

Jesus Christ's Last Instructions To His Disciples – Luke 24:36-49

Luke 24:36 [New King James] *“Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’”*

Do **not** overlook the gracious words which Jesus Christ introduces Himself to His disciples *“peace to you.”*

Jesus Christ had already told us how this peace would come to all His disciples [**John 14:25-29; Philippians 4:6-7**] through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

This greeting was a wonderful comment when we consider the men to whom it was addressed, to eleven disciples, who three days before had shamefully forsaken Jesus Christ and fled. They had forgotten their promises and willingness to die for their faith in Him.

All of them had proved to be backsliders and cowards. But Jesus Christ did not say one word of rebuke.

However great our sins we never need to be afraid of going to our Saviour seeking forgiveness, for in Jesus Christ there is mercy enough and to spare, [Psalms 130:1-4].

In the same way, true Christians should use forgiving and comforting words to their brethren, [Colossians 3:12-15].

This greeting of peace implied that a great victory had been won over Satan the ruler of this world, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19] and peace with God was won for all humanity.

The prophet Zechariah speaks of this coming peace to this world, [Zechariah 6:13] in which there was no peace, [Zechariah 8:10, 16, 19].

Zechariah 9:9-10 [New King James] *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. **He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.**”*

Jesus Christ will speak peace to all the nations at His Second Coming.

The angels proclaimed “peace on earth” at the birth of Jesus Christ, [Luke 2:13-14].

The proclamation that the 70 disciples that Jesus sent out included peace for every house they entered, [Luke 10:5].

Peace was the first word that Jesus Christ spoke when He appeared among His disciples after His resurrection and the legacy which Jesus Christ left and gave to the apostles on the night before He was crucified, [John 14:27].

Peace is the main ingredient of the gospel message which was brought from God the Father by the Prince of Peace, [Isaiah 9:6].

All of Paul's letters begin with the gracious wish of peace to those to whom they are addressed.

Luke 24:36-43 [New King James] *“Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.”*

The reassurance given to the apostles is recorded for all true Christians to have total belief in the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ and His victory over death.

Luke 24:44 [New King James] *“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’”*

There are three major divisions of the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, the prophets and the Psalms.

The Ten Commandments were upheld by Jesus Christ as well as being kept perfectly.

Matthew 5:17-19 [New King James] *“Do **not** think that I came to **destroy** the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to **fulfil**. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

The Greek word translated “destroy” is “*kataluō*” meaning disintegrate, break up, **dissolve or put off**, but to “*fulfil*” Greek word “*plērōō*” meaning to **establish, illustrate, and explain its highest meaning** both by my life and doctrine.

The prophets and Psalms –

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 [New King James] *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.’”*

Referring directly to the role of Jesus Christ a prophet likened to Moses who spoke the words of the Creator God [the “rock” of the Old Testament] Jesus Christ, [**1 Corinthians 10:1-6; 1 Corinthians 3:11**].

Isaiah 9:6-7 [New King James] *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. **Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end**, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

Direct prophecy of the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the bringer of peace to humanity, [Isaiah 59:8; Romans 3:11-18] the suffering of Jesus Christ, [Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalms 22:1-18].

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, [**Psalms 16:9-11; Isaiah 53:10-11**].

Luke 24:45-49 [New King James] *“And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to*

*suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, **beginning at Jerusalem**. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’”*

Jesus Christ did not open up the disciples’ understanding without the Old Testament scriptures but knew that this could not happen without the Holy Spirit that He had promised, [**verse 49**].

This also was promised by the Old Testament prophets, [**Isaiah 44:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28-29**].

Acts 2:1-4 [New King James] “*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

The fulfilment of this promise, [**John 14:26**].

Notice the Holy Spirit had not been available to all humanity until this time, only to selected servants of God in the nations of Israel and Judah.

Also note we have to be “clothed” with the Holy Spirit, that is putting on something we do not naturally possess, [Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:53; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 3:9-10].

“Beginning at Jerusalem” [Luke 24:47] – this teaches that the apostles and first teachers of the gospel message should not shrink from offering salvation to the worst and greatest sinners, those who had physically put Jesus Christ on the cross or cried out for His crucifixion.

Also salvation was first offered to the Jews, hardened, unbelieving as they were, they were still “*loved on account of the patriarchs,*” [**Romans 11:28**] and were **not** to be despised.

“In His name” [Luke 24:47] – that is by His [Jesus Christ’s] authority and character, in virtue of the atonement made by Him, for on what other name could the inhabitants of the earth expect remission of sins?

John 1:1-4, 14 [New King James] “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*” ... “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

“In the beginning was the Word ...”

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Word existed before there was any created thing, the life that is in every human being and animal originated from Him.

What was before creation must be eternal, [**Revelation 1:4-8; Revelation 21:6; Revelation 22:13**] and of greater worth than everything that He created and gave life to.