

Have you ever felt the Lord speak to you or felt the Holy Spirit guide your thoughts? Maybe in those late nights when you can't sleep or are awakened to something on your heart you feel the Lord wants you to write down to share with others. Some have even said, they are not sure where their ideas come from when they need to tell a story in church or to some friends on a topic of Jesus or the Bible. The idea is just come to them, and they tell others they felt the Lord leading. God will use every willing and able person in any way he deems fit to share the good news to the world. Writers are just one vessel in since the beginning he has used prophets, average joes, disciples, apostles and over the years since the Bible was written he still uses pastors, angels, writers, singers and who met her to spread the gospel.

When we open our minds and hearts, Jesus will not only guide us to a better understanding through these people, but He will also use you. As we read this book pray and allow Jesus to help you see and understand how everything has unfolded in God's time and in the way He has planned. We have been promised this world is only temporary and what is to come will be so glorious and anytime better we can imagine. But this begins when we open our minds and hearts and allow Jesus in.

As you read along each chapter you will see as in the previous books, I quote an author Ellen G. White. She was a vessel mightily used by God to help us further understand the Bible. As she wrote she allowed the Holy Spirit to lead her words like the Bible authors of the past and many Christian writers have done since. While writing the last few chapters I relied more on her words alongside the Bible to help me see and understand more clearly things that happen around that time. God allowed her to see the bigger picture to help us understand more than just what the Bible authors penned. Her words coincide with scripture but the picture becomes clearer so we can learn and grow more in Jesus and see how His love unfolds more clearly. She never takes away from the Bible only enhances each thought and stories in a way she felt the Holy Spirit and pressed her to write.

Just like Joseph dreams, Jacob's dreams and how God spoke to Abraham, Isaac, Noah, Moses and many more in the Bible. As God showed Paul and John visions of things that happened or was to come, God chose to use Ellen White to help us understand more of the things to come. As we now read more of Heaven and a new earth, let's keep our hearts and minds open to also understand this beautiful promise of things to come when Jesus said, "I will create a new heaven and a new earth and will dwell with you forever."

## Chapter One- Why Jesus Came

We began this series learning who Jesus was, how He represented who God was, and how He is in our lives. Our second book expanded on what Jesus taught while here on earth and how we, as Christians, can live a more Christ centered life and how our character can be more like Jesus and how we can shine the light of Jesus to others by our words, actions, and sharing the good news of Jesus and salvation.

In this book we will look at a few more parables of Jesus regarding the Kingdom of God and how we play into God's Kingdom. We will walk with Jesus during His final days on earth and uncover the greatest promise in the Bible, salvation. We will learn about the promises of Jesus and His second coming and look to the future of a home in Heaven.

Let's begin with a simple question, why did Jesus come, what was His end goal, what did He come to accomplish?

We know Jesus came to seek and save the lost and to share who His Father was. As we study God's Word, we can learn so much more of what Jesus' time on earth accomplished for us and our restored relationship with God our Father and Creator.

Jesus came to be our Sin Bearer- 1 John 3:5: Yes, Jesus came to teach and be an example to us, but as we read in 1 John, He came to bear sins and take the punishment we deserved. Jesus came so we could be made righteous before God- 2 Corinthians 5:21. By dying for our sins Jesus released us from the penalty of death from sins- Romans 6:23.

## Chapter Two- The Kingdom of Heaven- Part 1

Let's first define the phrase "the Kingdom of heaven" since Jesus quotes it many times. While on earth Jesus was referring to His dominion as the Messiah, now it has become something spiritual that exists in our hearts as believers in Jesus. Jesus lives in our hearts. When Jesus comes again to take us to live with Him, the Kingdom will become physical, Jesus establishing His throne on the new earth.

Jesus is showing all who believe in Him and God, their Kingdom lives in the hearts who put their trust in them. And as the good news spreads so will God's Kingdom. Then the day will come when Jesus comes again to take all who have followed Him to Heaven where their Kingdom is established.

In all of Jesus' teachings His main focus was in sharing the good news and inviting everyone to accept it. The good news that one day Jesus would come again and establish His Kingdom among those who have chosen to follow the savior and once and for all rid this world of satan and all evil. Jesus' teachings were taught to help us believe He would come again and establish God's government. The requirement from us is simply believe and repent.

Every one of us comes from our Creator and whether we accept the good news or not He lives in all of us, and all have the same opportunity of forgiveness and salvation- Luke 17:20-21. It now becomes our choice to accept Jesus and the gospel or reject Him. But He is coming back to establish His Kingdom and all who do not choose Him will perish. This is why Jesus' purpose was to seek and save the lost and teach them about God's Kingdom.

In this chapter we are going to dive into many shorter parables and uncover the meaning behind them and how they are like the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus once told His disciples that even though He spoke in parables the world could relate to not everyone would understand their meanings. It was because there were some who had no interest or regard for the things of God. The parables were meant for those who had and still have a genuine interest in hunger for God. In these parables those people would understand the divine truths. For those with willing ears the parables became a blessing. Let's see what we can learn as we move forward.

**Matthew 13:31-32, mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19**

**The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed....**

Why a mustard seed, what is its significance? To begin with we know Jesus used many objects people could relate to and understand. Even today we can still understand the concept of seeds and how they grow.

We know when we plant one small seed in the ground it grows big and produces much. Well, that is the same of a mustard seed. The difference of a mustard seed is that it is very tiny yet when it grows it grows large and in abundance, up to 10 feet tall.

Jesus uses this comparison to explain the amazing growth of God's Kingdom. In other words, although Jesus started sharing the good news of God with only a handful of followers, like a single mustard seed. When those few nurture others and continue to spread the gospel God's message will spread and grow large like a mustard plant. The influence of the Kingdom will spread worldwide and everyone who accepts God's message will benefit.

Our history has shown this parable to be true. God's church has grown at an explosive rate for centuries. The gospel of Jesus has become a source of shelter and a place of blessings. When Jesus returns his Kingdom will truly have flourished like the mustard plant.

## Chapter Seven- The Final Days

Most countries have a certain memorial holiday they celebrate once a year. For the United States we celebrate 4th of July. It is a time to remember and celebrate our freedom! We remember how we got to the point of freedom and celebrate each year to keep that memory alive in our hearts as Americans.

From reading the gospels you know Jesus came to seek and save the lost. His mission was to share the love of His Father and bring salvation to a world lost in sin.

We have come to a point of the gospels where Jesus' mission is about to be fulfilled. In a matter of 24 hours, He would die for all who have sinned and all who would sin to come. A debt that once and for all would seal the fate for satan and open the door of restoring God to His creation.

Surely this is cause for celebration. There is nothing more important for Christians than to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us at His crucifixion so we could be free from the penalty sin causes us.

Before we dive into this beautiful supper with our Lord and Savior let's look at one other thing. We may call it the Lord's supper but in Greek the meaning is 'Thanksgiving'. These hours the disciple spent with Jesus then wrote about for us to read is not just a story for entertainment. The Lord's supper held a deeper significance, and we should not take it for granted. This was not

meant as merely a memorial we celebrate in church to remember Jesus' death and resurrection. When we partake of the celebration in our own church be it weekly, once a month, or quarterly, we are declaring our continual dependence on Jesus and reminding ourselves of His promised return.

Let's begin our day. We can find this part of Jesus' life in all four gospels. Matthew 22, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 13.

Imagine yourself having a wonderful week. All seems to be falling into place and everyone seems to be getting along. In John 12:12-16 we read how the Passover week was beginning in Jerusalem and Jesus makes quite a triumphal entry. On a donkey He enters the city and there are crowds lining the streets laying down palm branches and their cloaks for Jesus to go over. They are rejoicing and shouting, "Hosanna, praise God, bless the King of Israel."

In just three years Jesus' ministry had made an impact on many who soon believed in Jesus and that He was the Messiah. Many began to follow Him and join in spreading the good news, v. 17. Even those from other places came to see and serve Jesus, v. 20-22. Seems like a great way to start a celebration, right?

### **Jesus predicts his death: John 12:23-26, 35-36**

## Chapter Eight- Pathos (Suffering)

### **Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46, John 14-17**

As Jesus concludes the meal with His friends, His disciples, we read in John 14-16 how Jesus speaks words of comfort to them, promises them they would have the Holy Spirit and then talks about things they will go through because they have chosen Jesus. And all this they/we have been given one of the best promises. "I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have defeated the world."

Matthew and Mark record that they concluded with the evening with singing hymns and then left to go to the garden Jesus frequently liked to pray at. John 17 add an entire chapter of a prayer given by Jesus for Himself, His disciples, and for us as we strive to serve Jesus. We are not told exactly when Jesus prayed this prayer, but we do know it was that evening before His recorded prayer in Gethsemane.

Here in Gethsemane, we hear the most desperate hours of anguish Jesus felt in His life on earth. Here we read Jesus asks three of His disciples, Peter, James and John to join Him as He goes to pray. He asks them to stay not far away from Him as He went to pray and to stay awake and pray for Him.

Jesus' heart was heavy and full of sorrow. Not because His mission was about to be fulfilled, not because of the death He knew He would face. It was the idea of bearing the sins of the world- 1 Peter 2:24. Jesus had lived thirty-three years now and was able to see with His own eyes and the results of sin, He felt the pain as He watched those suffer around Him, He knew the punishment of sin and He knew He was going to be the slaughtered lamb who would take all of

that pain, suffering and punishment so we could have the forgiveness and salvation of our Father promised.

## Chapter Ten- Thy Will Be Done

**Matthew 27:32-61, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-54, John 19:17-37**

When we read the gospels, this is the darkest saddest moments with Jesus. Yet, at the same time it is a time of rejoicing. Our Savior has been able to fulfill His purpose on this earth and not only do we now have a new covenant and way to forgiveness, we also have the joy that Satan has been defeated and one day we will have salvation and be freed from a world of sin, violence, sickness, pain, and all forms of evil. As our hearts hurt for what Jesus had to bear we can rejoice that He has been rightfully restored to heaven and we have become heirs to His Kingdom.

Jesus was hurried to Calvary. Among the jeers and shouts of the crowd He had to walk to Golgotha carrying the cross on His shoulders that He would hang from. The weight of His cross was almost too much to bear against His beaten body and our Savior fell to the ground. Seeing they were getting no where a guard looked among the crowd for someone else to carry the cross. This was to fall on Simon the Cyrenian. Although his sons were disciples of Jesus, Simon himself had not yet accepted Jesus as his Savior. Later Simon was grateful for this burden for the cross he was forced to carry, and it became the means of his conversion. It was the event of this day and the words spoken by Jesus that led his heart to accept Jesus as the son of God and his Redeemer.

In the darkness of Calvary, we see Isaiah 53 fulfilled. Among the crowd there were still a few hoping to see Jesus save Himself and take the place as their Messiah, they had yet to fully understand that Jesus' death was their redemption. There were also those glad to see His death, also not understanding what His death was

## Chapter Twelve- A Glorious Day!

Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring, Jesus is coming again! Cheer up, ye pilgrims, be joyful and sing; Jesus is coming again!

Our Savior is coming again, He Himself gave us this promise. John 14:1-3, "Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am."

Jesus gave us no doubt at the Manor of His coming, "After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud hid him from their sight. As he was going, they were looking into the sky. Suddenly, two men wearing white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus, whom you saw taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go." - Acts 1:9-11.

Jesus also promises every eye shall see Him, “Look, Jesus is coming with the clouds, and everyone will see him, even those who stabbed him. And all peoples of the earth will cry loudly because of him. Yes, this will happen! Amen.”