

Under the terms of the New Covenant, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Joel 2:31). Rather than speaking of a period of tribulation for the Jews, these prophecies spoke of the ever widening opportunity God purposed for the nations to hear the gospel and come into His Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God is a spiritual community which He has established (Dan 2:44), which will devote itself to be "close to" the Lord (Jer 30:20–21). As Hosea said, "I will call them 'My people' who are not My people...Where it was said of them, 'You are not My people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God'." (Hosea 1:10; 2:23).

TALK ABOUT 1. Jeremiah told of a **N.....C.....** which God would make with.....(Jer 31:31–34; Heb 8:8)? **2.** Jesus sealed the New Covenant with His own precious **b.....** (Luke 22:19–20)? **3.** The New Covenant made the Old Covenant obsolete True False (Heb 8:13)?

A SPIRIT OF PRAYER

God said, "I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication" (Zech 12:10). This prophesy was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21).

The Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of grace and truth." He instructs all men and women of faith (John 16:14). He teaches them how to make prayers and supplications to the Father in heaven. Paul said, "We don't know what we ought to pray for, But the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Rom 8:26).

God gives His Spirit to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ (John 3:5,8). They are "born again" by the Holy Spirit and He marks them as one of God's children (Eph 1:13). And He gives them power to overcome sin in their lives and to witness for Christ (Acts 1:7).

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A Silent Rapture



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To the Reader:

This study is about the end times. Jesus Christ will come again and “every eye will see Him.” Keep your Bible open and find the references. Read them several times. Verses are quoted from the New International Version. Invite a friend to join you and study together. You will be blessed.

A SILENT RAPTURE OR A NOISY RETURN?

Jesus Christ told His followers that He would come again to take them to heaven (John 14:2–3). Will Christ’s Second Coming be silent, or will it be a noisy? What did Jesus say His coming would be like?

He used strong words: “All who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to live (forever), and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned” (John 5:28–29). Jesus did not say a special number of believers, but “all who are in their graves...”

Some teach that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be in two stages or at two different times. First there will be “a silent rapture,” when the saints are caught away to heaven and sinners are left behind. At that time only the believers will see Him coming on the clouds!

One Bible expositor wrote, “(The rapture) will be a secret appearing (of Christ), and only the believers will know about it. His later coming will be ‘with the saints’ to rule on the earth for 1,000 years” (Roberts, “How to be Personally Prepared for the Second Coming of Christ”).

The time between Christ’s two comings is said to be “seven years,” taken from Daniel’s prophesy (Dan 9:24–26). In this interpretation, the prophesies of the Old Testament are so mixed with New Testament teaching, that it is impossible to know the one without studying the other.

I believe Paul’s statement that “the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God...” (1 Thess 4:16) is enough to take away any thoughts of a silent rapture of saints only, before a time of great tribulation begins.

Right after Paul gave this word of encouragement to the Christians, he said Christ coming would be “like a thief in the night,” followed by the destruction of all who cry “peace and safety” (1 Thess 5:2–3).

Peter gives the same sequence of thought in 2 Peter 3:1–15. He speaks of scoffers asking, “Where is this ‘coming’ He promised?” Then said, “the Lord is not slow in keeping His promise...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish...” Peter goes on to speak of “the day of the Lord” and the end of the world (2 Peter 3:10–12). The two events are joined.

TALK ABOUT 1. Is “rapture” a Bible word? **2.** What do people mean when they speak of “the Rapture”? **3.** Will Christ’s second coming be noisy (1 Thess 4:16)? **4.** Jesus said, “Keep watch!” (Matt 24:42). How should we do this?

Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matt 25:34).

Every end-time parable stressed that the separation of believers from unbelievers would be “at the end of the world” (Matt 13:49).

The Lord said the angels would gather the weeds first and “throw them into the fiery furnace. Then the righteous will shine like the sun...” (Matt 13:43).

Those who teach a “secret rapture” teach just the opposite. They say the “wheat” will be gathered first; then, seven years later, the weeds will be pulled out. Jesus said both would be left in the world until the harvest. Then He will tell the harvesters (the angels), “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat...” (Matt 13:30).

TALK ABOUT 1. The Father has given all a.....to the Son. **2.** He has appointed a day when J.....C.....will judge all men (Acts 17:31)? **3.** When will Jesus separate believers from unbelievers (Matt 13:49; 25:31)?

JACOB’S TROUBLE

Jeremiah wrote the words of the Lord concerning Israel and Judah and God’s promise to “bring back (a remnant) from captivity and restore them in the land He gave to their forefathers” (Jer 30:1–3). This is the context of the prophesy which followed: “How awful will that day be...It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it” (Jer 30:7).

In the near future, God spoke of the return of a remnant from Babylon; in the distant future God spoke of the end of the world. Jesus’ discourse in Matthew 24 does exactly the same. First He spoke of the destruction of Jerusalem which would happen 40 years later; then of the end of the world.

When Jeremiah was told to write, he was still in Jerusalem. The Chaldeans had not yet taken the city and the inhabitants of the city still had time to reflect on and obey God’s words.

Their false prophets spoke of “peace,” but there were “cries of fear and terror.” Jeremiah knew that the day of the Lord’s judgment was near (Joel 2:31; Matt 24:21). Nebuchadnezzar would break through the city walls, kill thousands and carry the survivors off to Babylon. “The whole time of the captivity was a time of Jacob’s trouble” (Matt Henry).

God promised to save Jacob (the remnant) out of his trouble (Jer 29:10–14). This promise was fulfilled when a remnant returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple (Ezra 1:1–11; 3:1–13).

When God chose to do this a second time, He would qualify those who were loyal to Him by “establishing their community before Him” (Jer 30:20). This prophesy pointed to the New Covenant community of which Jeremiah prophesied in the next chapter (Jer 31:31–34). It was directed to the house of Israel and the house of Judah – the Christian Church (Heb 8:8).

PEACE AND SAFETY OR TRIBULATION?

False teachers speak of “peace and safety” and great progress in the world. Others preach a second chance for the Jews to be saved in “a period of great tribulation.” Paul said that while they are preaching “peace and safety,” sudden destruction will come upon them (1 Thess 5:3).

Shortly before His death, Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble (tribulation, KJV). But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Following this Jesus prayed for the disciples (John 17:6–19). He prayed that the Father “not take them out of the world (of tribulation),” but protect them from the evil one while they lived in the world (John 17:15).

He continued: “My prayer is not for them (the disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe through their message...” This must include all those living today who have believed on His name (Acts 4:20; 16:31).

Believers would remain in the world, stand firm for Christ and be persecuted until the very end of time. Jesus would be with them by His Spirit as they went out to witness for Him (Matt 28:19–20; Acts 1:8).

If Jesus had prayed for believers to be taken out of the world, those who teach a ‘silent rapture’ before a period of ‘great tribulation’ would have grounds for their argument.

TALK ABOUT 1. Did Jesus promise His followers a comfortable life? **2.** What did He say they could expect? **3.** Who is with believers to help them witness and stand firm for Christ (Acts 1:8)? **4.** Were the early Christians persecuted?

SEPARATING THE GOOD FROM THE BAD

Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of God and the end of the age. The righteous (those in God’s Kingdom by faith in Christ) will be separated from those who are not in the Kingdom. This will happen when “the son of Man will send out His angels and they will weed out of His Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil” (Matt 13:41). Jesus called this event “the harvest at the end of the age” (Matt 13:39). And Jesus gave the meaning of this parable.

There will be only one harvest. This is made quite clear by the picture Jesus gave us of the final Judgment (Matt 25:31–46).

Jesus Christ will sit on His throne as Judge. He said, “the Father has appointed a day (not several days or several judgments) in which He will judge the world by that Man whom He has appointed...” (Acts 17:31).

“All the nations will be gathered before Him” (Matt 25:31–32). The nation of the Jews is included. “He (Christ) will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...”

Then the King will say to the ‘sheep,’ “Come, you who are blessed by My

DANIEL’S SEVENTY WEEKS

Daniel was taken to Babylon as a captive while he was still a young man. He served God and the King, Nebuchadnezzar, all his life. When he was an old man, God showed Daniel events that were still to come in the history of Israel. His prophecies are written in the Book of Daniel.

One day, while Daniel was praying and confessing his sin and the sins of his people, the angel he had seen in his vision (Gabriel) came to him. The angel said to him, “I have now come to give you understanding...as soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you...” (Dan 9:23).

The angel told Daniel, “Seventy sevens are decreed for your people...” (Dan 9:24 NIV). Older versions of the Bible read, “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon the holy city” (Dan 9:24, KJV).

Fortunately, later translations have recognized the problem with the earlier translation of this verse and have changed the text to “seventy sevens are determined for your people...”

The original Hebrew has “in sevens, seventy.” It is not accurate to read “weeks” in place of “sevens.” The period of time is not definite, yet commentators have built up a huge ‘theology’ on the subject of “Daniel’s seventy weeks” as they call them. A theology of man’s making!

The words “seventy sevens” probably means “periods of time.” We cannot know how long the periods will be, and no one can be sure when they began. In the ancient world, different nations used different calendars to set dates.

SIX EVENTS THAT WOULD HAPPEN

Gabriel told Daniel six things that would happen. Not all agree on the meaning of these six things. Some put them into two groups:

1. To finish or hold back sin and wrong.
2. To seal up or put away sin.
3. To wipe away all wickedness. These different words – transgression, sin and wickedness – all mean sin (Psalm 32:5). Some argue that we do not see sin put away; it is still very much with us!
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness.
5. To seal up vision and prophecy.
6. To anoint the Most Holy, or the most holy One.

The “Anointed One” speaks of Messiah-Christ. The prophet said, “He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken...” (Isaiah 53:8). Jesus came to earth to establish His Kingdom once (2:34,44–45). He was killed once! Now He reigns forever more in the hearts of His people! (Rev 1:18; 7:9).

I believe these six things or prophecies were fulfilled when Jesus Christ rose from the dead and returned to His throne in heaven (Acts 1:11).

TALK ABOUT 1. What did God say would happen to the people of Judah (Jer 25:8–11)? **2.** How did Daniel know this (Dan 9:2)? **3.** Why were God's people taken to Babylon? **4.** How did Daniel pray (Dan 9:19)? **5.** Did God answer Daniel's prayer: **a)** For the people of Judah? **b)** For the remnant who loved God (Jer 23:3)? **c)** For him to understand what would happen to the faithful?

FUTURE EVENTS OR FULFILLED PROPHECY

Those who see the events of Daniel 9:24–27 as future, say the seventy weeks are symbolic of seventy years, with each day representing a year or 490 years. They refer to Israel's wandering in the wilderness when they wandered for 40 years, one year for each day the spies were in Canaan (Num 14:34).

The New International Bible Commentary has this comment on the seventy sevens. "Daniel 9:25 begins a progressive analysis of the seventy sevens that defies final resolution."

Those who put the events of Daniel 9:25–27 into the future say that a long period of time (2000 + years) separates Daniel's 69th week which, they say, brings us to the Messiah's coming, and Daniel's 70th week.

In the 70th week, the antichrist will make a covenant with the Jews. The covenant will allow them to rebuild a temple in Jerusalem and offer again the animal sacrifices required under the law of Moses. On this the Bible is silent.

Godless men, guided by Satan, may well build another temple, but it is not God's plan and it will not please Him. Jesus Christ's once-for-all-sacrifice of Himself satisfied the demands of a righteous and just God and "took away the sin of the world" (Heb 9:12,15; John 1:29). Jesus cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" Nothing more needs to be done, nor indeed can be.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

Christians at Corinth asked Paul about the resurrection of the body: "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

Paul answered, "I tell you a mystery:

- we will not all sleep (in death)
- but we will all be changed
- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye
- for the trumpet will sound
- the dead (bodies) will be raised
- and we will be changed
- mortal to immortal" (1 Cor 15:51–53).

TALK ABOUT 1. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all sinners ___ True ___ False? **2.** What must we do to have our sins forgiven (Acts 16:31)? **3.** Does God want the Jews to build another temple in Jerusalem? Why not?

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved...for the day of judgment..." (2 Peter 3:7–10). God will burn up this earth and all that is in it. And He will judge the spirits of all men. There will be a great separation – the saved of all generations will be gathered into heaven and the ungodly will be judged and shut out of God's Kingdom. Jesus said, "Be always on the watch, and pray..." (Matt 24:42; Luke 21:36).

TALK ABOUT 1. Scoffers came into the churches and asked..... (2 Peter 3:4)? **2.** What did Peter say would happen to this earth? **3.** Does God change His mind? **4.** Why did God save Noah and his family out of the flood?

THE DAY OF THE LORD'S JUDGMENT

The Scriptures tell us that certain things will happen in the future:

- a) Sin and evil in the world will get worse (Matt 24:37).
- b) Jesus Christ will come again on the clouds (1 Thess 4:16).
- c) God's judgment will come on all mankind (2 Peter 3:7).
- d) The world and all that is in it will be burned with fire (2 Peter 3:10).
- e) The heavens will disappear with a roar (2 Peter 3:10).
- f) The city of God, the New Jerusalem will appear (2 Peter 3:13).
- g) God's patience waits for the last person to hear the gospel and be saved (2 Peter 3:15; Matt 24:14).

The Bible does not teach two resurrections, at different times in God's calendar, or many judgments. When Jesus comes again, this age of grace will be over. No more people will be saved, so believe on the Lord Jesus Christ now, while He tarries (Acts 16:31).

Jesus Christ used the Greek word 'parousia' for His second coming. He will come again and "every eye will see Him" (Rev 1:7; 1 Thess 4:16–18). When He comes, you will know! There will not be a 'silent rapture.' Non-Christians will not suddenly notice that the Christians are missing!

Jesus delays His parousia so that more people can be saved. God said, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish..." (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus also said, "And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

Since all believers look for Christ's soon return, they must live holy lives (2 Peter 3:14). They must make the best use of the time they have.

TALK ABOUT 1. Peter said he wrote to remind the Christians of what two things (2 Peter 3:1–2)? **2.** Why does Christ delay His coming again (2 Peter 3:9, 15; Matt 24:14)? **3.** Name some of the things that will happen on "the Day of the Lord" (2 Peter 3:10–13)? **4.** What should believers be doing while they wait for Jesus Christ to come again (2 Peter 3:11–12; Eph 5:19)? **5.** Will you know when He comes?

Jesus said, “If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch... So you, also, must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Matt 24:43–44; Luke 12:39–40; 1 Thess 5:2).

These words of our Lord refer to believers, not to the nature or time of His Second Coming. Christians are to “Keep watch,” always and be expecting Him to come at any moment.

Jesus Himself warned against the idea that He would come secretly. When others say, “Here is Christ,” or “He is over there,” do not believe them, He told the disciples (Matt 24:23–27).

He said His coming would be like the flood that came on the world in the days of Noah. It affected the whole world of men and women; believers (the remnant) and unbelievers saw the flood come. But only those who sheltered in the ark were saved from its waters (1 Peter 3:20; Heb 11:7).

Jesus said, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matt 24:36). Many will see Him come, but perish in their sins. The unbelievers in Noah’s day might have watched for the rains to start falling, but they did not make themselves ready. God warned them and gave them 120 years to repent. The flood came on them suddenly. They saw it with their own eyes, but they could not escape!

Jesus never hid the truth from His followers, or from the world at large. At His trial, Jesus said to the High Priest, “I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews came together. I said nothing in secret” (John 18:20).

TALK ABOUT 1. How would Christ’s second coming be like Noah’s flood (Matt 24:36)? **2.** Did Jesus try to hide what He was doing from the Jewish leaders (John 18:20)? **3.** How will Christ’s coming be like the lightning?

MEN SCOFFED AT CHRIST’S PROMISE

Peter said, “In the last days, scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this COMING He promised? ... Everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation’ (2 Peter 3:3–4).

False teachers were mocking God’s truth. They scoffed at Christ’s promise that He would come again. They said that the command to live a holy life did not matter, that the apostles got it all wrong! But prophets and apostles were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the Scriptures.

The Scriptures have all the authority of Almighty God behind them. We must believe God’s word and obey His commands. All the truths that Jesus taught and the apostles continued to teach are binding upon us as Christians.

Peter pointed to the truth of God’s word. God does not change and His word is sure. He spoke and the heavens came into being, “the earth formed out of the water” (2 Peter 3:5). At God’s word, the same waters destroyed all living things, but God saved Noah and his family from the flood.

Early Christians were concerned about their loved ones who had “fallen asleep” (1 Thess 4:13). Some among them were saying that Jesus had already come again for His people. They feared they had been left behind.

Paul assured them that Jesus had not yet come to gather God’s people. When Christ does come, no one will miss His Second Coming. “Every eye” will see Him come (Rev 1:7). Paul described for these believers what Christ’s Second Coming will be like (1 Thess 4:15–18).

To teach them about the resurrection of the body, he used a seed. Paul said, “When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be. What you sow does not come to life unless it dies” (1 Cor 15:36–37). The body that was ours, in Adam, will be forever changed.

When a seed is buried in the earth, a wonderful change takes place. The seed’s body dies and a new form (body) rises out of the earth. It is of the same kind, but different. A hard yellow corn seed comes up a soft green shoot (body).

“God gives it a body, as he has determined” (1 Cor 15:38).

- “men have one kind of flesh
- animals have another kind of flesh
- birds and fish have another.”

“There are also heavenly bodies” – stars, sun, moon – which differ in their brightness. God made them and he knows each one. But man surpasses them all because he is spirit. In this he is like God. In nature, God has given each one a different body, but none of these have a spirit. Nothing in nature can respond to God. Only men and women can know God, relate to Him and have fellowship with Him because only man has spirit.

Now we know only a little. When we get to heaven we will know, even as we are known by God (1 Cor 13:12).

TALK ABOUT 1. Paul wrote to Christians at **C**.....about the resurrection of the body (1 Cor 15)? **2.** He wrote to Christians in Thessalonica about the **S**.....**C**.....of Jesus Christ (1 Thess 4:15–18). **3.** How did Paul describe the ‘body’ that will be raised at the resurrection (1 Cor 15:42–49)? **4.** Did Paul say the Second Coming of Jesus Christ would be silent (1 Thess 4:16–18)? **5.** Do you walk and talk with Jesus every day?

A GENERAL RESURRECTION

A messenger told Jesus that His friend Lazarus was dead. Martha and Mary had buried their brother four days before (John 11:1–44). Then they had sent for Jesus, but He had not come. When Jesus did come it was too late!

Martha knew her dead brother’s body would be reunited with his spirit at the General Resurrection. She said to Jesus: “I know he (my brother) will rise again in the resurrection at the last day...” (John 11:24).

Jesus replied, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will

live..." (John 11:25). "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" All those standing near would see life overcome death. Martha understood much more than the physical event. She knew the power of God in her own life. She enjoyed 'resurrection life' through her relationship with the Prince of Life, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "If a man keeps these sayings of Mine, he (the man's spirit) shall never see death." The body of the person who believes God's promise will die, but the person's spirit will live on with Christ forever. Death will have no claim over his or her spirit. The born-again spirit will pass through death or, as Jesus said, "cross over from death to life" (John 5:24). This happens the moment the person believes. When the born-again person dies, his or her spirit will return to the father in heaven (Eccl 12:7; Heb 12:23).

TALK ABOUT 1. Lazarus died and was buried ___ True ___ False? **2.** Was resurrection of the body a new idea to Martha? Why not? **3.** What promise did Jesus give to all who believe in Him (John 5:24; 11:25). **4.** At death, what happens to a believer's spirit? **5.** When will the general resurrection take place? **6.** When Jesus Christ comes again, will you be ready (Matt 24:42)?

EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM

On that final Judgment Day all eyes will be fixed on the Messiah Christ. The aged apostle John wrote, "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him" (Rev 1:7, Zech 12:10). Those who did not repent with tears will weep, because Christ will be their Judge (Rom 2:16).

"All the nations of the earth will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory" (Matt 24:30). This proves that those who say He will only be seen by the Christians at a secret 'rapture' are teaching false doctrine.

Jesus said that His coming would be spectacular. It would be seen universally, "As the lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matt 24:27).

His coming will be noisy, open and a wonder seen by all the eyes that ever lived. God will open the eyes of all to see the glorified Christ coming to gather His own – dead eyes, living eyes, all will see the King. "All the nations of the earth" will see Him. I believe this will happen in one split second of time, just as the lightning flash is seen only for a moment (Matt 24:30–31; 25:31).

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'." (Luke 13:35).

We all have two kinds of eyes, physical eyes and the eyes of the hearts or spiritual eyes. These Pharisees saw Jesus with their physical eyes, but a veil shrouded the eyes of their hearts (2 Cor 3:14–15). Isaiah wrote, "And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it" (Isa 40:5).

Many who saw Jesus when He walked on the earth refused to believe that He was indeed the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel.

Some of the priests and leaders believed on Him. They saw Him with spiritual eyes and believed (Acts 6:7). But most rejected Him (John 1:11).

The Pharisees will see Christ again, but they will see Him as their Judge. Those who rejected Him will see Him coming in His glory, but they will not share in it. Those who received Him in His humility will share in His glory and "they will be like Him."

TALK ABOUT 1. Righteousness and J.....are the foundations of God's throne (Psa 97:2)? **2.** Will all Christ's words come true? **3.** Who will judge those who do not believe (Rom 2:16)? **4.** What did Jesus say to doubting Thomas (John 20:29)? **5.** Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? **5.** Does God bless those who doubt His promises (James 1:6–7)?

TERROR WILL STRIKE THEIR HEARTS

The sight of Christ's coming will put terror in the hearts of those who pierced Him (Rev 1:7). They rejected Him at His first coming and brought judgment on themselves (John 3:36; Matt 23:38–39). And they will reject Him to the end (Rev 16:9). The apostle John's words draw on the vision given to the prophet Zechariah. John may have been reading the prophet's writings.

In this context Zechariah said, "They will look on (to) Me, the One they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child..." (Zech 12:10).

The people of Jerusalem wept over the death of young King Josiah when he was killed in battle fighting the Egyptians on the plains of Megiddo (Zech 12:11–14). And their weeping was like the weeping of those who mourned for their young children when Jerusalem was destroyed.

In Isaiah's Servant Song, Christ is the One 'they' pierced (Isa 53:12; John 19:37), but we cannot be sure who 'they' are. Some think 'they' are the weeping people in Jerusalem, and the ones they pierced the sons of Judah who died in the battle of Megiddo.

TALK ABOUT 1. Why will some people be afraid and 'mourn' when they see Jesus "coming in the clouds" (Rev 1:7)? **2.** Who will rejoice? **3.** Which group of people will you be in? **4.** Is there any way to hide from God's eyes?

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

Jesus will come "like a thief in the night." What do these words, used several times in Scripture, actually mean? They mean that Jesus will come suddenly, when we do not expect Him and that the time of His coming is not known (Matt 24:42; Acts 1:7).