

# MYTH BUSTERS

## DAY FIVE: MYTHS ABOUT THE RETURN OF JESUS *THE PARABLE OF THE FAR COUNTRY* *MANSIONS IN HEAVEN*

Luke 19; John 14

### Introduction:

1. This week began with a study of the birth of Jesus.
2. Of course, Jesus was born into this world so He could die on the cross – shedding His blood for the forgiveness of man’s sins.
3. Following His death, Jesus was buried in a tomb from which he arose on the third day.
4. Finally, He ascended back to His Father in Heaven, with a promise that He would return.
5. There are many myths in the religious world about what will happen when Jesus returns.
6. In this lesson, we will seek to answer those myths by studying what the Bible teaches about Jesus’ second coming.

- I. The Parable of the Far Country (Luke 19:11-27)
  - A. This parable is often called the Parable of the Pounds.
  - B. The purpose of this parable is to teach about the kingdom of God.
    1. The story of Zacchaeus (vs. 1-10) shows that God loves all and wants them to be a part of His kingdom – if they will repent and obey.
      - a. This emphasizes the spiritual nature of the kingdom.
      - b. It shows the purpose of the kingdom – to seek and save the lost.
    2. The statement that Jesus was near to Jerusalem shows that the kingdom will be brought into existence by His sacrifice on the cross.
    3. The fact that they thought the kingdom “should immediately appear” shows that they misunderstood many things about it.
      - a. They thought that God’s kingdom was a material one.
      - b. They expected Jesus to claim the throne when He entered into Jerusalem (19:28-40).
      - c. Thus, this parable explains that the kingdom would not appear as they thought.
  - C. The parable teaches that the kingdom would be given to Jesus when He ascended to His Father in Heaven (cf. Dan. 7:13-14; Psa. 24:7-10; Acts 2:32-36; Eph. 1:20-23; 1 Pet. 3:21-22).
  - D. Thus, those who become citizens of that kingdom are required to be faithful until the King returns.
  - E. When the King returns, there will be a day of reckoning – judgment (2 Cor. 5:10).
    1. The faithful in the kingdom will be rewarded.
    2. The fearful in the kingdom will be punished.
    3. Those who reject the King (outside of the kingdom) will be destroyed.
  - F. Thus, we learn that Jesus will return to judge the world!

## II. Myths about the Return of Jesus

### A. **Myth One:** *Jesus is not going to return.*

1. The Bible warned that some would believe and teach this (2 Pet. 3:3-7).
2. The Bible declares plainly that Jesus will return.
3. 1 out of every 25 verses in the New Testament refers to Jesus' return!
4. The prophets predicted Jesus' return (Jude 1:14-15).
5. The angels proclaimed Jesus' return (Acts 1:11).
6. The disciples preached Jesus' return (1 Thes. 4:16-17; 2 Thes. 1:6-10; Heb. 9:27-28).
7. Jesus promised to return (John 14:1-3; Matt. 16:27; 24:27; 25:31).

### B. **Myth Two:** *The time of Jesus' return can be known.*

1. Many have tried and continue to try to predict the date of the Lord's return.
2. They claim that there are signs that tell us when Jesus will come back.
3. Generally, they find these 'signs' in three places:
  - a. **Old Testament prophecy** – but they have already been fulfilled (Heb. 1:1-2; Luke 16:16; 1 Cor. 2:7ff).
  - b. **The book of Revelation** – but they misapply symbolic, apocalyptic language that was about things that were to "shortly come to pass" (Rev. 1:1).
  - c. **Matthew 24**
    - i. This chapter is divided into two sections.
    - ii. Verses 1 – 35 deal with the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome in AD 70.
    - iii. Verses 36 – 51 deal with the end of time and the second coming of Jesus (cf. 25:1-46).
    - iv. The so-called 'signs of the times' are given in the first section and concern the destruction of Jerusalem.
    - v. In fact, He focused their attention on one sign – the abomination of desolation, referring to idolaters in the Temple of God (Dan. 9:24-27).
    - vi. Luke's account explains it clearly: "*And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh*" (Luke 21:20).
    - vii. Verses 29-31 describe the fall of Jerusalem as a judgment (or, coming) of the Lord.
    - viii. Verse 34 emphasizes that the message and its fulfillment were for THAT generation.
4. However, when it comes to the end of the world, Jesus declared, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man..." (24:36).
5. No man knows when the Lord will return; and, therefore, no one can predict it (1 Thes. 5:2; Matt. 25:13; Mark 13:34-35; Luke 12:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:10).
6. Instead, all must prepare for it (Matt. 24:37-51; 1 Thes. 5:1).

### C. **Myth Three:** *Jesus is coming back secretly in the Rapture.*

1. Some claim that Jesus will return for the saved (both living and dead) in a secret, silent coming that they call the Rapture.
2. In the Rapture, they say that the saved will vanish from the face of the earth and ascend up to Heaven to be with the Lord.
3. It should be noted that the word 'rapture' is never found in the Bible.
4. This belief comes from a misunderstanding of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
5. However, this passage does not teach a secret, silent coming of Jesus.

6. Instead, there is a “shout,” “the voice of the archangel,” and the sounding of the “trump of God.”
  7. This passage also teaches that those who are “caught up together” will be with the Lord forever.
    - a. Those who believe in the Rapture say that those who are ‘raptured’ will be with the Lord for 7 years.
    - b. During that time there will be a great tribulation upon the earth.
    - c. After the 7 years, those who were raptured will be returned to earth to live for 1,000 years in the Lord’s kingdom.
    - d. None of these things are taught in the Bible!
    - e. Many symbolic passages are misinterpreted to fit this fanciful theory.
  8. The return of Jesus will be...
    - a. Personal (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
    - b. Reasonable (Acts 1:11)
    - c. Visible (Rev. 1:7; 1 John 3:2)
    - d. Audible (1 Thes. 4:16)
    - e. Powerful (2 Thes. 1:7-9)
  9. There will be only one resurrection – in which both the righteous and wicked are raised (John 5:28-29; 11:24; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:23-26).
  10. There will be only one Day of Judgment – in which both the righteous are rewarded and the wicked condemned (Acts 17:30-31).
  11. There will be only one return of Jesus – for the entire world (Rev. 1:7; 2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Tim. 6:13-14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; 1 Cor. 15:52; etc.).
- D. Myth Four: *Jesus is coming back to establish an earthly kingdom.***
1. Many teach that Jesus came the first time to establish an earthly kingdom.
  2. However, they say, because the Jews rejected Him as their King, He was unable to accomplish this goal.
    - a. Yet, this is exactly what the Jews wanted (Luke 19:38; John 12:12-13; Acts 1:6).
    - b. They even tried to make Him their King (John 6:14-15).
    - c. But, Jesus declared that His kingdom was not of this world – that is, it was spiritual rather than physical (John 18:36; cf. Luke 17:20-21).
  3. This doctrine makes Jesus a failure.
    - a. It means that God’s prophecies and promises from the Old Testament were wrong.
    - b. It means that both God the Father and Jesus the Son were wrong when they stated that the kingdom would be established.
    - c. It means that the Holy Spirit was wrong when He inspired men to write those words.
    - d. It means that the Bible was incorrect and cannot be trusted.
    - e. Without doubt, a doctrine like this must be rejected!
  4. Jesus succeeded in establishing His kingdom – a spiritual kingdom rather than a physical one.
    - a. He promised that some who heard Him speak would live to see the kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1).
    - b. The kingdom came with power on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 47).
    - c. The church is the kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19).
    - d. Thus, Christians are in the kingdom (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9).
  5. Jesus is already sitting and reigning on David’s throne (Acts 2:29-36).

6. Therefore, He is not coming back to establish an earthly kingdom.
  7. Instead, He will deliver the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
- E. **Myth Five:** *Jesus is coming back reign on the earth for 1,000 years.*
1. Many teach that there will be a literal Millennium – 1,000 year reign of Jesus on the earth.
  2. This is based on a misunderstanding and misapplication of Revelation 20 and its use of the phrase “thousand years.”
  3. This is a highly symbolic chapter in a highly symbolic book – and, symbols are not to be taken literally.
    - a. In this chapter there is a dragon, a key, a chain, a seal, and many other things that are symbols – and not understood to be literal.
    - b. The same is true of the 1,000 years – this is not a literal period of time.
  4. Jesus is already reigning over His kingdom, the church.
  5. When He comes back it will be to judge the world, not to set up a kingdom upon it (John 5:22; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:11-12).
  6. In fact, when He returns, the earth (along with the rest of the universe) will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10-12)!

### III. Mansions in Heaven

(John 14:1-6)

- A. Jesus is coming again!
- B. He is coming to raise the dead (John 5:28-29; Phil. 3:20-21).
- C. He is coming to judge the world (John 5:22; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:11-12).
- D. He is coming to deliver the kingdom (the church) to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
- E. This means that the faithful will be taken to Heaven, to dwell in the presence of God forever!
- F. John 14 gives a beautiful description of Heaven...
  1. It is a place that is prepared by the Lord.
  2. It is a place that is prepared for the faithful and saved.
  3. It is a place where the Lord dwells.
  4. It is a place where the Father dwells.
    - a. It is called the Father’s house.
    - b. In the Father’s house there are many mansions.
    - c. This means that there are many dwellings.
    - d. Likely, it refers to Heaven as a mansion with many rooms.
    - e. This indicates that there is a place for all the saved to live in the Father’s house forever.
  5. It is a place to which we can know the way.
- G. Making it to Heaven will be like coming home!
- H. Don’t you want to go to Heaven?