Briefing Document: "He Must Return" Lesson 5

Sunday PM-November 22, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document analyzes the core themes, scriptural arguments, and evidence presented in the lesson titled "Why He Must Return" (Lesson 5). The central argument asserts that the physical return of Jesus Christ to Earth is an absolute necessity driven by three overarching divine categories: **God's Person**, **God's Program**, and **God's Priorities**.

Key takeaways include:

- **God's Program for Israel**: Israel is currently in a state of partial spiritual blindness until the "fullness of the Gentiles" (the Church Age) concludes at the Rapture. Following the removal of the Church, God will fulfill His covenant with Israel during a seven-year Tribulation, purging rebels and saving the nation.
- **Signs of the End Times**: Scripture points to clear indicators preceding Christ's return, specifically a dramatic increase in human knowledge (Daniel 12:4)—exemplified today by rapid technological shifts such as Artificial Intelligence—and an increased frequency and intensity of global earthquakes and conflicts (Matthew 24:7).
- **God's Priorities**: Christ's return is required to reverse His earthly humiliation. His last public view by the unbelieving world was His death on the cross; He did not appear to unbelievers after His resurrection. Therefore, He must return publicly in glory and power to execute judgment. Additionally, the temporary exaltation of Satan demands Christ's return to establish divine order.

Community Updates and Prayer Requests

Before entering the main lesson, several operational updates and prayer concerns were presented to the congregation:

Operational Announcements

- **Memory Verse**: The designated verse for November is 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- **Seasonal Activities**: Christmas card distribution via the church mailbox is available. Sign-ups are open for Cesolinis meals, online shoe box assembly, and donations for the New Life Kids Christmas store.
- **Schedule Adjustments**: Elders meet on Monday at 6:00 PM. No children's program will take place on Wednesday, though a main service will be held. A "Fifth Sunday Sing" featuring an ice cream social with hot fudge sundaes is scheduled for the following Sunday evening.

Congregational Prayer Requests

- **Viviana**: Suffering from severe congestion, mucositis/mucus discomfort, and ear pain.
- **Carrie's Brother**: Diagnosed with precancerous conditions in his esophagus and seeking medical consultation for a treatment plan.
- **Kim's Sister (Meg)**: Diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer that has spread to her spine; currently living alone in Maui while receiving injections and preparing for radiation therapy.
- **National Concerns**: General prayer requested for ongoing national challenges.

Theological Framework: Why Jesus Must Return

The necessity of Christ's return rests upon a three-part theological framework:



GOD'S PERSON	GOD'S PROGRAM	GOD'S PRIORITIES
• Father's Prophecies	• Demands of the Church	• Humiliation of Christ
• Son's Statements	• Demands of the Nations	• Exaltation of Satan
• Spirit's Guarantees	• Demands of Israel	

1. **God's Person**: Demanded by the prophecies of the Father, the explicit statements of the Son, and the guarantees of the Holy Spirit.
2. **God's Program**: Demanded by the specific timelines established for the Church, the Nations, and Israel.
3. **God's Priorities**: Demanded by the necessity of Christ's vindication over His prior humiliation and the ultimate defeat of Satan.

God's Program: The Fulfillment of Israel's Redemption

The program of God requires the return of Christ to fulfill specific covenants made with the nation of Israel.

The Fullness of the Gentiles and Israel's Blindness

Scripture explains the current spiritual state of Israel and its future resolution:

- For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27)
- **Current State**: Israel remains partially blind to the identity of Jesus as their Messiah.
- **The Fullness of the Gentiles**: Refers to the Church Age, which began at Pentecost and concludes at the Rapture when the full body of Gentile believers is removed.
- **Chronological Sequence**:
    1. The Church dispensation ends via the Rapture.
    2. The spiritual blindness is removed from Israel.
    3. Israel recognizes the Messiah during the seven-year Tribulation, fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy that they will look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as an only son.

The Purging and National Salvation of Israel

The phrase "all Israel will be saved" does not mean every individual Jewish person will automatically receive salvation. Ezekiel describes a process of divine gathering and purging:

- As I live, says the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered… And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me… (Ezekiel 20:33-35, 37-38)
- **Gathering for Judgment**: God gathers the scattered Jewish people out of the nations with strength ("an outstretched arm") to deal with them directly.
- **Separation of Rebels**: The rebellious and unbelieving individuals will be purged out.
- **End of Persecution**: Following this judgment, Israel as a purified nation will be saved, setting up the Old Testament kingdom hope—the Messiah arriving to reign on a white horse.

- **Modern Context**: Israel's modern gathering into its physical homeland (facilitated historically via the United Nations) represents a preliminary step leading toward this biblical timeline.

Signs of the End Times

Scripture outlines clear, observable developments indicating the approach of the end of man's era on Earth.

1. Exponential Increase in Knowledge

Daniel recorded a specific marker regarding the end times:

- But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase. (Daniel 12:4)
- **Pace of Knowledge Growth**: Historically, human knowledge was calculated to double every five years. With modern developments like Artificial Intelligence (AI), experts estimate human knowledge will soon double every six months.
- **Technological Advances**:
    - **Astronomy & Space**: Discovery of dense black holes; successful deflection of asteroids via spacecraft (DART); reusable orbital rockets.
    - **Medicine**: Gene editing therapies and metabolic medications (GLP-1s).
    - **Energy & Infrastructure**: High-speed nuclear reactor construction to power massive data centers (such as proposed facilities in Willcox); solar power conversions; laser tunneling technology.
- **Societal and Demographic Shifts**:
    - Birth rates among traditional Western groups have dropped below replacement levels (<2 children per marriage), while birth rates in Islamic families remain higher (>5 per family).
    - Development of massive interconnected urban corridors ("megalopolises"), such as Boss-Wash (Boston to Washington), San-San (San Francisco to San Diego), Chai-Pits (Chicago to Pittsburgh), and the merging of Phoenix and Tucson.
- **Spiritual Danger**: When scientific advances rule society, human moral standing degrades. Similar to the Enlightenment 200 to 300 years ago, modern scientific knowledge risks placing human wisdom above God.

2. Physical and Global Signs

Jesus specified indicators detailing the close of the age:

- For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24:7)
- **Geological Activity**: Modern geologists observe that earthquakes are occurring at a higher frequency and greater intensity than in recorded history (e.g., fault lines like the San Andreas).
- **Scriptural Accuracy**: Because biblical prophecies have maintained a flawless historical track record, the literal, physical return of Jesus Christ in a glorified body stands as an absolute fact.

God's Priorities Demanding Christ's Return

The final major category demanding the Second Coming centers on divine priorities: Christ's vindication and Satan's judgment.

Priority 1: The Humiliation of Christ Demands His Vindication

It is inconceivable that the final historical view the unbelieving world has of Jesus is His suffering and execution on the cross.

Post-Resurrection Witness Restrictions

Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared exclusively to believers. Unbelievers never saw Him in His resurrected state:

- …He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

Because the lost world only witnessed His humiliation, Christ must return publicly so all mankind witnesses His exaltation.

Contrast Between First and Second Comings

- **First Coming (Suffering Servant)**:
    - He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Hebrews 9:26)
    - For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:16-18)
    - Before the High Priest Caiaphas, Jesus was mocked, struck, spit upon, and challenged: "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" (Matthew 26:68)

- **Second Coming (Exalted Judge)**:
    - So 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. (Hebrews 9:28)
    - All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations. (Psalm 22:27-28)
    - During His trial, Jesus warned the High Priest: "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matthew 26:64)
    - Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. (Revelation 1:7)

Cosmic Signs at His Return

Jesus described the dramatic events accompanying His public manifestation:

- And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:25-27)

When Christ returns, cosmic lights will extinguish, causing global distress and fear, before He blazes across the sky to receive His full glory.

Priority 2: The Exaltation of Satan Demands Christ's Return

Satan is described as the highest created spirit being—the anointed cherub who led heavenly worship (Ezekiel 28). He maintains access to accuse believers day and night and rules a demonic spiritual kingdom.

- **Satanic Power**: During the temptation in the wilderness, Satan displayed his extensive authority over earthly kingdoms:
    - Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." (Luke 4:5-7)
- **Ultimate Defeat**: Although Satan possesses immense power, he remains a created being. Christ must return to dismantle Satan's temporary worldly exaltation and establish God's eternal kingdom. Believers rely on the promise: "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

Greek Word Analysis

The following table documents the transliterated Greek term referenced within the scriptural passages cited in this document:

Greek Word / Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition	Scripture / Context Reference
Cephas (Κηφᾶς)	**KAY-fas**	A Greek transliteration of the Aramaic name given to Simon Peter, meaning "a rock" or "a stone."	1 Corinthians 15:5 [^1]

[^1]: **Footnote**: Cephas appears in the scriptural reading of 1 Corinthians 15:5 as part of the formal list of eye-witnesses who saw the resurrected Christ prior to His ascension.