

Briefing Document: "He Must Return" Lesson 3

Sunday PM-October 25, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document synthesizes the key themes, announcements, and biblical teachings from the message "**He Must Return**" (**Lesson 3**). The study centers on the absolute necessity of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. His return is essential to preserve the truthfulness and credibility of the Trinity: the Father's Old Testament promises, the Son's direct statements, and the Holy Spirit's inspired scriptures.

Through an analysis of the Parable of the Stewards in Luke 12 and the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15, the teaching highlights two major principles:

1. **Accountability and Stewardship:** Spiritual knowledge brings personal responsibility. Believers will be rewarded for faithful service, while unfaithfulness leads to severe judgment.
2. **God's Program for the Church:** The current Church Age represents a specific phase in God's plan to call out believers from among all nations. This phase must be completed before Christ returns to restore the kingdom of Israel.

Community Announcements and Prayer Requests

Church Announcements

- **October Memory Verse:** Jeremiah 32:17 — "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing difficult for You."
- **Shoebox Ministry:** Collection time is approaching. Members can bring physical items, turn in completed boxes, or build a shoebox online at newlifebenson.com.
- **New Life Kids Harvest Festival:** Taking place this coming Wednesday.
 - There will be no Wednesday evening message so members can help with the event.
 - Volunteers must arrive by 5:00 PM at the latest for preparation.
 - Baked goods requests: Individual bags containing four cookies or four brownies (strictly no nuts or peanut butter).
- **Hospitality Ministry:** Meeting next week at Jack in the Box.
- **New Life Kids Store:** Donations and gift cards are requested for the store event on December 16.
- **Volunteer Needs:** Nursery workers and Children's Church staff are needed.

- **Women's Fellowship:** Scheduled for October 31.
- **Civic Duty:** Members are reminded to vote in the upcoming election on November 3.

Prayer Requests and Praises

- **Joyce McCormack's Mother:** Experiencing severe back pain with minimal mobility.
- **Sunshine Cesolini:** Experiencing pain and recovering following surgery.
- **Valinda:**
 - Prayer Request: Blockage in her left vertebral artery with no blood flow.
 - Praise: Appreciation for God's design of the human body, specifically the "*Circle of Willis*," which allows the brain to reroute blood through alternate vessels when a primary artery is blocked.

The Credibility of the Trinity in the Second Coming

The study outlines a structure explaining why Jesus Christ must return to the Earth. The overall framework contains **nine distinct reasons**, categorized into major groups. The first three reasons relate to the **Person of God (the Trinity)**:

Reasons Why Christ Must Return (9 Total)

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|— Category 1: The Person of God (The Trinity)

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|— 1. The Promise of the Father (Old Testament promises)

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|— 2. The Statements of the Son (Direct declarations)

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|— 3. The Guarantees of the Holy Spirit (Inspired Scripture)

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|— Category 2: The Program of God

|— 4. The Program for the Church (Acts 15)

|— 5. [Future Lesson]

|— 6. [Future Lesson]

1. The Promise of the Father

God promised the return of the Messiah primarily throughout the Old Testament. Because God cannot lie, His character demands the fulfillment of these promises.

2. The Statements of the Son

Jesus declared His own return while on Earth and affirmed His truthfulness in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

- Even after ascending to heaven, Christ repeatedly declared His return. In the Book of Revelation, He announced six times to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos: "Behold, I am coming quickly."
- These declarations serve as both a promise to His followers and a warning to His enemies that He will return.

3. The Guarantees of the Holy Spirit

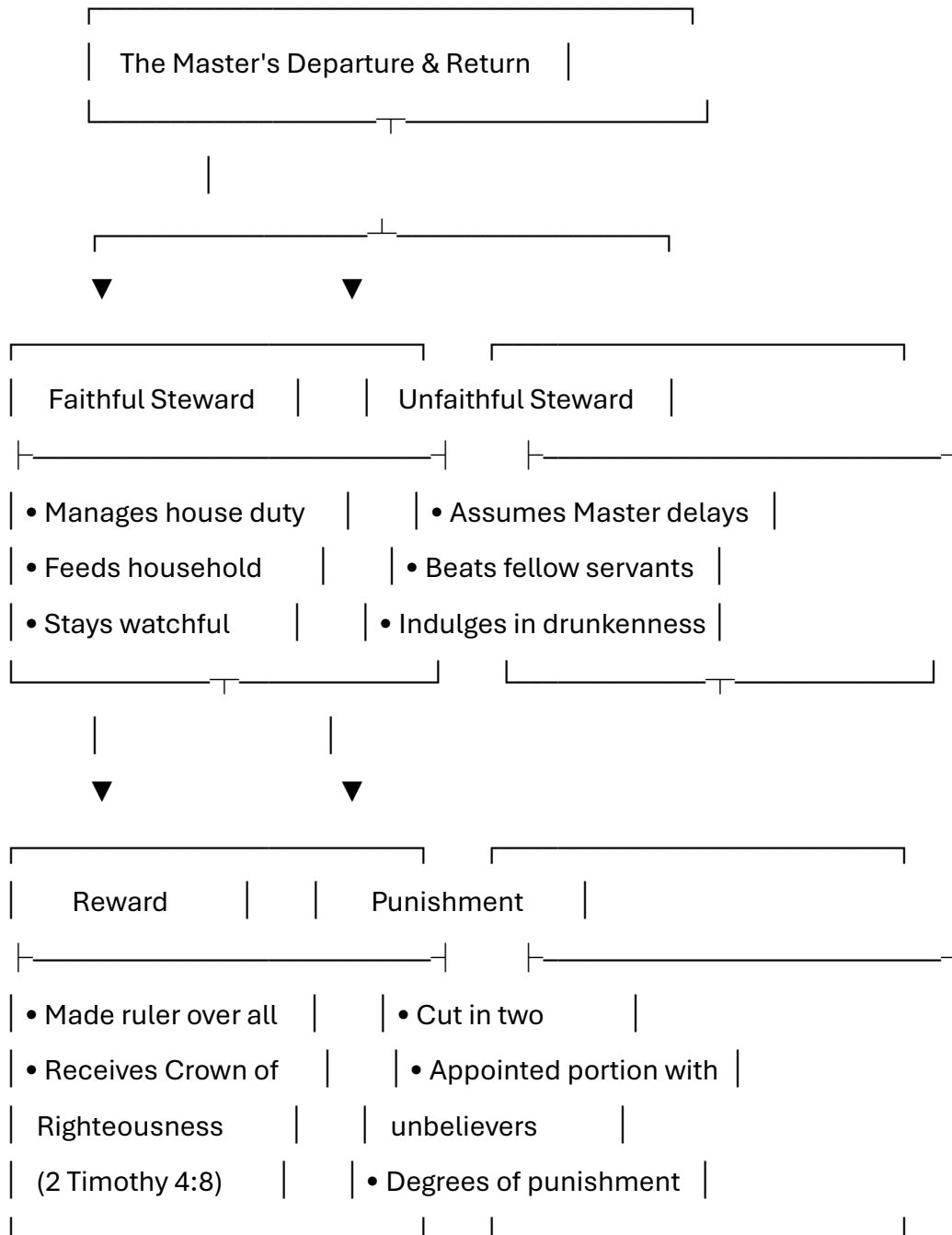
The Holy Spirit is designated in John 16:13 as the "Spirit of truth" who "will guide you into all truth... and he will tell you things to come." The Spirit speaks in perfect harmony with the Father and the Son, never operating independently or contrary to God's Word.

The Holy Spirit inspired multiple New Testament writers to guarantee the Second Coming:

- **Paul:**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:4, 7: Expressed gratitude for believers "eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Philippians 3:20: Declared that "our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Colossians 3:4: Assured that "when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."
- **The Writer of Hebrews:**
 - Hebrews 9:28: Stated that "Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."
- **James:**
 - James 5:7-8: Exhorts believers to "be patient... until the coming of the Lord," noting that "the coming of the Lord is at hand."
- **Peter:**
 - 1 Peter 1:13 & 5:4: Taught that "when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."
- **John:**
 - 1 John 3:2: Wrote, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Parable Analysis: The Faithful and Unfaithful Stewards (Luke 12:41–48)

Jesus used parables to illustrate the conditions surrounding His return and to warn against scoffing at His delay.



Role of the Steward

A steward was an elevated slave managed by a homeowner. Stewards owned no property themselves but managed the master's household, provisions, food distribution, and finances.

The Faithful Steward (Luke 12:42–44)

- **Action:** Continues executing his master's orders and feeding the household while the master is away.
- **Outcome:** When the master returns unexpectedly, the faithful steward is promoted to rule over all the master's possessions.
- **Biblical Connection:** 2 Timothy 4:8 promises a "crown of righteousness" from the Lord to all who "have loved His appearing" and live in constant expectation of His return.

The Unfaithful Steward (Luke 12:45–46)

- **Action:** Presumes the master is delayed, saying in his heart, "My master is delaying his coming." He misuses his authority, beats fellow servants, indulges in gluttony, and gets drunk.
- **Outcome:** The master returns suddenly on an unexpected day and hour. The steward is "cut in two"—a historical form of execution referenced also in Hebrews 11:37 regarding persecuted Old Testament prophets—and assigned a place with unbelievers.

Principles of Judgment (Luke 12:47–48)

1. **Greater Knowledge Equals Greater Responsibility:**
 - Luke 12:47: The servant who knew his master's will but did not prepare or obey will be "beaten with many stripes."
 - Luke 12:48: The servant who did not know his master's will, yet committed actions deserving punishment, will be "beaten with few stripes."
2. **Degrees of Reward and Punishment:** Just as there are varying degrees of reward in heaven, there are distinct degrees of punishment in hell based on knowledge and stewardship.
3. **Application:** Believers who hear the truth are fully responsible before God. They are categorized under verse 47 as those who know the Master's will and must live in light of His return.

God's Program Demands the Return: The Church Age (Acts 15)

Reason number four out of nine for Christ's return focuses on **God's Program for the Church**. The present Church Age cannot end, nor can God's future plan for Israel begin, without the physical return of Jesus Christ.

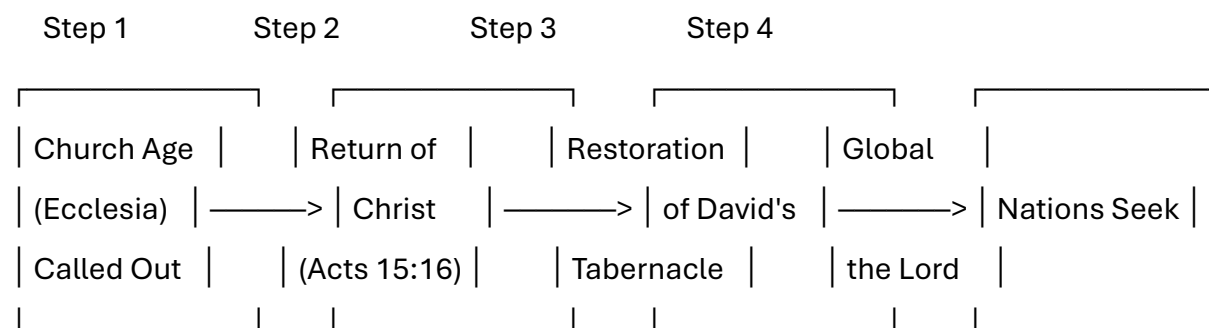
Historical Context of the Jerusalem Council

Following severe persecution in Jerusalem, Jewish Christians were scattered (the dispersion). Peter preached to Gentiles, leading to the conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10). When Peter returned to Jerusalem, Jewish believers argued that Gentiles could not be saved unless they were circumcised and kept the Law of Moses.

The Four-Step Order of Events (Acts 15:14–17)

James, the head of the Jerusalem church, quoted Amos 9:11–12 to explain God's dispensational sequence:

1. **Calling Out the Church (Acts 15:14):** God first visits the Gentiles to call out a people for His name. This marks the beginning and duration of the Church Age (the Ecclesia^[^1]).
2. **The Return of Christ (Acts 15:16):** James quotes scripture stating, "After this I will return." The Church is separated from the world and taken out (first through the Rapture, followed seven years later by Christ's Second Coming).
3. **Restoration of Israel (Acts 15:16):** Upon His return, Christ will "rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down" and re-establish the kingdom, reigning on David's throne.
4. **Global Salvation in the Kingdom (Acts 15:17):** After Israel is restored, "the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name."



Key Takeaway: God's program for Israel is paused during the Church Age. The Church Age must be fully completed by Christ's return before the physical Millennial Kingdom can be set up on Earth.

Illustrative Analogy: Watching the Leaves

A father leaving on a months-long trip told his young son he would return when the leaves turned red and brown and fell to the ground. Though the boy checked daily and lost track of time, a sudden storm eventually knocked the colored leaves from the trees, signaling his father's immediate return. In the same way, world conditions indicate that the metaphorical leaves are changing, signaling that the return of Jesus Christ is near.

Greek Terminology

The following Greek term was utilized in the teaching to describe the nature and purpose of the Church within God's program:

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition and Biblical Context
Ecclesia	\eh-klay-SEE-uh\	Defined literally as "the ones who are called out." Refers to the Church assembly called out from the world by God (Acts 15:14)[^1].

[^1]: **Ecclesia** is the Greek word used in Acts 15 to describe the assembly of believers gathered out of the nations during the Church Age.