

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 4



*Contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once delivered  
to the saints  
Jude 1:3*

## THE LORD COMETH WITH TEN THOUSANDS OF HIS SAINTS

*Scripture Text: Jude 14*

The last lesson concluded with a study of the phrase *behold, the Lord cometh*. In this lesson we want to consider it a little more, along with the remaining phrase: *with ten thousands of his saints*.

In the world, Christians often feel that they are few. However, this prophecy reveals that there are many who have been God's saints. On the Judgment Day, those who have already stepped from this life will return with the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).*

### The Lord's Return

**Behold, the Lord cometh.** As we learned previously, the Prophet Enoch declared that the Lord would come in the last days. We are still waiting for this event. However, we *are* living in the last days, and **2 Peter 3:3-4** declares that in the last days scoffers will come asking, "Where is the promise of his coming?" The coming of the Lord is an established biblical fact. Jesus spoke of it in His final words in **Matthew, Chapters 24, 25, and 26**. Many other Scriptures tell of Christ's coming as well, so even in the face of modern skepticism, we can see that this is a clear biblical teaching.

### The Countless Multitude

**With ten thousands.** Why is this particular phrase used? **Revelation 7:9** tells us that the saints are a great, numberless multitude. In **Genesis 15:5** God said to Abraham, "Look now toward heaven, and tell [or try to count] the stars, if thou be able to number them . . . So shall thy seed be." **Genesis 32:12** says, "I will . . . make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude."

Why is a numerical expression used in the lesson text when the number of the saints is without number? The words used in the English text are *ten thousands*. In Greek this number is not meant to be taken literally. It is an expression. The actual Greek word that was used, *myriads*, means "a myriad, an innumerable amount." The Emphatic Diaglott translates the phrase *ten thousands* as "with his Holy Myriads."

John described those around the throne in **Revelation 5:11** by saying, "The number of them, was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." This phrase in The Emphatic Diaglott reads, "The number of them was Myriads of Myriads, and Thousands of Thousands." The word *myriads* means "an immense number: an indefinitely large number." In English, if we wanted to express an innumerable amount, we would say *millions and millions*. Since there is no Greek word for *millions*, it is expressed as *myriads* or *ten thousands*.

### Saints Will Be Avenged

**His saints.** When Jesus comes again, He will come with all the departed *saints*—He will not be alone. Jude brought up this fact when he was dealing with apostasy because apostates always claim that the saints are wrong. The Judgment Day will reveal who really *is* with the Lord. Those who have gone to their graves slandered by heretics and apostates will be vindicated, or avenged, on that day. Their very appearance with the Lord will serve as an eternal confirmation of the truth for which they stood. The notable absence of any

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apostates in the ranks of God's people will serve as the final denunciation of their apostate preaching and practices.

The sad fact is, many apostates will do as Jesus said they would in **Matthew 7:22-23**. They will say: "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name have done many wonderful works?"

To be apostates, ones had to have known truth. To have "cast out devils," they could not have been of Satan at that time. **Matthew 12:26** tells us why: "And if Satan cast out Satan . . . how shall then his kingdom stand?" But Jesus said in **Matthew 7:23**, "I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity." **Ezekiel 28:15** says, "Thou wast perfect . . . till iniquity was found in thee."

When men do wrong, they are no longer in a state of perfection. **Ezekiel 18:24** says, "But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity . . . shall he live? [No.] All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned." This is why Jesus will say to ones, "I never knew you." Jude was teaching all who would take heed that there *is* coming a day that will expose everything and strike terror into the hearts of all who are wrong.

### The Body Reaps Its Reward

There is another reason the Lord will come with all the deceased saints. When physical death happens to a saved individual, the soul—the eternal part of man—goes to be with Christ. The physical part—the body—is buried, or sown, as a seed and sleeps in Jesus (see **1 Thessalonians 4:14**). (The unsaved soul goes to hell to await judgment, according to **Revelation 20:13**.)

On Judgment Day, the deceased saints will return with Christ to have their souls and bodies reunited. **1 Corinthians 15:52-53** states: "The dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." These verses refer to just the body; nothing has been said about the soul regarding the Resurrection, because Christ will be bringing the saved souls with Him.

Why will the soul be reunited with the body? Because the body is the instrument of the soul in life. It, too, must reap the reward for its deeds. **2 Corinthians 5:10** states, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." When the body comes forth from the grave on Judgment Day, it will be made immortal. After being reunited with the soul, the body will receive judgment, not for its fate, but for the degree of its deeds. Together, they will be dispatched for eternity.

Jude brought up this serious thought so that those who have been influenced by apostasy to live loosely might consider what their final end could be. Since all bodies and souls will be reunited to reap their eternal rewards, shouldn't we stop and think before we embrace wrong thinking? **Ephesians 5:15** says, "Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise."

### JUST A THOUGHT

**You should live with the Judgment in view; for one day, the Judgment shall view you!**