

Occasional Update #25

31 August 2024

Who's coming? Whoever will ...

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come !" And let him that hears say, "Come !" And let him that is thirsty **come !** And **whoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.

John 3:15-16

Whoever believes in Him [the Son of Man – Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus], that **whoever** believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Mark 8:34

Jesus said to them, "**Whoever will come** after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow Me.**"

Mark 10:21-22

Jesus looked straight at him with love, and said, "You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then **come and follow Me.**" When the man heard this, gloom spread over his face, and he went away sad, because he was very rich. [and not willing]

Joshua 24:14-15

Joshua said, "Honour the LORD and serve Him sincerely and faithfully. Get rid of the gods which your ancestors used to worship in Mesopotamia and in Egypt, and serve only the LORD. **If** you are **not** willing to serve Him, **then choose today** who you will serve, the gods your ancestors worshiped in Mesopotamia, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are now living. As for me and my family, **we will serve the LORD.**"

2 Chronicles, chapters 6 and 7, describe further the need for us to be one of those people who hear God's call to "**Come and follow Me**", and be **willing** to do what He calls us to.

God is not a tyrant – He wants what is best for us; He knows what is best for us; and He can bring it to pass! So, the most sensible thing any person can do is to do what God says – through the Bible, Jesus' teaching and example, or in other ways – and give thanks to Him for the results! (See Psalm 139)

In the two chapters mentioned above, Solomon is praying at the dedication of the Temple (6:22-40) and God replies (7:12-22). Notice how frequently they use the following pattern:

If (or when) the people *choose* to do what is right, **then** there will be good results. *But*
If not, then there may be undesirable consequences.

For example, Solomon prayed (6:26-27)

"**If / When** the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against You; **If** they pray toward this place, and confess Your name, and turn from their sin, when You afflict them; **then** hear from heaven, and forgive the sin of You servants, and of your people Israel, when You taught them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain upon Your land, which You have given to Your people for an inheritance."

God replied (7:13-14)

"**If** I shut up heaven so that there is no rain, or **if** I command the locusts to devour the

land, or **if** I send pestilence among My people; **If** my people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

In the Garden of Eden there were two trees – the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were told that **if** they ate from the latter tree **then** they would know good and evil, and they would die. But **if not**, the fruit of the other tree was eternal Life! They disobeyed and suffered the consequences – spiritual separation from God and, later, physical death. There is no mention of them repenting; they were put out of the Garden of Eden and never returned.

- ***There was no sin in Paradise until they disobeyed God.***
- ***There is no sin in Heaven, and never will be.***
- ***Heaven would not be Heaven if unsaved, unrepentant sinners were there.***
- ***No sinner will enter the gates of Heaven unless*** they have been born again (John 3:1-21) through true repentance, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, forgiveness through His shed blood, and God’s love, grace and mercy.

Jesus said, “Follow Me”. **Who’s coming? Whoever will !** *The choice is ours!* Some people heard Jesus’ call, ‘**Come**’ and chose to follow Him; others were also called but chose (for various reasons, or excuses) not to follow Him. Only those who *choose to follow Him* are His followers.

Let us pray that people will hear Jesus’ call, “Come to Me” and will be ready and willing to follow after Him.

May they call upon the Lord, for no matter what reason, and hear His voice:

“Call unto Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. (Jeremiah 33:3)

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