the last days? (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10) How important is the truth?

7. One popular teaching today says that after the church has been caught up to be with Jesus, many people will have another chance to make things right with God. As we have seen already, when Christ comes, there will be no second chance (see Revelation 22:11, 12). What possible reason could the devil have for misleading people about the nature of Christ's return? _____
8. In the final analysis, it won't matter what famous ministers or famous authors said about this important subject. What will be the only thing that matters? (Matthew 4:4) _____
What would you like to base your information on? _____.

NEXT MEETING: **The Day After!** What is the purpose of the appearing? Why exactly is Jesus coming back, and should we be worried?





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LESSON FIVE

The Day After



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5 LESSON FIVE The Day After

1. The prayer found in the Sermon on the Mount is often referred to as the “Lord’s Prayer,” and rightfully so, because it is Christ’s template for prayer. Yet the prayer found in John 17 is an actual prayer by Jesus to His Father. What do we discover about *why* Christ is coming back? (John 17:24)

2. Many times, people have portrayed the end of the world and other apocalyptic themes in very frightening terms. What is Jesus’ advice to us as we watch the world move toward its conclusion? (John 14:1)

3. What is Christ accomplishing for us right now as we wait for Him to come? (See Hebrews 4:15, 16; John 14:2, 3) _____

4. What are some of the things we know for sure about what Jesus is preparing for us? (Isaiah 35:5, 6; 65:21-25)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
5. What will be missing after Jesus returns? (Revelation 21:4, 5)

6. What will be restored to us after Christ appears? (Compare Revelation 22:2, 3 with Genesis 3:17, 22-24) _____

7. According to Revelation 21:3, what is the whole purpose of Christ’s return?

8. Hollywood has it all wrong. The world will not end in a whimper or with disaster. It will end with Jesus restoring everything that was lost the day we rebelled against Him. It was for this purpose that He gave His life on the cross at Calvary. He was willing to pay the supreme penalty for our sins and rebellion in our place so that He could enjoy our company in Paradise. Today, He knocks at your heart’s door, and invites you to be a part of His eternity. (Revelation 3:20, 21) What is your answer? _____

In five short nights, we have only had a chance to skim the surface of Bible prophecy. This study will continue in a much more detailed fashion, and you’ll have the opportunity to really dig into books like Daniel and Revelation. We will look at important subjects like the millennium, the antichrist, the judgment and much, much more! Most importantly, we will look at prophecy in the way it was meant to be seen—in the context of God’s immense love for you. Don’t miss our next study! See your local pastor for more information.

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