

At this point in our FOREVER series, we may appear to be digressing from what we've studied about the beast / antichrist, but I want to lay a foundation so that you may understand more clearly the issues involved.

In this lesson, we are going to study the longest time prophecy in the Bible. And we will see that the accuracy of God's Word is wonderful and astounding! After this presentation, you will know without any doubt that there is indeed a God, for the Bible predicted hundreds of years in advance the baptism of Jesus, His death, and His beginning hour of judgment, proving to any reasonable mind the validity of the Bible and Jesus Christ as the Messiah, your Saviour and mine.

This prophecy centers around the sanctuary, so we want to first look into the sanctuary system itself and some past history. Paul writing to the early Jewish Christians showed the relevance of the sanctuary service of the Old Testament when he said:

Hebrews 8: 1-2, *¹The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.*

In the beginning of earth's history, just after Creation Adam and Eve had the privilege of face to face communion with God. However, it wasn't very long before they had sinned (Genesis 3) and God had to have a way to deal with sin, so the sacrificial system was set up. When a person sinned a lamb was brought to the sanctuary and the sinner then confessed his sin on the head of the lamb transferring his sin to the innocent victim. The lamb was then killed. Why was this necessary?

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death* And Hebrews 9:22 says, *²²In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.* God then broadened this sacrificial system in the time of Moses and the children of Israel.

Exodus 25:8-9, *⁸"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*

God said to build a sanctuary after the pattern of the sanctuary in heaven.

Hebrews 9:2-6 (1194) tells us about this earthly sanctuary Moses made.

²A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered Ark of the Covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. ⁶When

everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry

Every day people could bring a lamb and they could confess their sins over it. By doing this they were symbolically transferring their sin to the innocent lamb. The lamb was then slain. The priest took some of the blood and sprinkled it before the veil, and on the altar of burnt offering, and put it on the horns of the altar. Thus the sin was transferred to the sanctuary. In addition to this there were also daily sacrifices offered by the priests, one in the morning and one in the evening, symbolizing that God's mercy and forgiveness were continually available. But the Bible says something very special happened only once a year. Once a year they had to cleanse the sanctuary of all the sin.

The Day of Atonement

Hebrews 9:7, *⁷But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance*

This yearly cleansing was on the tenth day of the seventh month of the religious year. Ten days before, the blowing of silver trumpets warned the people it was coming. They had 10 days to search their hearts, repent and confess their sins. The Day of Atonement was very solemn for open sin could not be left unconfessed. It was a day of dealing with sin. It was a day of JUDGMENT. The sins of the entire year had to be taken care of, by cleansing the sanctuary all sin.

Leviticus 16:7-10 tells us how this was accomplished.

⁷ Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁸ He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. ⁹ Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. ¹⁰ But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

Two goats were selected, the Lord's and a scapegoat. Aaron sacrificed the Lord's goat and sprinkled its blood seven times before the mercy seat in the MOST HOLY PLACE.

High Priest

V15 ¹⁵ "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.

v19 ¹⁹ He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and to consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites

Thus it was cleansed. But then the priest did something very interesting...

Verse 20-22, ²⁰ *"When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. ²¹ He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. ²² The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.*

This system of cleansing the sanctuary each year went on for hundreds of years. All of this pointed forward to the day when Jesus Christ would come and offer Himself once and for all. You remember that as Jesus came to be baptised John said, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) We all know Jesus was the Lamb that was slain. In fact the Bible says something incredible happened the very moment that Jesus died.

Matthew 27:50, ⁵⁰ *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.*

This veil was some 60 feet in height. Josephus also tells us that the veil was four inches thick, and that horses tied to each side could not pull the veil apart.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus did when He returned to heaven? When Jesus went back to heaven, He went into the heavenly sanctuary, and became our High Priest – the one who appears on our behalf in the presence of God.

Hebrews 9:24, ²⁴ *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence*

Isn't that a wonderful thought! Jesus himself represents us!

Hebrews 9:12, ¹² *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.*

1 John 2:1 ¹ *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

Now when you pray to the Father you know that Jesus is your High Priest, the one who represents us before God so that we can be forgiven when we pray.

But now notice this, Hebrews 9:26-28, ²⁶ *Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared **once for all** at the end of the ages to do away with sin by*

the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

Summary

1. "Came to earth and died once for all to deal with sin".
2. He will appear a second time to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Christ stands before the Father, bearing our sins in the heavenly sanctuary. When you and I confess our sins, we are forgiven, and our sins are transferred to the heavenly sanctuary in a similar way to how it was in the earthly sanctuary.

Forgiveness is not an easy and clean business. In fact we learned in Hebrews 9 that without blood there can be no forgiveness of sin. We see that in order for God to forgive us from sin Jesus had to come as the lamb that takes away the sin of the world, and die the penalty of sin that was ours that we might have the life that was his. And just as the earthly sanctuary had to be cleansed of all the sin that it had dealt with throughout the year, in a similar way the heavenly sanctuary must also be cleansed. Remember that the Day of Atonement found in Leviticus 16 was the day when all who confessed their sin during the year, was to have it removed from the sanctuary through a special process. Remember too that this was a pattern of the heavenly sanctuary.

We find that in God's great time clock, He ordained an hour in which He would cleanse the heavenly sanctuary of all its sin and begin the judgment. Here is the really amazing thing. We can know from Scripture exactly when Christ began the cleansing because its clearly revealed in the book of Daniel. Let's begin the study of the longest prophecy in the Bible.

The prophecy is found in Daniel 8:14,

¹⁴ He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated (or cleansed)."

Two thousand and three hundred days until the sanctuary is to be cleansed. When Daniel heard this, the angel Gabriel came from heaven and told him something very significant, (Gabriel only appears 4 times in Scripture – twice at the birth of Christ, and twice to explain this very vision). It's got to be important, right?

Daniel 8 verses 17-19

*¹⁷ As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the **time of the end.**" ¹⁸ While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet. ¹⁹ He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns **the appointed time of the end.**"*

It was to be in the time of the end! So this prophecy will actually take us to the date that marks the time of the end! Note: there is a big difference between the time of the end and the end of time!

Daniel 8 Verses 26-27, ²⁶ *"The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."* ²⁷ *I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.*

Put yourself in Daniel's place. (Daniel 9:1-4) Daniel and his people, you remember, are in captivity – and have been since Daniel was a young man. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came down from the North, conquered the city and took 4600 Jews into captivity. We studied that on our opening night.

Back home in Jerusalem, those who stayed behind, along with the city and its temple are in rags and ruins. This was all prophesied by Jeremiah the prophet, who had also said that their captivity in Babylon would last 70 years. (**Jeremiah 29:10**) Well, as Daniel receives this vision of the 2300 days/years they have been in Babylon 68 years. So you can imagine how he must have felt to think that God may be extending this time – just what did the 2300 days refer to?

We see as Daniel 8 ends, it is clear that Daniel still didn't understand. Daniel, a man known for praying begins to pray again, this time for God to explain to him what the vision means. The prayer is recorded in **Daniel 9**.

Daniel 9:21-23,

²¹ *while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.* ²² *He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding."* ²³ *As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. **Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:***

[Which vision? – clearly the vision of Daniel 8 which ends with the prophecy about the 2300 days]

Daniel 9: 24, ²⁴ ***"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to [1] finish transgression, [2] to put an end to sin, [3] to atone for wickedness, [4] to bring in everlasting righteousness, [5] to seal up vision and prophecy and [6] to anoint the most holy.***

Daniel has a vision in Daniel 8 that finishes with a prophecy of 2300 days/years, at the end of which the sanctuary would be cleansed.

At Daniel's request, Gabriel comes and gives further explanation saying "Seventy weeks are decreed " (or literal translation. "cut off") "for your people" - THE JEWS. So 70 weeks are cut off from 2,300 days.

Now in 70 weeks there are 490 days. Here we come to an **IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE** for interpreting Bible Prophecy –

THE DAY-YEAR PRINCIPLE: A DAY OF PROPHETIC TIME COUNTS FOR A CALENDAR YEAR OF HISTORIC TIME.

Numbers 14:34 – *God caused the children of Israel to spend a year in the desert for each day that the 12 spies had spent in Canaan*

Ezekiel 4:6 – *“I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their [Israel’s] sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.*

So the 2,300 day prophecy, then can be broken into two segments: The first 490 days or years for the Jews; then the remaining 1810 years bring you down to the time when the sanctuary would be cleansed, the time of the end. Now several things were to happen in the 70 weeks or 490 years, but first we must have a beginning date. In Daniel 9:25 we find the event that marks the beginning date.

Daniel 9:25, ²⁵ *“Know and understand this: **From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.***

"The command to restore Jerusalem." When was that?

Well, there were actually three decrees – three in Ezra.

1. Ezra 1: 1-4 - First decree by Cyrus in 538-537 B.C.
2. Ezra 6: 7-12 - Second decree by Darius around 519 B.C.
3. Ezra 7: 11-12 - Final decree by Artaxerxes in Autumn of 457 B.C.

The first two were only partial decrees and did not grant civil authority to those who would rebuild the city and temple. It was also the third that allowed people to return to Jerusalem.

Ezra 7:13, 20, 23, 27, ¹³ *Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who wish to go to Jerusalem with you, may go.*

Vs 20 ²⁰ *And anything else needed for the temple of your God that you may have occasion to supply, you may provide from the royal treasury.*

Vs 25 ²⁵ *And you Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, **appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people..**”*

Vs 27 ²⁷ *Praise be to the Lord, the God of our fathers, who has put it into the king’s heart to bring **honour to the house of the Lord** in Jerusalem in this way*

This command went forth in 457 B.C. Artaxerxes gave the command and this date is fully established by history. So we have our beginning date 457 B.C. Now go

back to Dan 9:24...Now Daniel 9 **verse 24** said 70 weeks, or 490 years were cut off for the Jewish nation.

God had promised the Jewish nation that through them all the other nations of the earth would be blessed. They were to be a special people but God had said that if they did not walk obediently he would turn aside from them. Let's do some arithmetic. Take our beginning date, 457 B.C. come forward 490 years - brings us to 34 A.D.

What happened in 34 A.D. in Jerusalem and with the Jews?

That was the year Stephen, the first Christian martyr was stoned after his last appeal to the Jews. They had rejected Christ and the apostles, and from that point on the apostles began preaching salvation to the Gentiles and Israel was "cut off" as a nation, ie. no longer God's chosen people.

Acts 13:46 ⁴⁶*Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.*

It was also at this time that Peter received his vision that led him to meet with Cornelius. It was also in 34AD that the apostle Paul was converted and became a Christian. It was Paul that became the ambassador to the Gentiles. So we see the 70 weeks, or 490 years were precisely fulfilled on time as all prophecy is.

But I want to zoom in a little on our diagram here, because even more amazing is **verses 25-26**. In this 490 year period, several more predictions are made about Christ.

Notice **verse 25** ²⁵*"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.*

7 sevens and 62 sevens equal 69 weeks. That equals 483 days or years. Subtract 483 years from our starting point in 457 B.C. and what do we have? A.D. 27. According to **verse 25** the Messiah would come that year!

When in fact did Jesus begin his ministry?

The year 27AD is confirmed by many Roman records but we can also find it in the pages of the Bible. **Luke 3:1** says it was the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, that Jesus Christ went down to the Jordan river and was baptised by John. Soon after this he stood in the synagogue at Capernaum, his home town and reading from the book of Isaiah he declared "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me." The fact that Jesus himself was more than familiar with the

prophecies of the Old Testament is clear because he finished the reading with the declaration "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing!" Jesus himself was no doubt familiar with this very prophecy we are dealing with tonight.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus spent 30 years in an obscure carpenter's shop before He went out and declared He was the Messiah? Jesus read the same prophecy you are right now. Based on this Jesus knew the exact year He was to appear!

Let's go on, **verse 26**, ²⁶ *After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed*

Two things would happen sometime after the 62 sevens i.e. 27AD. The Anointed One would be "cut off" and the city and the sanctuary would be destroyed, and made desolate. Jesus often referred to this passage when He was here on earth. He saw the Jews rejecting Him, and prophesied these things.

Matthew 23:37-38, ³⁷*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. ³⁸Look, your house is left to you desolate.*

Matthew 24:2, *"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

In A.D. 70, this verse was fulfilled as the Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem and destroyed the city and sanctuary. History records it as one of the most terrible events that ever took place. In fact the temple has remained desolate to this day.

Daniel 9 Verse 27 zooms in on the exact time for the crucifixion. ²⁷*He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him[it]. "*

Jesus did confirm His covenant with the Jews for one week, or seven years. From 27 A.D. to 34 A.D. At this time they cut themselves off as we just studied. In the midst or "middle" of the week, He (Jesus) would cause the sacrifices, the oblations to cease.

The middle of this seven year time period, three and half years from Jerusalem's Autumn of 27 A.D. , brings us to the spring of A.D. 31.

It was at this precise time, at the feast of the Passover, that Christ was crucified. Thus the sacrifices and oblations ended. The veil in the sanctuary was torn in two.

In A.D. 34, the other three and a half years as the prophecy predicted saw the end of the Jews as God's chosen people to bring the good news of God's love to the world. All right on time! With perfect precision, the prophet predicted the time of Christ's baptism, crucifixion, and rejection of the Jewish nation. So the 70 weeks or 490 years, ended in A.D. 34.

We've looked at the 70 weeks or 490 years decreed for the Jewish people. There were 69 weeks, or 483 years to the Messiah, which left one week or seven years in the middle of which the Messiah would be cut off, putting an end to sacrifice and offering.

But even as we've just seen the perfect fulfillment of this one week in the life of Jesus, this same seven years, has been the subject of much speculation especially in more recent years. You see, some have taken this one week, and without any biblical support detached it from the other 69, lifted it out of the context of the passage, and moved it over 2,000 years to apply it to events still future (the tribulation). I'm sure at least a few of you are familiar with this theory – but for those who aren't, essentially it goes like this:

Rapture theory: Any time now Jesus will SECRETLY rapture away those who believe in him. This secret rapture ushers in a seven year period of tribulation/trouble. Then as the theory goes 3½ years later in the middle of the week, the Antichrist is supposed to come, and then after the full seven years, Christ returns in all his glory and takes the last installment of believers home to be with the others.

One will search the Bible in vain to find any evidence for this doctrine.

As we saw in Matthew 24 in lesson 2, there will indeed be a time of tribulation just prior to the return of Christ, make no mistake, but nowhere in Scripture is it said to be seven years. And nowhere in Scripture do we find support for the belief that when the time of tribulation comes, some of God's people miss it because they're already in heaven, or the belief that there's a group of people who've been given a second chance, and now go through a terrible time on their own!

God never tells His people they will escape tribulation, rather He promises to be with them in the midst of it. God's people go through it, and God is with them preserves and honors them. For an example that sums up God's view of tribulation, we need only to read Daniel chapter 3 –the story of Daniel and his three friends in the furnace!

When will the Antichrist appear? After the rapture, during the tribulation? *No way!*

2 Thessalonians 2:1, *¹Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come*

Notice the second coming and rapture is the same event.

Verses 3-4, ³*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

This totally refutes any possibility of supporting the seven-year Antichrist tribulation period. The devil is intelligent. The prophecy of **Daniel 9** which so beautifully uplifts Jesus Christ as Messiah, Savior and Redeemer he has twisted it into a fable that glorifies the Antichrist. How such a fable ever entered the Christian world is amazing! We can thank God for the truth!

Now, for the last two nights we have been together, we have seen how the Bible clearly identifies Papal Rome as the antichrist. And it is from the antichrist himself that this deception comes. During the Reformation, the Papacy had to do something to answer all the accusations from reformers proclaiming the pope to be the antichrist.

The church convened the Council of Trent in the mid 1500's. This council explored new methodologies to counter the accusations of the reformers.

A major component of this "counter-reformation" was the publication of a commentary on the book of Revelation in 1690 by a Jesuit priest named Francisco Riberi. He proposed a method of interpretation called *FUTURISM*.

According to this view, a great gap should be inserted in the 70 week prophecy. By doing this the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation did not apply to the Christian church through the ages, but were focused on the final seven years of history. In other words, the Bible's warning about the antichrist could not possibly apply to Papal Rome, but rather predicted the appearance of the antichrist during the earth's final years.

That is simply amazing...

This false teaching barely had an impact on the protestant reformation. Hardly anyone accepted it. I'm sure you can understand why. Many years later a man by the name of **John Darby** discovered the teachings of Ribera and other Jesuit writers and began preaching it in England and America. Darby was a prolific writer and organized this futurist view of interpretation into a system called "**Dispensationalism**" at the center of which was the teaching of the secret rapture.

Through the writings and preaching of Darby, a man in America by the name of **Scofield** in the late 1800's accepted Darby's teachings. He later published a bible called the Scofield Study Bible that included this teaching in the notes. Again, even by this time, very few people accepted this view of Bible prophecy until a man by

the name of Hal Lindsey discovered the teaching from a Scofield Bible and included it in a book entitled "*The Late Great Planet Earth*." Almost all of the predictions in that book have proved to be false.

Then of course more recently we have had the books of Tim LaHaye which of course are based on this same way of thinking. To finish our study in Daniel for tonight, let's find out when the cleansing of the sanctuary begins. We know positively the beginning date of the prophecy is correct, 457 B.C. Jesus confirmed that.

So returning to the prophecy of **Daniel 8:14** we can calculate this. When did this cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary begin? Simply calculate 457 B.C. minus 2,300 years and it brings us to the year 1844. (1843 + 1 year for transfer from B.C to A.D)

Over 150 years ago, according to this prophecy, the cleansing of the sanctuary began, and we entered the "*time of the end*." We, today, are living in the time just prior to the return of Jesus Christ – a time of judgement. That's a sobering thought. Christ is *right now* cleansing the sanctuary of all its sins, and where the eternal fate of every person who has ever lived is being decided, before He comes to take all who have believed in Him home.

This scene is made real by Daniel in Daniel 7:9-10

⁹ *"As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.*

¹⁰ *A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. **The court was seated, and the books were opened.***

This is happening as we sit here today! In fact the book of Revelation also talks about it Revelation 14:6-7

⁶*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because **the hour of his judgment has [is] come.** Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."*

Application:

As people living in the last days, the ones who live just prior to the ushering in of an eternity with Christ himself let me ask you, are you living with an eternal perspective tonight? Have you made a decision about whose side you're going to stand on?

Revelation 22:11 says that every case will be decided before Jesus comes. At that point it will be game over, and Christ will return to the earth for those who have accepted Him as Lord and Saviour. Revelation says at that time:

Revelation 22:11-12, *¹¹Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."*

¹²"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

We are no longer living in ordinary time, we're living in the judgment hour!

The good news is that we needn't fear the judgment if we have accepted Christ. He can take a person totally lost in sin and enslaved to its effects, wash away his/her sin, clothe him in His righteousness, and present him faultless before God's throne. Jesus will stand for you in the judgment. But he is coming soon.

When he comes, He is not coming as a little babe in a manger or as a Saviour to deal with sin. He did all that when he came the first time. No, this time when he comes he will lay aside those priestly robes, and no longer will there be time to decide to accept Him. Every case will have been decided. And He will come in all His glory, attended by all the clouds of angels, brighter than the sun, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

But, He's coming for those who love Him? Do you?

Next lesson #6 – The will and character of God