



# no more secrets

Revealing Jesus - Discussion Guide #9

## INQUIRY

1. How would it feel to watch someone you love sacrificing himself, with no ability to defend or rescue him?
2. How would an immortal being feel facing death?
3. Why would someone choose to give himself for the ungrateful?
4. What power is there in submission?

## INQUEST

**“Oh 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. Look, your house is left to you desolate.”**

With those words Jesus summed up centuries of divine longing for His children. Standing in the walls of the temple itself, Jesus cried out a long litany of woes to the religious leaders who had obscured God’s love with legalism. The Bible doesn’t say what His disciples thought when they heard this, but it does tell us that they were easily distracted. Just minutes later, one of Jesus’ disciples ran up to Him in giddy excitement. “Look Teacher!” he said, pointing to the beautiful city around them. “What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” The Bible doesn’t tell us whether Jesus looked His disciple in the eye, or just looked into the future. “Do you see all these things?” Jesus replied. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

Four decades later, Roman troops under General Titus would shatter all the splendor and grandeur around them. After seven grueling months, Roman troops poured inside, slaughtering everyone in their path. They smashed the city walls and set fire to the Temple, burning it to the ground and hauling off its treasures. Jesus warned His followers what they would face in the years to come—and warned us of what to expect at the end of time. He told of false prophets and false Messiahs claiming to be Him; of “wars of rumors of wars”; that the “love of most will grow cold”. Still, the gospel will march on, reaching the whole world—and then the end will come.

A few nights later, Jesus stared down His impending death—and pleaded with God to somehow save Him from the crushing weight of humanity’s guilt and the terror of separation from His own Father. A few hours after that Jesus found Himself in a shady show trial facing trumped up charges, abandoned by His befuddled disciples. A few hours after that, Jesus hung on a cross, before the world and eternity. All seemed lost.

## Read Matthew 24:3-35.

1. Jesus said, "Watch out that no one deceives you." If God loves us regardless, why is it so important to avoid deception?
2. What attitude does Jesus say we should have regarding turmoil in the world? See verse 6. How can we maintain that attitude?
3. What does it say about a leader who predicts that following Him will result in persecution?

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

**"The destruction of Jerusalem is a solemn warning to all who are resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. The Saviour's prophecy concerning judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment... Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed. Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. When the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath, the world will behold, as never before, the results of Satan's rule."**

1. What would the world be like without the Holy Spirit's influence?
2. How should we prepare for such a time?

**"The world is no more ready to credit the message for this time than were the Jews to receive the Saviour's warning concerning Jerusalem. Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress, and people are lulled in a false security—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, and they shall not escape."**

1. Though people usually emphasize a chaotic world in the end-time, for many, it will be business as usual. What false priorities will leave people unprepared for the last days?
2. What is the difference between the security God offers, and that of the world?

**"Satan has studied the secrets of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. It is God that shields His creatures from the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for His law, and the Lord will do what He declared that He would—remove His protecting care from those who rebel against His law and force others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them."**

1. Why would He withdraw His protection and care from His children that He loves?
2. Why does God allow Satan to deceive people and distort His love?

**"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger, a faith that will not faint though severely tried. Jacob's victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, will succeed as he succeeded. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! When waves of despair sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with faith to the promises of God."**

1. Read Genesis 32:22-30, in which, already fearing for his life, Abraham's grandson Jacob is attacked in the dark. What lessons do you find in Jacob's story?
2. What does it mean to "wrestle with God"?

## Chapter 9— *Real Hope*

The promise of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption is the keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. From Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to bring them again to the lost Paradise.

Enoch, the seventh in descent from them that dwelt in Eden, who for three centuries walked with God, declared, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 14, 15. Job in the night of affliction exclaimed, "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: . . . in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another." Job 19:25-27. The poets and prophets of the Bible have dwelt on the coming of Christ in words glowing with fire. "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad . . . before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." Psalm 96:11-13.

Said Isaiah: "It shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

The Saviour comforted His disciples with the assurance that He would come again: "In my father's house are many mansions. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go, . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." "The Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations." John 14:2, 3; Matthew 25:31, 32.

Angels repeated to the disciples the promise of His return: "This *same* Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. And Paul testified: "The Lord *himself* shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Said the prophet of Patmos: "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him." Revelation 1:7.

Then the long-continued rule of evil shall be broken: "The kingdoms of this world" will become "the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15. "The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." Isaiah 61:11.

Then the peaceful kingdom of the Messiah shall be established: "The Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord." Isaiah 51:3.

The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. Amid suffering and persecution, the "appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" was the "blessed hope." Titus 2:13. Paul pointed to the resurrection to take place at the Saviour's advent, when the dead in Christ should rise, and together with the living be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. "And so," he said, "shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18.

On Patmos the beloved disciple heard the promise, "Surely I come quickly," and his response voices the prayer of the church, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20.

From the dungeon, the stake, the scaffold, where saints and martyrs witnessed for the truth, comes down the centuries the utterance of their faith and hope. Being "assured of

His personal resurrection, and consequently of their own at His coming, for this cause," says one of these Christians, "they despised death, and were found to be above it."<sup>1</sup> The Waldenses cherished the same faith. Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, Knox, Ridley, and Baxter\* looked in faith for the Lord's coming. Such was the hope of the apostolic church, of the "church in the wilderness," and of the Reformers.

Prophecy not only foretells the manner and object of Christ's second coming, but presents tokens by which men are to know when that day is near. "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars." Luke 21:25. "The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." Mark 13:24-26. The revelator thus describes the first of the signs to precede the second advent: "There was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." Revelation 6:12.

The Saviour foretold the state of backsliding that would exist just prior to His second advent. For those living at this time, Christ's admonition is: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:34, 36.

### **The Call to Prepare**

In view of that great day the Word of God calls upon His people to seek His face with repentance:

"The day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children: . . . Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar." "Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." Joel 2:1, 15-17, 12, 13.

To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. In His mercy He was about to send a message to arouse His professed people and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord.

This warning is brought to view in Revelation 14. Here is a threefold message represented as proclaimed by heavenly beings and immediately followed by the coming of the Son of man to reap "the harvest of the earth." The prophet saw an angel flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Revelation 14:6, 7.

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\* In the complete book, *The Great Controversy*, readers will find the story of the Waldenses and of these and other Protestant Reformers.

This message is a part of "the everlasting gospel." The work of preaching has been entrusted to men. Holy angels direct, but the actual proclamation of the gospel is performed by the servants of Christ on earth.\*

### **Danger of Resisting the Gospel Call**

The destruction of Jerusalem is a solemn warning to all who are resisting the pleadings of divine mercy. The Saviour's prophecy concerning judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment. In the fate of the chosen city we behold the doom of a world that has rejected God's mercy and trampled upon His law. Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed. Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. When the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath, the world will behold, as never before, the results of Satan's rule.

In that day, as in Jerusalem's destruction, God's people will be delivered. See Isaiah 4:3; Matthew 24:30, 31. Christ will come the second time to gather His faithful ones to Himself. "Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:30, 31.

Let men beware lest they neglect the words of Christ. As He warned His disciples of Jerusalem's destruction that they might make their escape, so He has warned the world of the day of final destruction. All who will may flee from the wrath to come. "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations." Luke 21:25. See also Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24-26; Revelation 6:12-17. "Watch ye therefore," are Christ's words of admonition. Mark 13:35. They that heed the warning shall not be left in darkness.

The world is no more ready to credit the message for this time than were the Jews to receive the Saviour's warning concerning Jerusalem. Come when it may, the day of God will come unawares to the ungodly. When life is going on in its unvarying round; when men are absorbed in pleasure, in business, in money-making; when religious leaders are magnifying the world's progress, and people are lulled in a false security—then, as the midnight thief steals within the unguarded dwelling, so shall sudden destruction come upon the careless and ungodly, "and they shall not escape." See 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5.

### **Satan Tries to Keep People in his Power**

Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.

Through spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing diseases and presenting a new system of religious faith, but at the same time he leads multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. War excites the worst passions of the soul and sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in

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\* For a more detailed account of this message and of those who began to proclaim it, see *The Great Controversy*, chapters 17 and 18, and subsequent chapters that develop the issues further.

vice and blood. It is Satan's object to incite the nations to war, for he can thus divert the people from preparation to stand in the day of God.

Satan has studied the secrets of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. It is God that shields His creatures from the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for His law, and the Lord will do what He declared that He would—remove His protecting care from those who rebel against His law and force others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

While appearing as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, Satan will bring disease and disaster until populous cities are reduced to ruin. In accidents by sea and land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish.

And then the great deceiver will persuade men to charge all their troubles on those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men offend God by the violation of Sunday, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced. "Those who destroy reverence for Sunday are preventing restoration of divine favor and prosperity." Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated. "When Ahab saw Elijah, . . . Ahab said unto him, art thou he that troubleth Israel?" 1 Kings 18:17, 18.

Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God on the earth. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of obedience to civil authorities. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment-keepers will be condemned. A false coloring will be given their words; the worst construction will be put on their motives.

Dignitaries of church and state will unite to persuade or compel all to honor Sunday. Even in free America rulers and legislators will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience which has cost so great a sacrifice will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

Servants of God, their faces shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented, publications have exerted their influence, yet many have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth. Now the truth is seen in its clearness. Family connections, church relations are powerless to stay

the honest children of God now. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.

Those who honor the law of God will be regarded as the cause of the fearful strife and bloodshed that fill the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked, and Satan will excite the spirit of hatred and persecution against all who have received the message.

### **A Faith That Endures**

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger, a faith that will not faint though severely tried. Jacob's victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, will succeed as he succeeded. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! When waves of despair sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with faith to the promises of God.

Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. Spirits of devils will go forth to the "kings of the earth" and to the whole world, to urge them to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself. They will perform miracles of healing and profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the Scriptures.

### **The Crowning Act**

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long looked to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. Satan will manifest himself as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15.

The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out, "Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves before him. He lifts up his hands and blesses them. His voice is soft, yet full of melody. In compassionate tones he presents some of the same heavenly truths the Saviour uttered. He heals diseases, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday. He declares that those who keep holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Multitudes give heed to sorceries, saying, This is "the great power of God." Acts 8:10.

### **God's People Not Misled**

But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class on whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

Furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned His people against deception on this point. "There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it

not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:24-27. See also Matthew 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This coming, there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be witnessed by the whole world.

Only diligent students of the Scriptures who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His Word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible, and the Bible only?

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<sup>1</sup> See Daniel T. Taylor, *The Reign of Christ on Earth: Or, The Voice of the Church in All Ages*, p. 33.



## Sources

In the list below, under each chapter in the current work are listed the source chapters in *The Great Controversy* that correspond to it:

Chapter 1, “Why Is There Suffering?”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 29

Chapter 2, “Hope for Triumph Over Evil”

*The Great Controversy*, chapters 30, 31

Chapter 3, “Dangerous Seductions”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 32

Chapter 4, “Everlasting Life”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 33

Chapter 5, “False Hope”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 34

Chapter 6, “True Peace”

*The Great Controversy*, chapters 7, 27

Chapter 7, “Our Only Safeguard”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 37

Chapter 8, “In Defense of the Truth”

*The Great Controversy*, chapters 3, 25, 26

Chapter 9, “Real Hope”

*The Great Controversy*, chapters 1, 17, 36, 38, 39

Chapter 10, “The Great Rescue”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 40

Chapter 11, “Victory of Love”

*The Great Controversy*, chapter 42

A revealing  
look at the  
battle between  
good and  
evil — and  
who wins.

The

Great

Hope





# Younger Generation Church

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## How it all began

YG began just after the turn of the century as a high-energy, contemporary worship service highlighting multimedia, upbeat music, and timely, creative messages – all focused on reaching young adults. Today, YG transcends age and program boundaries, making authentic efforts to foster the great commandment and great commission in new generations. [www.vimeo.com/channels/ygchurch](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/ygchurch)



## Intimacy

**We are wholeheartedly pursuing a 24/7 experience of the living GOD. Our worship is for His fame.** Each week Younger Generation Church offers a powerful worship experience, Saturday mornings, 10:15 am [Central], where we authentically gather to focus our attention and adoration on Christ Jesus. [www.YGchurch.com](http://www.YGchurch.com)



## Community

**We express best who GOD is by doing life together well. Our relationships express His love.** Younger Generation Church enjoys LIFEgroups affording our members an opportunity to build inspiring community and foster healthy relationships. We love having fun and taking time to enjoy each other's company. [www.facebook.com/ygchurch](http://www.facebook.com/ygchurch)



## Grace

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