

[The Book of 1 Peter](#)  
Chapter 4  
“Judgment Begins at the House of God”

Return To  
All Commentary

Last night I had a dream that I had died and was at the gates of heaven where Peter came and began to show me around.

I saw an enormous warehouse that had inside it, thousands of clocks.

Every one of the clocks were ticking away, but each one of them at a different rate.

I noticed that under each clock was a name plate that had the name of a person engraved upon it.

Curious, I asked what this meant. Peter began to tell me that each clock represented the life of each person on the earth.

Every time the person committed a sin, the hands of the clock made a complete revolution.

I began to look around the room and found each one of your names on a clock....(PAUSE)

Finally, unable to find my own name on any of the clocks in that warehouse, I asked Peter where my clock was.

*“Oh that one”, Peter said, “Well, some time back we moved your clock into the main office where we use it as a Fan”*

[1 Peter 4](#)

1 Therefore, since **Christ suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

**What is the obligation of someone who has had another die for crimes that they were guilty of?**

- ☞ **If you were convicted of a Capital Crime** and sentence to death, and a man came and took your place and died instead of you, what sense of gratefulness would you feel?
- ☞ **In reality**, God says that every person that has ever been born on the earth, is guilty of breaking His law, no one is excluded.
- ☞ **The penalty that God pronounced**, as Creator, is that “The Soul that sins will surely die...’ Eternally

[Ezekiel 18:4](#)

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

**Would you be grateful if this happened to you? If you were pronounced “Forgiven” of all your breaking of God’s Law that had already condemned you to Eternal Death?**

- ☞ **From the moment that you were forgiven** How would you live the rest of your life?
- ☞ **Would you quickly forget** what this person had done for you, and just go right back again and keep doing the same old things you used to do?
- ☞ **Or would the reality of what has happened to you** sink deep into your heart and cause you to change the way that you live your life?
- ☞ **Would your love for the person** who died for you compel you to live the rest of your life to tell other people about what He has done for you?

### **1 Peter 4**

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

**2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God**

You see, I believe that when any person comes face to face with what it cost Jesus to pay for all of their sins, and the reality that they really are forgiven, it has to effect them in one of two ways.

1. **Either they totally ignore** the fact that they have the opportunity to accept this forgiveness and the love that has been shown to them, as they go on and just keep living their life the same old way.
2. **Or they are deeply effected** in their heart that someone would love them this much that they would give up everything they had, take their place and die the death they should have died.

**Then spend the rest of their time here on earth living in a way that brought honor to the One who showed this love to them, and made their forgiveness possible.**

- ☞ **This is not religious obligation**, this is a life changing experience that is very personal and real.

So, if you are here this morning, and the reality of what Jesus has done for you has hit you...

- ☞ **Jesus, the One who spoke the universe into existence**, saw you here on the earth.
- ☞ **He knew** that you were guilty of breaking God’s law, you were already condemned to Eternal Death.

- ☞ **But He left His home** and gave up His Glory and Power to become One who would stand in your place and pay the price you owed,
- ☞ **If that reality has deeply effected you**, then how will you live the rest of your life?

There was a young girl who was traveling back home with her mother from her summer Vacation Bible School when she asked if they could stop off at the library.

Her mother asked her why she wanted to stop off at the library.

*“Well, this morning my teacher told me that the only way that we could get to heaven was if our name was written in the Lambs Book of Life. I just wanted to make sure that my name is in there!”*

**The reality is that If what Jesus has done for you has effected you deeply and you have responded to his offer to you to be forgiven...YOUR NAME IS IN HIS LAMBS BOOK OF LIFE!**

### **Revelation 3:5**

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels

This is A Done Deal, so how now are you going to live the rest of your life, this is the question that is put to each one of us this morning.

- ☞ **If you are grateful** that your name is in Jesus Book of Life, what are you going to do now?

### **Philippians 2:5-9**

5 **Let this mind be in you** (Your attitude should be the same) that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

**Will you follow Jesus example, he became your servant. Imagine that! God became your servant and laid His life down for you.**

- ☞ **So now**, will you become His servant for the rest of your life, in gratitude and love for Him?
- ☞ **Yes you say, then...**

### **Colossians 3:2-4**

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 **For you died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**When Jesus died for you on that terrible Cross, you and the old life you used to live, also died...**

### **1 Peter 4**

3 For **we have spent enough of our past lifetime** in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

**So now, we start our new life living it for Jesus.**

- ☞ **When your kids started school this year**, most of them wanted to put on the new clothes that they were given for the new school year.
- ☞ **Did your kids say**, “*No I want to wear my old smelly sneakers from last year*”, or did they want the new shoes you bought them for this new year?

This is the illustration that Paul uses in The Book of Ephesians to show us what it is like for the person who has accepted Jesus Forgiveness and wants to begin a new Life with Him...

- ☞ **There are the Old clothes** of the Old life to take off, and the New Clothes of the New life to put on.

**Things to “Put Off” and things to “Put On”**

### **Ephesians 4:17-32**

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that **you should no longer walk** as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that **you put off, concerning your former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**,

24 and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25 **Therefore, putting away lying**, “Let each one of you **speak truth** with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

26 “**Be angry, and do not sin**”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

28 Let **him who stole steal no longer**, but rather let him **labor, working with his hands** what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

29 **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 **Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you**, with all malice.

32 And **be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you.

### **Clothes of the Old life to take off:**

- ☞ Lying, coarse and rough words, bitterness, anger, speaking of evil.

### **Clothes to Put on:**

- ☞ Being kind to each other, becoming tenderhearted, forgive people because of how much you have been forgiven.

Another way to think of the new Life that we want to live for Jesus now, because we are so grateful for what He has done for us, it to think of our life like a tree that bears fruit.

- ☞ **The New life** is because Jesus has come and began to live inside of you now, so that spiritually you are alive now.
- ☞ **So, we start** Bearing this new "*Fruit of the Spirit*"

### **Galatians 5:22-223**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Have you been able to go out now and look at the tree of your new life in Jesus and began to see some of these kinds of fruit?**

- ☞ **You find some love there** that wasn't there as much before?
- ☞ **You find** this new joy in your life.
- ☞ **You experience peace**, even when things are in turmoil around you, because you know that Jesus is in control and will take care of everything.
- ☞ **You have started being kinder** to people than you used to, because you have been so touched by Jesus kindness to you.
- ☞ **There is a Goodness** that is beginning to flow out from your life.
- ☞ **You are learning to be faithful**, which is to just hang in there, keep trusting Jesus day by day/
- ☞ **You are more gentle** with people now than you used to be.
- ☞ **You are learning to control your temper**, your decisions now are brought to Jesus, "Lord what do you want for me?"

You see, if you see some evidence of these kinds of fruit on the new tree of your life, it means you really are "**Born Again**", a change has happened

- ⊕ **Jesus has** become real to you.
- ⊕ **You are not becoming** a more religious person.
- ⊕ **You are falling more in love with Jesus** as you come to understand through His Word, how wonderful He is, and all He has done for you.

### **Galatians 5:18**

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**You see, this is the difference between Religion**, trying to keep the law to be acceptable, **and Relationship**, bearing this new kind of fruit in your life, because you are now in a personal relationship with Jesus.

- ⊕ **This new life**, because of relationship is called “*Walking in the Spirit*”.
- ⊕ **There is no Law that is needed** for someone who is in love with another person.
- ⊕ **You don’t have to tell them to be good to this person**, because they love them, they want to be good to them, they want to do good.

The opposite of this is “**Walking after the flesh**”, still living the old life...

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

If you find that you don’t really have a desire to bear these new kinds of fruit but instead have the desire to live the same old life, **you have not been “born Again”**

### **1 Peter 4**

6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Peter takes us back to chapter 3 from last Sunday where we learned that there were perhaps more than 6 billion people on the earth at the time Noah was building the Ark.

- ⊕ **That for 120 years** they watched Noah build the ark and had asked him why he was building it.
- ⊕ “*Well, it is going to rain for 40 days and 40 nights and cover up the whole earth with water*”.
- ⊕ **Every person on the earth** that doesn’t believe God when He says he is going to do this, and won’t get into the Ark, will die...”

“*Right Noah, What is Rain?*”

- ☞ **You see, it had never rained on the earth** yet, the earth was Sub Tropical, it was covered with a protective type of water vapor in the atmosphere that kept earth at a comfortable 75- 80 degrees year round.
- ☞ **The plants were watered** from the water in the air, it didn't need to rain.
- ☞ **This is why people lived** for up to 900 years before the flood, the water vapor protected them from the harmful effects of the sun and cosmic rays.

**But all of the people of the earth just laughed at God, and the fact He would destroy the whole earth.**

- ☞ **All they needed to do to be saved** was to believe God, and get into the Ark.
- ☞ **But they wouldn't do it.**
- ☞ **They just went on** and kept living their lives like they always had.

God based His salvation of them on the simple act of just believing what He had said to them: **"I Will destroy the earth by flooding it, get into the ark..."**

- ☞ **In reality**, God still saves people today the same way today, by believing what He says.

**They came to Jesus one day and asked Him what someone needed to do to please God and be acceptable to Him, here is what Jesus said:**

### **John 6:29**

Jesus told them, "This is what God wants you to do: Believe in the one he has sent.

But Jesus said that in the day just before He returns to earth to get all those who have fallen in Love with Him because of his taking their place and dying for them, that the people on the earth will be just like they were in the days of Noah.

### **Luke 17:26-27**

26 "When I return, the world will be like the people were in Noah's day.

27 In those days before the flood, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came to destroy them all.

**So, here in our study this morning, Peter takes us back to that time, during the flood of Noah, and gives us a little more information about what Jesus did during those three day He was in the tomb, after He had been crucified:**

### **1 Peter 4**

6 For this reason **the gospel was preached also to those who are dead**, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

**You remember that there were also 2 thieves that were being Crucified with Jesus, one on each side of Him.**

**Luke 23:32-43**

**33 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with Jesus**

33 Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there—Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.

**39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed**, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

40 But **the other criminal protested**, “Don’t you fear God even when you are dying?”

41 **We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.**”

42 Then he said, “**Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.**”

43 And **Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

**We learn several things by this little discussion here between Jesus and the 2 thieves.**

- ⊕ **First**, the fact that when the thief said to Jesus, “*Remember me when you come into your kingdom...*”, Jesus said to Him “*Today you will be with Me in Paradise...*”
- ⊕ **These words from Jesus own mouth** prove that the doctrine of “**Good works being necessary for a person being able to enter Heaven**”, is not true.

The Thief on the Cross next to Jesus, had probably never done one good deed in his entire life, in fact, he was being crucified because he was a thief.

- ⊕ **He was about to die on his own cross**, so he did not have the opportunity to do one single good work, except believe that Jesus was who He claimed He was.
- ⊕ **All he said to Jesus was** “*Remember me*”. Yet, by just this simple statement, Jesus says to Him, “*Today you will be with Me in Paradise*”.
- ⊕ **Jesus didn’t tell him** that he needed to get his act together first before God would accept him.
- ⊕ **Jesus didn’t say**, you need to go to the right church first before God will accept you.
- ⊕ **Jesus didn’t say** that unless you speak in tongues, are baptized a certain way, or give your tithe, first, then you can go to heaven.

**All the thief on the Cross did was say, “*Remember Me*”.**

- ⊕ **Jesus can tell** when a person makes any movement of faith towards Him and believes.
- ⊕ **The Thief never went forward for an Altar call**, never recited the sinners prayer, never went through confirmation, or any other rite that churches claim a person must do before they can go to heaven.
- ⊕ **He just believed in Jesus** and knew that His sacrifice that he was making on the Cross was for Him, so he said to Jesus “*Remember me Jesus*”, Jesus said: “***That is enough, your saved, today you will be with me in paradise.***”

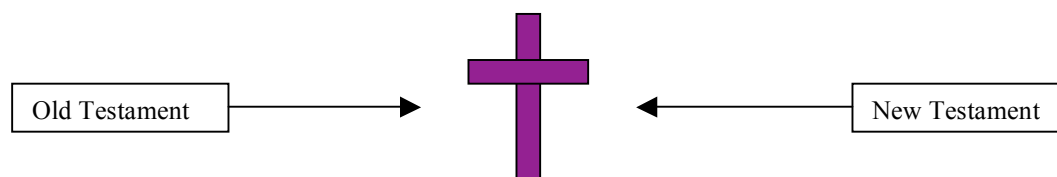
**But wait a minute. Jesus didn’t ascend back to heaven until after He rose from the dead, three days later, Jesus said “*Today you will be with me in Paradise*”.**

- ⊕ **You see, in the days of the Old Testament**, they called the place where the righteous went to when they died, “*Paradise*”.
- ⊕ **As we learned last Sunday**, “*Paradise*” is not Heaven, it is a chamber reserved inside the center of the earth, where every Old Testament person went when they died,

that had been living in their life, looking forward to the time when Jesus would come as the Messiah and died for them.

Today, none of us has seen the time when Jesus died for us on the Cross, we are able to know what Jesus has done, and believe because of the eye witness testimony of those who were actually there and saw Jesus die, then rise 3 days later.

- ☞ **So, we are saved by Looking back** to the Cross
- ☞ **Well, people in the old Testament** were saved in exactly the same way, they were **Looking Forward** to the time when Jesus would come and die on the Cross for them, and that is what saved them.



What we learn by studying the Bible, is that these who died believing in the future sacrifice of the Cross, went into the chamber in the center of the earth called "Paradise", or "**Abraham's Bosom**".

- ☞ **Last Sunday** we learned that when Jesus died on the Cross, He first Descended into this lower part of the earth where he Preached to all those who died in Noah's flood because they would not believe God and get into the ark.
- ☞ **Then Jesus went into the chamber** across the Great gulf that separated these two places, to minister to these Old Testament believers, who had died believing in the future coming of Jesus.
- ☞ **Then, after Jesus ministered** to these here in Paradise or Abrahams Bosom, He ascended back to heaven with these held here in Paradise, with the thief on the Cross.

Then Jesus returned to the garden tomb where on the third day, Mary and the disciples came and found that Jesus was not inside the tomb, he was risen, just as He said before that He would.

### **Ephesians 4:8-9**

8 Therefore He says: "When Jesus ascended on high (Back to Heaven), he led (THOSE IN) captivity (Paradise) (TO FREEDOM) ...

9 (Now this, "He ascended"-- what does it mean but that **He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?**

**For a reference to this, you can look at Luke chapter 16, where Jesus himself describes the 2 chambers.**

- ☞ **One chamber** where a rich man had died and was in torment.
- ☞ **Another chamber** called "*Abrahams Bosom*", where the poor man Lazarus was being comforted.

### **Luke 16:19-31**

22 So it was that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.** The rich man also died and was buried.

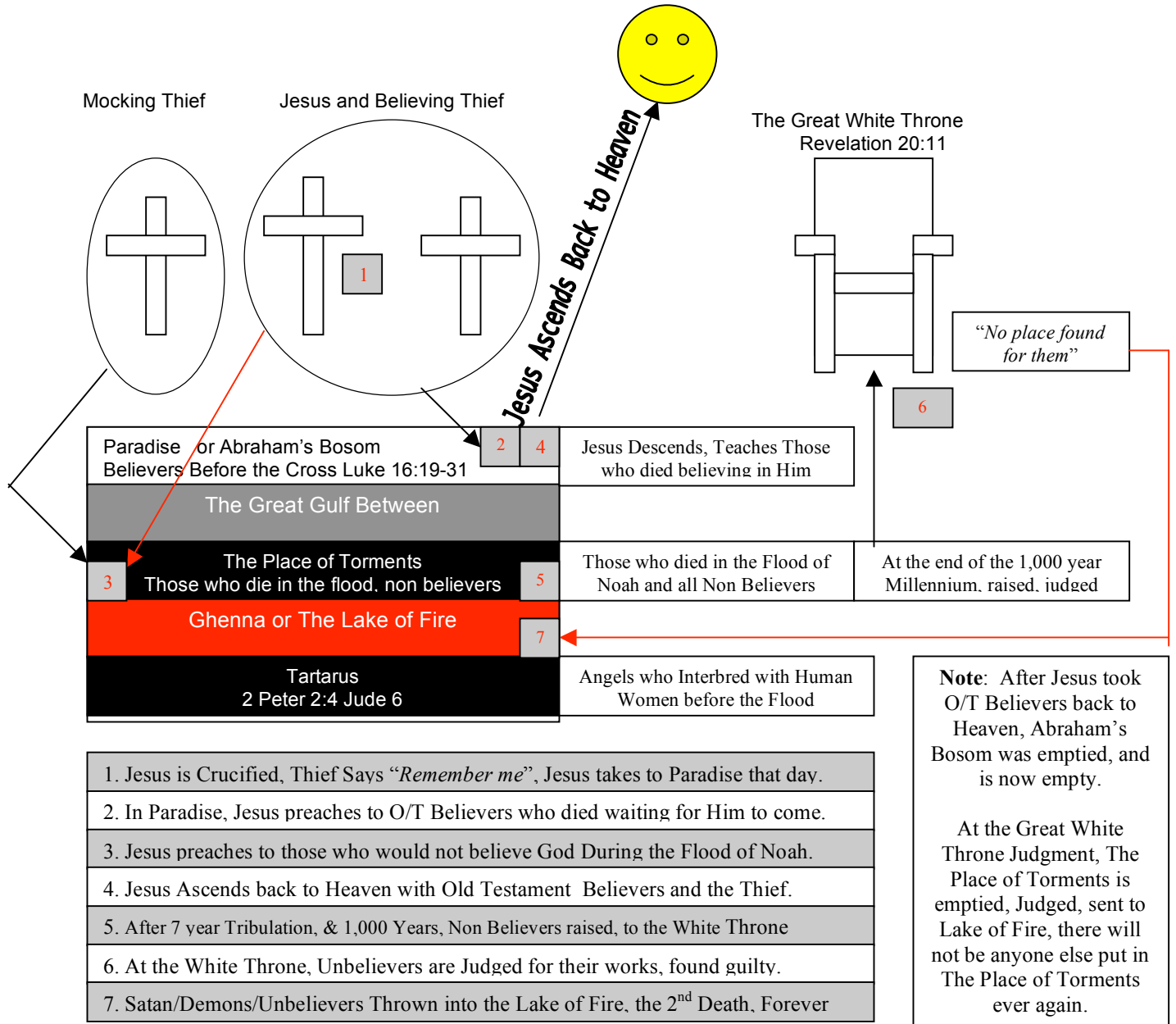
23 And **being in torments in Hades**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame.**’

25 But Abraham said, “Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now **he is comforted and you are tormented.**

26 And besides all this, between us and you **there is a great gulf fixed**, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

### The Two compartments of Luke 16, and The Final Judgments



1. Jesus is Crucified, Thief Says "Remember me", Jesus takes to Paradise that day.
2. In Paradise, Jesus preaches to O/T Believers who died waiting for Him to come.
3. Jesus preaches to those who would not believe God During the Flood of Noah.
4. Jesus Ascends back to Heaven with Old Testament Believers and the Thief.
5. After 7 year Tribulation, & 1,000 Years, Non Believers raised, to the White Throne
6. At the White Throne, Unbelievers are Judged for their works, found guilty.
7. Satan/Demons/Unbelievers Thrown into the Lake of Fire, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death, Forever

## **1 Peter 4**

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

**Where will you be on that last day, the final moment when Jesus comes for us?**

- ☞ **When Jesus descends out of heaven** with the shout of an Archangel, those who have died believing in Jesus, being raised to meet Him along with us who are alive.
- ☞ **If the Lord Jesus should come for you tomorrow morning**, are you ready to meet Him?
- ☞ **Are there things undone** relationships un mended, people you have not told how wonderful Jesus is yet?
- ☞ **Will you wish in that moment** of Jesus return, that you had lived for Him with greater seriousness, more devotion, fully surrendered to Him.
- ☞ **Or will you shout with Joy** at His return, that every trial you endured for His sake, every day you lived for Him, all the rooms of your heart given to His will, have finally found their end purpose...

**You lived your life, waiting, watching for Him to come for you, anticipating His coming by living every moment ready to go with Him as soon as He calls your name.**

- ☞ **The reality this Morning** is that **We are the final generation** that will be alive when Jesus promised to come for His Church.
- ☞ **The end of all things is at hand**, therefore, let us be **SERIOUS** and watchful in our prayers

## **1 Peter 4**

8 And **above all things** have **fervent love for one another**, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

- ☞ **The primary thing we are looking for in our lives** as followers of Jesus is the evidence of our love for each other.
- ☞ **No matter what other areas** of your walk with Jesus that you may be lacking in, if you love your brothers and sisters in the lord, your love will cover all of those other faults.

## **John 13:35**

By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**”

## **1 Peter 4**

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

**The idea here is that of being Friendly to other believers, welcoming them into our fellowship together, generous to those who need help.**

- ☞ **There is a love that we are to have for each other**, that we do not have for the world.
- ☞ **The world needs to know who Jesus is**, so “**We are in the world**”, we are friendly with people who don’t know Jesus yet, we are humble, gracious, being an example to them of what Jesus is like.
- ☞ **But, “We are not of the World”**, we do become a part of what the world is doing, where their focus is at, because we belong to and serve the Lord of all.

### **John 17:16**

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**I want to tell you that there is now conclusive proof that there are aliens living here on the earth.**

- ☞ **Do you know** how you can tell who they are?
- ☞ **They are a very strange group of individuals** who do not seem to fit into this world or the worlds plans.
- ☞ **They have this strange love for each other** that they are willing to lay their lives down for each other.
- ☞ **They have a love and acceptance of each other**, that is above their faults and imperfections.
- ☞ **They have a friendship together** that those in the earth no nothing about.

**They are the ones who have fallen in Love with Jesus....and await His return for them.**

- ☞ **You and I** who love Jesus are the real aliens.
- ☞ **We don’t** fit in here.
- ☞ **This world is not out home**, it is just a temporary stopping of point.
- ☞ **Our citizenship** is in Heaven.
- ☞ **Our destiny** is to reign with Jesus and be with Him forever.

### **1 Peter 4**

10 As each one has received a gift, **minister it to one another**, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, **let him speak as the oracles of God**. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- ☞ **The word “Oracles”** comes from the Greek word “**Logion**”: “*To speak the very words of God.*”
- ☞ **You and I have been given** the amazing privilege of Speaking the Very Words of God Himself to the world, to those who don’t know The Lord Jesus yet.
- ☞ **How do we know what to say?** We speak and say what has already been written there in your Bible, this is the World of God, it is what he has to say to the world.

1. **To teach His Word to people**, tell them what God has to say.

2. **To minister to people**, show them that Jesus is the answer to the longing of their heart.
3. **To become to people an Ambassador or Representative** of what Jesus is like to every person you meet, so they can see what Jesus is like, accept Him and be saved.
  - ⊕ **And to do it to the best of your ability** so that Jesus gets glory from your life.
  - ⊕ **Because Jesus is worthy** of our very best efforts for him.
  - ⊕ **Because of how great the reward is** for what we do for the Jesus.

### **1 Peter 4**

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that **you partake of Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Do not be surprised if you have hard times as a follower of Jesus, it is to be expected. Jesus promised we would have tribulation in this world.

### **John 16:33**

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

### **Trials**

- ⊕ **They are test for us so that we can see** where our heart, our trust, our affections are really at. They are Not to destroy us.
- ⊕ **They show us** what we are really like.
- ⊕ **They bring us to the end of ourselves**, humble us, cause us to fall upon Jesus for help.

The wonderful news and the wonderful promise is that If we share in suffering as Jesus suffered, we will also share in the glory Jesus will receive.

### **Philippians 1:29**

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

### **Romans 8:16-17**

16 For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.

17 And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. **But if we are to share his glory, THEN) we must also share his suffering. (NOW)**

### **1 Peter 4**

14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, **blessed are you**, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

- ☞ **If you suffer because you are following Jesus**, it is a sign that you really belong to Him and that God's favor is upon you.
- ☞ **We realize** that if we suffer as Christians, we endure it for Jesus namesake, we will also share in the same glory as Jesus in eternity.
- ☞ **Jesus encouraged us** to rejoice when we go through trouble and persecution, **NOT BECAUSE OF THE TRIAL, BUT BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT THE TRIAL WILL PRODUCE IN US.**

### **Matthew 5:11-12**

11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **THEY ARE REALLY HATING JESUS**

12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **1 Peter 4**

17 **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 Now

"If the righteous one is scarcely saved,  
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

In A. D. 79, Mount Vesuvius exploded into a massive Volcano, spewing Millions of Tons or Rock Ash, and Debris over the nearby cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

The destructions came so sudden and swift that it caught people right in the midst of their daily routines.

Men and Women at the market, the rich sitting in their luxurious baths, children playing in the streets, even family pets died in an instant.

The sad part is that days before, Roman writers recorded that there were "Rumblings and Shakings" that were happening before the actual explosion. Warnings that Judgment was about to take place.

Today, at this moment in human history, There are "**Rumblings and shakings**" going on, just as they were in **Pompeii and Herculaneum** just before **Mount Vesuvius** exploded. **Judgment of this world has already began.**

- ☞ **Jesus is** about to return.
- ☞ **The day when a person can come to Jesus** and have all their sins forgiven and be "*Born Again*", is almost over.

- ⊕ **The Great Tribulation** that the Book of Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Jesus spoke of that is about to come upon the earth, is just about to start.
- ⊕ **A time in human history** when Jesus returns to earth, not as *“The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world”*, but as *“The Lion of The Tribe of Judah”*, as *“King of Kings and Lord of Lords”*, to judge the earth that has rejected the great sacrifice He has made for them.
- ⊕ **Seven years in which 2/3rds**, more than 4 billion people will die on the earth, a time when demons will be let out of their prisons in Tartarus, and they will sting men with their tails and men will want to die, but for 5 months they will not be able to die.

**That judgment, I believe, has already began. It has began first with “The House of God”, Jesus Church.**

- ⊕ **Jesus is about to come for His church**, before the Great Tribulation begins, but before he does return, He is, right now, purifying his church.
- ⊕ **We began 6 weeks ago**, an in depth study on what it means to be Holy unto the Lord. We are not the only fellowship that has been drawn to do a study on Holiness.
- ⊕ **If you listen to CSN**, our radio station, if you talk to other Calvary pastors, you will find that for some strange reason, we are all teaching our fellowships about Holiness, and being purified and ready for Jesus to return.

**Judgment has began right here, right now, with us first, who claim to know Jesus. Then when we are taken out of the earth, The Antichrist will appear on the scene.**

- ⊕ **He will make his 7 year peace treaty** with many nations and the nation of Israel.
- ⊕ **But in the midst of that 7 years**, he will go into the newly constructed Temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be god and command the whole world to worship him.
- ⊕ **The nation of Israel** will then all believe in Jesus as their Messiah, more people will turn to Jesus and be saved during these final years than at any time in all history, but with great cost, they will be BEHEADED FOR THEIR FAITH IN JESUS.

Then at the end of this horrific 7 years, Jesus will ride out of heaven with all of us, to return to the earth, where Jesus shall rule over the earth for 1,000 years in perfect Righteousness, peace, and perfection.

**But...Judgment has began already, with each one of us...**

- ⊕ **We are being challenged** by the Lord...”**Do You really love Me?”**
- ⊕ *“Are you surrendered to Me?”*
- ⊕ *“Am I truly first in your life?”*
- ⊕ *“Are you living for Me?”*
- ⊕ *“Are you ready for Me to return for you?”*

**1 Peter 4, Verse 17, the judgment that is coming upon this earth started with God’s own people first.**

- ☞ **In the Old Testament**, whenever God's judgment was about to come upon the whole earth, He began with his own people.

**And We are saved by the Grace of God, There is not one thing that any of us has done that has earned us salvation.**

- ☞ **It is only because Jesus suffered so much for us** and died in our place, that we were forgiven.
- ☞ **It is only because Jesus really did rise from the dead**, that today we can proclaim we really are going to heaven, He did it all, all we did is believe it and live for Him.

**But, if we were barely saved, ho much judgment will come to the world who has rejected God's only Son as the chosen method of God's salvation.**

### **Hebrews 10:29,31**

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.