

23:38

**Your house is left to you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.** Jesus is claiming that He will live after He dies. How do I know that? Because Jesus has already told His disciples three times, Matthew 16, Matthew 18, Matthew 20, that the Gentiles were going to seize Him, kill Him, and that He would rise again the third day. Jesus saw a day soon coming when He would return to these people and they would say, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.” And these are a people, this Jerusalem city, are a people that have not yet welcomed Him thusly. The day is still coming when Jerusalem will receive their king. They didn’t do it in chapter 21, and for two chapters—all of this Tuesday of Passion Week—Jesus has been declaring that they have serious trouble coming, and He has promised in verse 39 there will come a day when they will welcome Him as He is worthy. He’s not only promising of the resurrection, He’s promising, basically, His second coming.

Now you have to decide whether you think Malachi 3 still needs to be fulfilled. If it has (in the “Palm Sunday” episode), you need to ask Jesus why He brought up another coming to the city of Jerusalem, because that is what takes place in the last verse of chapter 23. Now then, let’s consider, does Israel have a future in God’s economy?

We’re going to talk about “yes” because Jesus said so right here. Consider the difference in circumstances between what occurred in 21:1-8, and what is promised in 23:39. Apparently, these things will be different when He returns:

1. Unlike chapter 21 of Matthew, those accompanying Him into the city of Jerusalem in the future will not be children. They’ll not be peasants. They’ll not even be other Jews. They will be saints.

*Jude 14: And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, The Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all that are ungodly, and to judge all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed*

We have Enoch prophesying of a day when the Lord would return with all of His saints.

I promise you, when the Lord returns He will have Revelation 19, the armies of heaven, with Him. He is the Lord of hosts. The reason Malachi chapter 3 calls Him that twice in that passage is because when “He comes suddenly to His temple,” in the future, He will have His hosts with Him. Oh, it’ll be a fantastic difference. He came quiet and meek, and the best they could do was get some people together to wave some palm branches. It was an impressive sight, I have no doubt. But you wait until the heavens crack open and the Lord God descends and Jesus Christ comes back with all the hosts of heaven. That is probably one major reason why the Jews will then say, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”

2. The response of Israel’s leadership will not be one disdainful worship, but will be rather leading the procession. They’ll be the ones welcoming Him. You might remember in 21:10 it was the city that was moved, not the Jewish leaders. When Jesus returns it will in fact be the Jewish leaders who will be saying, “Please come in.”

Psalms 24 speaks of this. You should put this right next to 21:10. You should put Jude 14 right next to 21:9 (and you should put Zechariah 14 and 1 Thessalonians 3:13 and Revelation 19). “when He returns with all of His armies,” right next to verse 9. You say, “I can’t fit it all next to there.” Try anyway.

Did you know that over the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem, right now, is nothing but stone? It’s sealed up and Ezekiel 44:1-3 says that it’s supposed to be sealed up until “the Prince” passes through it. We needed some Mohammedans to take over the Middle East to seal the Eastern Gate. We needed them to seal the gates because there’s an entrance fit only for the King. Psalm 24: “Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall

come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. The Lord of hosts is His name.”

3. Business as usual will be remarkably different. What is Jesus doing when He comes into the temple of God (21:12)? They will not be selling sacrifices and taking advantage of people in the temple court. They will not be selling the right to worship God in the temple court. The Levites will need to be purified and they will be purified. They will offer themselves and they will be purified, Malachi 3:3, as with fuller’s soap. They will be purified as silver. It will be remarkably different when the Lord returns. They will say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” It will be as Jesus said: a house of prayer for all nations.
4. Every mouth will worship the Lord Jesus. It won’t be just the children. Jeremiah 31 says, Say no more, Know the LORD: for they all will know the Lord, from the very least to the greatest.
5. His disciples will not soon be disappointed. You know, when the disciples were walking Jesus in to the temple, or into Jerusalem, they really think, “Boy, this is really about to take off for us. We’re about to have no more issues. All the bills are about to be paid.” Think this through now. They’re about to be a part of the cabinet of the new kingdom, aren’t they? And now Jesus is being not received by Jerusalem. It wasn’t just a few days later when they all forsook Him and fled. When you and I meet with the Lord in Jerusalem, we will not be disappointed. No follower of Christ, who understands the plan of God, has ever been disappointed. God has never owed anybody anything.
6. Instead of a foal he’ll be riding a horse. Revelation 19 says He’s on the back of a white horse. That’s the way conquerors come to their new thrones. They come to a white horse. They come on a white horse. I will tell you there is one thing that is the same. Referencing Matthew 21:14 the blind and the lame come into the temple and He heals them. Be encouraged. This won’t be completely different than the next time He returns. There still won’t be any blind and lame people in the temple.

Now then, having given you six things that are different, let me give you a very short list of things that you should do (knowing this short list). In other words, so what?

1. You should be very grateful that God keeps His promises. See this is how I kind of work with the resurrection: The resurrection is as historical as Washington crossing the Delaware. I have no problem believing in the resurrection because I have no problem believing that a bunch of dudes I never met signed a piece of paper I never could read (when I saw it); they declared us free from England. I accept all of that as historical fact and so I have no issues accepting the resurrection just as historically. It doesn’t become non-historical just because it’s in a religious book. When God makes promises, I can believe those.
2. When I know that this is going to happen it makes me want to be sure that their Father is my Father. If you’ve never put your faith in the Messiah, you’re in the same place that Jerusalem is within this text). If you’ve never put your faith in what Christ did for you on the cross, how He died for you, every sin you ever would commit, every sin that you could commit, and rose from the dead, God is not your Father and you have plenty to fear in the day of His wrath.
3. Pray for it to be sooner rather than later. Psalm 125 says we’re supposed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Why would we want to pray for it to happen sooner than later? Well, it’s kind of like this. If it happens sooner, humanly speaking, less people die and go to hell. If it happens sooner, rather than later, then we can get started with this kingdom thing and get on with heaven on

Earth. We are commanded in the last chapter of the book to pray, “Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly.” “What do we have to do? Let’s wrap this thing up.” We’re not supposed to think like eight-year-olds anymore. “Well, Lord, I’d like You to come back but can You wait until next Tuesday? I want to go to Bible camp first. I want to get married first. I want to have my first kid first.” We want to experience that amazing stuff on this Earth, but I just have a feeling that that will pale in comparison to the kingdom to come.

4. Save your money. You’ll get your free trip to the Holy Land.
5. Remember who you are in view of Romans 11:25-29. If God can blind an entire ethnicity for two millennia, then it is the grace of God that you and I know King Jesus tonight. They will believe on Him, in mass, as a nation, and be born again. Their scales will be peeled off and they will be born again and saved and usher in their King just as soon as the “fullness of the Gentiles” arrives.