

# Confrontation, Crisis and Commission

## Chapter 18

### Audio lesson: New Testament 18



Objective: To describe the last events in Jesus' earthly life and ministry.



*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

—Matthew 28:18-20

As Jesus taught in Jerusalem in the week before His crucifixion, He encountered the religious leaders in several hostile confrontations. Jesus spoke very harsh words about the corrupt Jewish leadership and told them that the kingdom would be taken out of Israel's hands because they had rejected Him – the Messiah.

Jesus gave many prophecies about the future of Jerusalem and about His return. He said that His second coming will be spectacular, like a flash of lightning across the sky. But He did not predict when He would return and said that it would be when we are not expecting it. Nevertheless, we are to watch for the signs of the times and make sure that when He comes, He will find us faithfully serving Him. His coming will be judgment upon those who do not believe and a great celebration for His followers.

When Jesus was arrested and crucified, all of His disciples fled. But they came back together after His resurrection, and before He left them, He commissioned them to go into the world with the gospel and make many more disciples.



1. True or **false**? After the cleansing of the temple, Jesus' relationship with the religious authorities got much better.
2. True or **false**? Jesus taught that His followers would not need to pay taxes.
3. True or **false**? Jesus could never think of a good response to the religious leaders' arguments.
4. True or **false**? The Great Commission to go and preach the Gospel is only for pastors and evangelists.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.*

5. Which commandment did Jesus say was the greatest?
  - a. Give ten percent of your income to the church.
  - b. Love God and love your neighbor.**
  - c. Do not commit adultery.
  - d. Do not judge or you will be judged.
6. What was Jesus' philosophy of leadership?
  - a. The church should have a strict hierarchy.
  - b. All Christians are equal brothers and sisters.**
  - c. Because everyone is a servant, the church should have no teachers or leaders of any kind.
  - d. Only trained priests should be leaders in the church.
7. What did Jesus call the corrupt religious leaders? (*choose all that apply*)
  - a. Hypocrites**
  - b. Whitewashed tombs**
  - c. Honest but mistaken men
  - d. Sons of hell**
  - e. Prophets worthy of respect
8. According to Jesus, when will the end of the world be?
  - a. When the temple is destroyed
  - b. When everyone in the world has accepted Him
  - c. When Satan decides to surrender
  - d. He does not say, but He gave several signs to watch for.**
9. What are the signs that Jesus' return is near (see Matthew 24:4-14)? (*choose all that apply*)
  - a. Many will come and say they are the Christ—God's Messiah.**
  - b. Wars and rumors of wars**
  - c. Famines**
  - d. Earthquakes**
  - e. Persecution of His followers**
  - f. False prophets will deceive many.**
  - g. The Gospel will be preached in the whole world.**

10. What will Jesus' return be like?
- a. Very secret. He may have already come.
  - b. Spectacular and obvious to everyone**
  - c. A great celebration for the whole world
  - d. A gradual process
11. Which of the following did Jesus pray the night before He went to the cross?
- a. "Not My will but Yours be done."**
  - b. "I refuse to drink this cup."
  - c. "My will and Yours are always the same."
  - d. "Please tell me Your will so I can decide if I want to do it."
12. What is the meaning of communion, or the Lord's Supper?
- a. It is a secret initiation ritual into the church.
  - b. It is a memorable picture of Jesus' sacrifice.**
  - c. It is an incantation to evoke Jesus' presence.
  - d. It is a prayer that only pastors and priests should pray.
13. What was the greatest sign that Jesus did to prove He was God?
- a. He made food to feed thousands of people.
  - b. He healed everyone who had a disease.
  - c. He rose from the dead as He said He would.**
  - d. He cast out demons.
14. What does the Great Commission tell us to do?
- a. Establish Christian governments
  - b. Force people to obey the commandments
  - c. Go into all the world and make disciples**
  - d. Increase church membership



Are you looking forward to the return of Jesus? Why? In what ways do you see the Great Commission being fulfilled? In what ways do you think God wants you to participate in the Great Commission?

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Thank God for His promise that He is going to come again to take His followers to heaven. Thank God for the work of His followers who have spread the Gospel around the world. Ask Him to send more workers into the harvest—and to help you discover your role in the Great Commission and thank Him that He has promised to always be with you.



## Going Deeper

1. When Jesus says, as recorded in Matthew 24, that even He does not know when He is coming, and He says in the first chapter of Acts that it is not for His disciples to know the times and the seasons which only the Father knows, how should that affect our attitude toward the chronology of these events? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In light of the fact that Jesus told us that one of the signs of the times is that the Gospel must first be preached in all the nations, and Peter tells us in Second Peter 3 that we should live in such a way as to hasten His coming again, what could we be doing to hasten that day? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Since the second coming is the only hope of this world and the blessed hope of the church, are you telling the world and the church that He is coming again, or are you like the men in the first chapter of Acts who are gazing up in the air when you have been given a Great Commission? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20) Jesus charged His followers to make disciples, baptize those disciples, and teach those disciples everything He commanded the disciples to observe about Him. Have we fulfilled the commandments of that Commission until we teach a new disciple all the things we have observed about Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How long does it take to teach a new disciple these things, and does this not mean having a relationship with those disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Is the church, and are you and I, implementing and obeying these commandments in the Great Commission? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How did the apostles obey these aspects of the Great Commission, as recorded in the second chapter of the book of Acts? \_\_\_\_\_

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