

<“Two different types of disciples on the day of Christ’s return”> by Jeremiah

**John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.**

**21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.**

**21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?**

**21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?**

**21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

**21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?**

<There will be two types of disciples in End Times>

This time, let’s think about two types of disciples who will meet Jesus Christ when he returns. Given that we will go through the tribulation in End Times as described in the Bible, what kind of day will the day be like? This is what the scripture says.

**21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.**

This is where the Lord prophesizes about the lives of Peter and John. However, the Bible was written by the wisdom of God and has another meaning on its flipside. In this case, we can understand that this is not just about Peter and John, but all disciples in the End Times. The reason why it is fair to say so is that it describes the second coming

of Lord in **“If I will that he tarry till I come”**.

**21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.**

According to the word of the Lord, we can see that there will be two types of disciples when the Lord returns. The first group is who will die a martyr like Peter. It is clearly shown in **“when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not”**.

**21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?**

**21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?**

Now, there is another disciple called John. The lord doesn't talk about John's martyr at all. Rather, He says **“If I will that he tarry till I come”** which means Lord wants him to live until He returns. Of course it is unrealistic that John would have lived until the Lord actually returns but this illustrates the disciples who would go through the tribulation to see Jesus as He returns.

**21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?**

Again, it says **“If I will that he tarry till I come”** here. So we can see that the Bible repeatedly implies that there are disciples who would live until the Lord returns to the earth.



While Peter dies a martyr, John will live until the Lord returns

So, we can learn from here that while some disciples will die a martyr during the tribulation in End Times, others will survive to see the Lord face to face.

<Thessalonians also describes two types of people when the Lord returns >

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

**4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

**4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

**4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

**4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

**4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

Let's take a look at 4:13 to start with.

**4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

Later in this part of scripture, it says **“remain unto the coming of the Lord”** which explains that Lord is coming back again. It talks about people who are sleeping (i.e. who are going to die a martyr). Because it is about people losing their lives so it has to be a sad occasion but Paul says **“that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope”**. Why?

**4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

That is because those people will come back to life again when Jesus returns after 3 and half years at most, of the tribulation period. Peter may have died but people like him will come back again with Jesus.

**4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.**

Now, there will be another type of people. They are like John who **“are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord”**. Being alive suggests something.

The country of the beast and anti-Christ will try to wipe out the righteous Christians during the tribulation, but there will be some Christians who will survive, thanks to the Lord’s help. While they are honored Christians, they are not to receive better honor than those who died a martyr. It is what the reference **“we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep”** means.

**4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

On the day of the Lord’s return, **“the dead in Christ”** (who died a martyr) will resurrect first.

**4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

Now, some unusual things will happen to those who survived. They will be raised to the sky and meet the Lord in the air. This means that they will not experience the death. Their body will become glorified suddenly.

<Getting glorified while still alive>

Paul describes this in Corinthians.

**Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**

15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Let's take a look at this scripture.

15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Even if we survived until the last day, we couldn't inherit the kingdom of God while in the flesh. Because our flesh will become old, deteriorate, and die. It doesn't live forever.

15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed

Again, it is talking about two types of people on the day of the Lord's return. It is a mystery and says "**We shall not all sleep**", which means not all Christians will sleep (die a martyr) during the tribulation.

<We shall be changed>

Instead, many will survive until the end of tribulation and our flesh will be changed, glorified, and raised by returned Christ. That is what the Bible explains about the day of the Lord's return.

15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

People who have survived until the last moment will have their flesh changed into the

eternal body in flesh, allowing us to live forever.

Therefore, we need to understand this scripture which Paul explains as a secret; it is wrong to think that all Christians will die in the tribulation. Rather, while some will die as martyr, many will survive to see Jesus face to face and have their bodies glorified.

<What does Daniel explain about saints>

It is also obvious that not all saints will die during the tribulation as you read in Daniel. In Daniel, we read that Daniel and his friends will face the tribulation as a result of following the word of the Lord. This is a classic example of the tribulation. Daniel's three friends, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, were thrown into the furnace because they refused to worship the statue of the King. But the thing is that they didn't die because the Lord intervened and rescued them.

Daniel also was thrown into the lion's den because he didn't worship the King but he didn't die there as God closed the lion's mouth.

So, what Daniel tells us is that the saints don't necessarily die during the tribulation. The message here is that as long as we trust in God, we will be protected by Him. We need to learn about our attitude from here as we are headed to the tribulation.



People who survived until the return of Jesus will be glorified and raised

<What I learned from Saturday meeting> by E3

This time, I would like to share with you what Pastor Jeremiah recommended us to think at a discipleship meeting in June 2014. It was about "The Disciples of the Lord" and he used the scripture from Luke.

**Luke 14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,**

**25:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.**

The Bible describes the contrast between crowds and disciples. The point is how disciples lived because the church will be destroyed with the way crowds lived. The Lord described their way of life as **“a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand” (Matthew 7:26).**

Also, “the church” will be built upon the way disciples live. This is quite in contrast to the way crowds lived and described as **“a wise man, which built his house upon a rock” (Matthew 7:24).** Imagine there are many people and Jesus talks about how to live to His disciples. But there is a condition which is if you honor your parents (including pastors who are your spiritual parents) more than the Lord, you wouldn't be able to become His disciple.

This means that to desire to live like disciples is one thing and to actually put it into practice is another. We should understand the Lord's standard in this regard and accept that sometimes we have to leave behind certain things to live for Jesus.

**Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**

Here, He is talking about sacrificing yourself. Also He points out that you are unable to be His disciple unless giving up your own goals and achievements.

**Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?**

In relation to the walk of life of disciples, this scripture mentions about “tower”. It talks about calculating the money before building the tower. This illustrates someone who would like to live as a disciple but somehow thinks it couldn't be actualized.

**Luke 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down**

**first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?**

The scripture we looked before talked about building “tower”. The scripture we just read is talking about the battle against enemies. You could say that the life as a disciple requires you to be on the frontline of the battle so it may sound very cool. But what this scripture tells us is that we should stay quiet about the battle if you are not going to commit yourself into it.

**Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

“**That he hath**” is not limited to the cash and the land but includes your goals. When there are 20,000 of enemies and you have only 10,000, you will not be willing to put other 10,000. This (10,000 you are holding off) could be your reputation held by your parents and friends. You could sacrifice that to make it even otherwise your enemies will make the most of your deficit. Therefore you will never win the battle as long as you keep something important to you.

It also means “belonging”. The Lord lost a lot as well and He challenges us asking if we too are willing to lose everything to follow Him. The Lord is the role model in this. Indeed, you can say that the life as a disciple is difficult and like walking through the narrow gate. But that doesn’t give you an excuse at all.

If you are struggling to live as a disciple, it may be because you have something you can’t throw away. That is what is holding you back. This has got nothing to do with your ability. As long as you give everything you have, you can become a disciple. Sure, many people try to live like disciples but they always struggle to give literally everything and this is the problem. However, the more you give, the more you receive. This always applies to all.

I repeat again that the enemy knows what we have really well and he attacks them. But when we give, God will give us grace. The reason why some people can’t keep living as disciples is because they are reluctant to give everything. When you live in accordance with the scripture, there will be blessings.

That is what Pastor Jeremiah shared with us. Hope you would understand about “the Lord’s disciples” by now. May glory to God who always teaches us important lessons.

Amen



Building a tower