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The Parables of Jesus Christ: On Being Ready for the Returning Redeemer

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

TWENTY-SIX: On Being Ready for the Returning Redeemer (Lk. 12:35-48)

SURVEY

The Master will deal with two kinds of servants at His return:

1. The wise and watchful servant will be greatly rewarded.
2. The wicked and careless servant will be severely punished.

SIGNIFICANCE

This marks the first of five parables referring to Jesus' second coming. For the other four, see parables 26, 43, 44, and 46.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Many students of Bible prophecy believe the future return of Christ will be two-fold:

1. First, He comes in the clouds to receive all Christians.

"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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 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. 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: 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." (1 Thess. 4:13-17)

2. Finally, He comes to the earth to rule over all nations.

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev. 11:15)

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word

of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Rev. 19:11-16)

- If this view be correct, Jesus is here describing the final appearance.
- Jesus associates watchfulness with rewards during this parable and in a later one.

”Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants” (Lk. 12:37-38).

”Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.” (Mt. 24:46-47)