

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

## LESSON 13

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**THE WORK OF CHRIST – PART TWO**



# WHAT IS SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY?

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Theology is from TWO Greek Words:

1. Theos = “God”

2. Logos = “Word” or “Message”

The orderly arrangement of the study of God into logical, topical divisions

# I. REVIEW

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# WORK OF CHRIST (PART 1)

Key Question: Why did Christ come?

# THE OFFICES OF CHRIST

- **Prophet:** Reveals God
- **High Priest:** Represents Us
- **King:** Reigns in authority

# CHRIST'S WORK FRAMEWORK

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- Humiliation → Exaltation

# PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8

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<sup>7</sup> “Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.”

# THE INCARNATION

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- Jesus became fully man
- Identifies with humanity

# THE DEATH OF CHRIST

- Necessary because of sin
- Central to salvation
- Penal Substitutionary Atoning Sacrifice

# ATONEMENT

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- Christ is our **atoning sacrifice**
- Deals with sin in completion
- Required by God's perfect justice
- Nature → Substitutionary (in our place)

# RESULTS OF ATONEMENT

- Forgiveness of sin
- Debt Removed
- From enemies → to Sons
- Righteousness received
- Defeated Sin, death, & Satan
- Salvation is relational

# LESSON 13 - OVERVIEW

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# 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

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15 “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”

# OVERVIEW

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- Last time: Christ's humiliation  
(Incarnation → Cross)
- This Lesson: Christ's Exaltation  
(Resurrection → Return)
- Focus: What is Christ doing **NOW**  
and what will He do next.

# II. THE STATE OF EXALTATION

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## The Resurrection of Christ

# RESURRECTION = BEGINNING

- Exaltation **BEGAN** with the resurrection
- The resurrection is foundation of Christ's ongoing work
- Central to New Testament writings
- No resurrection = no Christianity

# I CORINTHIANS 15:56-57

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<sup>56</sup> “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

# WITNESSES

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- Book of Acts – Apostle's proclamation of the resurrection
- Epistles - Assume resurrection as fact
- Doctrine rest on reality that Christ is risen

# WITNESSES

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- Revelation – The risen Christ's reign in heaven and return to earth
- He is **PREPARING** to return
- Final victory is certain

# KEY QUESTION?

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- If the resurrection is this important, why does it matter to us?

# A. WHY RESURRECTION MATTERS?

## 1. Regeneration

# 1 PETER 1:3

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<sup>3</sup> “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

# RESURRECTION – NEW BIRTH

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- Christ's resurrection ensures our regeneration
- Born into a **LIVING** hope

# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

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- Jesus rose with resurrection life
- Human body fit for fellowship with God
- Suited for perfect obedience in the flesh

# OUR NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE

- We share in His new life now
- We are made alive spiritually
- We have new power and new life

# EPHESIANS 2:5-6

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<sup>5</sup> “made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! <sup>6</sup> He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus.”

# OUR NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Our new spiritual life is real now
- Our physical life has not been realized yet
- Bodies still subject to weakness and DEATH
- Fulfillment still yet to come

# WHY RESURRECTION MATTERS?

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## 2. Justification

# ROMANS 4:25

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25 “He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

# GOD'S DECLARATION

- Resurrection = God's approval
- Christ's work was **ACCEPTED**
- Sin was paid in full
- No wrath remained
- Death & penalty no longer needed

# UNION WITH CHRIST

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- In faith – we are united to Christ
- His approval = our approval

# EPHESIANS 2:6

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<sup>6</sup> “He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus.”

# FINAL PROOF

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- The resurrection proves:
  - The cross **WORKED**
  - Justification is secured
- It is a legal declaration, like a judge declaring someone “not guilty.”

# WHY RESURRECTION MATTERS?

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## 3. Resurrection Bodies

# 1 CORINTHIANS 6:14

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14 “God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:14

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14 “For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you.”

# FIRSTFRUITS

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- 1 Corinthians 15:12-58
- Christ = **FIRSTFRUITS**
- We will be like Him
- Healed – Glorified – Whole –  
Incorruptible

# BIG PICTURE

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- Because Christ lives:
  - We have new life now
  - We are declared righteous now
  - We will be raised in glory later

# B. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

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# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>1</sup> “I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>3</sup> “After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>4</sup> “While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. ‘Which,’ he said, ‘you have heard me speak about;

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>5</sup> “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.’ <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?’

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>7</sup> “He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.’

# ACTS 1:1-11

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8 “ ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>9</sup> “After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them.

# ACTS 1:1-11

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<sup>11</sup> “They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.’”

# WHY ASCENSION MATTERS?

- Ascension is the linchpin
- The prerequisite
- Everything following **DEPENDS** on it

# WHY ASCENSION MATTERS?

- Ascension **ENABLES** Christ's work
  - Session (Heavenly reign)
  - Pentecost
  - Intercession
  - Second Coming

# PSALM 110:1

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<sup>1</sup> “This is the declaration of the Lord to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.’”

# ACTS 2:33-36

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<sup>33</sup> “Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear.

# ACTS 2:33-36

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<sup>34</sup> “For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says: The Lord declared to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.’

# ACTS 2:33-36

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36 “ ‘Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’”

# ASCENSION & REIGN

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- Christ ascended to:
  - Sit at RIGHT hand of the Father (Session)
  - Reign as King over all creation
  - Eventual wholly subjected to Him

# JOHN 16:7

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<sup>7</sup> “Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you.”

# ASCENSION & HOLY SPIRIT

- “It is to your advantage that I go away...”
- Made PENTECOST possible
- Holy Spirit sent to the Church

# JOHN 7:39

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<sup>39</sup> “He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

# ACTS 2:33

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33 “Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear.”

# ASCENSION & HOLY SPIRIT

- Christ received the Holy Spirit from the Father
- Christ pours out the Spirit as
  - Prophet
  - Priest
  - King

# ASCENSION & INTERCESSION

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- Christ intercedes on our behalf before the Father
- Christ's current ministry
- Takes position as priest forever in the order of Melchizedek

# HEBREWS 8:4

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<sup>7</sup> “Now if He were on earth, He wouldn't be a priest, since there are those offering the gifts prescribed by the law.”

# ASCENSION & INTERCESSION

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- Christ's priestly ministry in HEAVENLY
- Ascended to appear before the Father
- Ascended to intercede for His people

# B. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Sidenote: Order of Melchizedek

# GENESIS 14:18-20

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<sup>18</sup> “Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. <sup>19</sup> He blessed him and said: ‘Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

# GENESIS 14:18-20

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20 “ ‘and blessed be God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you.’

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”

# MELCHIZEDEK

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- Binds Old and New Testament together
- King of SALEM (~Jerusalem)
- Priest of God Most High (El Elyon)
- Blessed Abram
- Received a tithe from Abram

# MELCHIZEDEK

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- No backstory.
- No genealogy
- He appears – then disappears

# WHAT DOES “ORDER” MEAN?

- “Order” of Melchizedek
- Order = type, pattern, or category of priesthood.
- “A kind of priesthood patterned after Melchizedek.”
- Not LINEAGE - like the Levites

# KEY OLD TESTAMENT ANCHOR

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# PSALM 110:4

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4 “The Lord has sworn an oath and will not take it back:

‘You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek.’”

# KEY OLD TESTAMENT ANCHOR

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- Written about the Messiah (David's Lord)
- Predicts a different **KIND** of priesthood
- Separate from Levitical system

# HEBREWS EXPLANATION

- Hebrews 5-7
- Not based on genealogy (Levites)
  - Came from tribe of Levi
  - Had to prove ancestry

# HEBREWS EXPLANATION

- Hebrews 5-7
  - Melchizedek:
    - No recorded genealogy
    - Priesthood appears **TIMELESS**
- “Without father, mother, or genealogy.”
- Hebrews 7:3

# HEBREWS EXPLANATION

- Both King and Priest
  - King of Salem
  - Priest of God
- In Israel (Separate roles)
  - Kings – Judah
  - Priests – Levi

# GREATER THAN ABRAM

- Greater than Abram
  - Abram gives him a tithe
  - Melchizedek blesses Abram
- The one who blesses is greater than the one blessed.
- Melchizedek > Abraham > Levi

# ETERNAL & ONGOING PRIESTHOOD

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- Levitical priests:
  - Temporary (they died)
  - Replaced repeatedly
- Melchizedek-type
  - Described as continuous/enduring

# JESUS & MELCHIZEDEK

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- Jesus is a priest – not of Levi
- He's from the tribe of Judah
- Must be a priest in a different order

# HEBREWS 5:5-6

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<sup>5</sup> “In the same way, Christ did not exalt himself to become a high priest, but God who said to him, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father,’ <sup>6</sup> also says in another place, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”

# JESUS & MELCHIZEDEK

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- Appointed by God – Not lineage
- Eternal
- Perfect (no sin, no sacrifice for Himself)
- Final (Offered ONE sacrifice – Himself – once for all)

# WHY THIS MATTERS?

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- Shows Jesus' priesthood is:
  - Superior to Old Covenant system
  - Permanent
  - Personal – not ritual based
  - Complete

# HEBREWS 7:25

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<sup>5</sup> “Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.”

# B. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

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# ACTS 3:21

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<sup>21</sup> “Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning.”

# ASCENSION & SECOND COMING

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- Heaven receives Christ until time of Restoration
- He must go away to **RETURN**

# ASCENSION

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- Not optional
- Essential to salvation
- Every benefit of Christ flows through His position in Heaven

# C. THE SESSION OF CHRIST

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# WHAT IS THE SESSION?

- Seated at the “Right hand of the Father.”
- Christ **SAT** down
- Position of honor, authority, completion

# PSALM 110:1

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<sup>1</sup> “This is the declaration of the Lord  
to my Lord:

‘Sit at my right hand until I make your  
enemies your footstool.’”

# HEBREWS 1:3

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<sup>3</sup> “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

# FULFILLED IN CHRIST

- Jesus makes purification for sins
- He sat down
- His work was done – Redemption finished
- No more sacrifices needed
- No payment **REQUIRED**

# EPHESIANS 1:20-21

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<sup>20</sup> “He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—

<sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

# AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

- Seated above
  - All rule/rulers
  - All authority
  - Every name
- Reigns now – not waiting to reign
- King over ALL creation

# ROMANS 8:34

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<sup>3</sup> “Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.”

# D. THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST

# WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

- Christ appears before God on our behalf
- His ongoing **PRIESTLY** ministry
- His work did not end at the cross
- The Cross = Finishes sacrifice
- Intercession = Continued work

# WHY NECESSARY?

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- Represents His people before God
- Continual and effective intercession
- Completes/lock in final salvation

# HEBREWS 7:25

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<sup>25</sup> “Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.

# WHY NECESSARY?

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- God doesn't lose His people
- Christ secures them
- We are kept – We are secured = We will **FINISH**

# ROBERT MCCHEYNE

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“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference; He is praying for me.”

# E. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

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# JOHN 14:2-3

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<sup>2</sup> “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.”

# WE WILL BE WITH HIM

- Not just an even – fulfillment of Salvation
- Christ has prepared a place for us
- We will be with Him forever
- Fully accepted – Fully at HOME

# 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17

<sup>17</sup> “Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

# RESURRECTION & REUNION

- Thessalonian confusion:
  - Deceased will miss final salvation
  - Don't grieve like those with no hope
- The dead in Christ will rise **FIRST**
- Living saints are next

# PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

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<sup>20</sup> “Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

# PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

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21 “He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.”

# RETURN BRINGS GLORY

- Bodies transformed to glorified body
- Made like His
- No more SICKNESS, death, dying
- By His power we are transformed
- He created – He can recreate it

# COLOSSIANS 3:4

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4 “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

# RETURN BRINGS GLORY

- True **IDENTITY** revealed in Christ –  
Our glory
- Current identity obscured in sin
- We will have a “Second coming” with  
Christ

# MATTHEW 25:32-34,41

<sup>32</sup> “All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left.

# MATTHEW 25:32-34,41

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

# MATTHEW 25:32-34,41

41 “Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!’”

# REVELATION 22:12-14

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<sup>12</sup> “ ‘Look, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to repay each person according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

# REVELATION 22:12-14

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14 “ ‘Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.’ ”

# RETURN BRINGS JUDGEMENT

- Every eye will see Him on that day
- All will be **JUDGED**
- Righteous = Eternal life
- Wicked = Eternal judgement

# TITUS 2:13

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<sup>13</sup> “while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

# RETURN BRINGS JOY

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- Our Blessed Hope

# 2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup> “Since it is just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you <sup>7</sup> and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us.

# 2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-8

<sup>7c</sup> “This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, <sup>8</sup> when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don’t know God and on those who don’t obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

# RETURN BRINGS DELIVERANCE

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- Deliverance from **SUFFERING** & wrath

# MATTHEW 25:34

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34 “ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

# RETURN BRINGS KINGDOM

- Our inheritance
- The Kingdom prepared for us
- A prepared kingdom for a prepared people

# ACTS 3:20-21

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<sup>20</sup> “Seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.

# ACTS 3:20-21

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21 “Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning.”

# RETURN BRINGS RESTORATION

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- Full restoration
- New Heaven
- New Earth
- Creation groans until that day

# REVELATION 22:20

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<sup>20</sup> “He who testifies about these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’”

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”

# WHAT'S NEXT

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Person of the Holy Spirit

# WHAT'S NEXT

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- Work of Christ → Person of the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit applies what Christ accomplished
- Spirit's work is active
- Regenerates, indwells, sanctifies

# WHAT'S NEXT

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- Understanding who the Spirit is and how He works in us.