

The Story of Jesus: His Descent

(Lesson 72)

Introduction:

1. The Lord's instruction to "search the Scriptures" in John 5:39 is the key to achieving the growth mentioned in 2 Peter 3:18.
2. In this lesson we are especially concerned with the fact that *"the Lord himself shall descend from heaven"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
3. Before studying passages that relate to Jesus' descent, let us consider several matters pertaining to . . .

Discussion:

I. JESUS' ASCENSION

- A. After He was resurrected, Jesus was with His disciples for 40 days (Acts 1:1-3).
- B. At the end of this 40-day period Jesus ascended to heaven (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51).
- C. According to Acts 1:9, He ascended in a cloud.
- D. On the basis of this information, let us turn our attention to . . .

II. JESUS' DESCENT

- A. Jesus said that He will return **from** heaven and take His followers **to** heaven (John 14:2-3).
- B. No one knows when Jesus will descend from heaven (Mark 13:32-33).
- C. The Scriptures do reveal that:
 1. Jesus will descend in the same manner He ascended (Acts 1:10-11)
 2. everyone will see Jesus when He descends (Revelation 1:7)
 3. the angels will accompany Jesus (Matthew 16:27)
 4. the dead will be raised (John 5:28-29)
 5. everyone will be judged
 - a. Matthew 25:31-33
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:10
 6. everything will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10).
- D. According to the New Testament, the Lord's followers are to:
 1. be prepared for the coming of Christ (Matthew 24:44)
 2. wait for the Lord's return (1 Corinthians 1:7)
 3. love the Lord's appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
 4. look for the Lord's appearing (Titus 2:13)
 5. pray for the Lord to descend (Revelation 22:20).