Study Guide: He Must Return (Lesson 5)

Sunday PM-November 22, 2026

Introduction to the Study

This study guide reviews the teaching from "He Must Return" (Lesson 5). It is written to help students in 7th to 8th grade understand why Jesus Christ must return to the earth.

The Bible serves as God's complete record for humanity. It describes the creation of the world, explains why God made man in His own image, and outlines how human history will conclude in the book of Revelation. Old Testament Hebrew prophets provided clear pictures of the end times, showing principles for living with others, honoring God, and preparing for the world to come.

Before diving into the core lesson, the study notes several community events and prayer needs:

- **Memory Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"
- **Announcements:** Christmas card mailbox available; meal sign-ups for the Cesolinis; online Christmas box donations; donations needed for the New Life Kids Christmas store; Elders meeting; Wednesday evening service (no children's program); Fifth Sunday sing and ice cream social featuring hot fudge sundaes.
- **Prayer Requests:** Healing for Viviana (congestion and ear pain); Carrie's brother (precancerous esophagus); prayer for the nation; Kim's sister Meg (stage four metastatic breast cancer in her spine, receiving injections and radiation in Maui).

Part 1: God's Program Demands the Return of Jesus Christ

The return of Jesus Christ is required by God's Person, God's Program, and God's Priorities.

1. God's Person

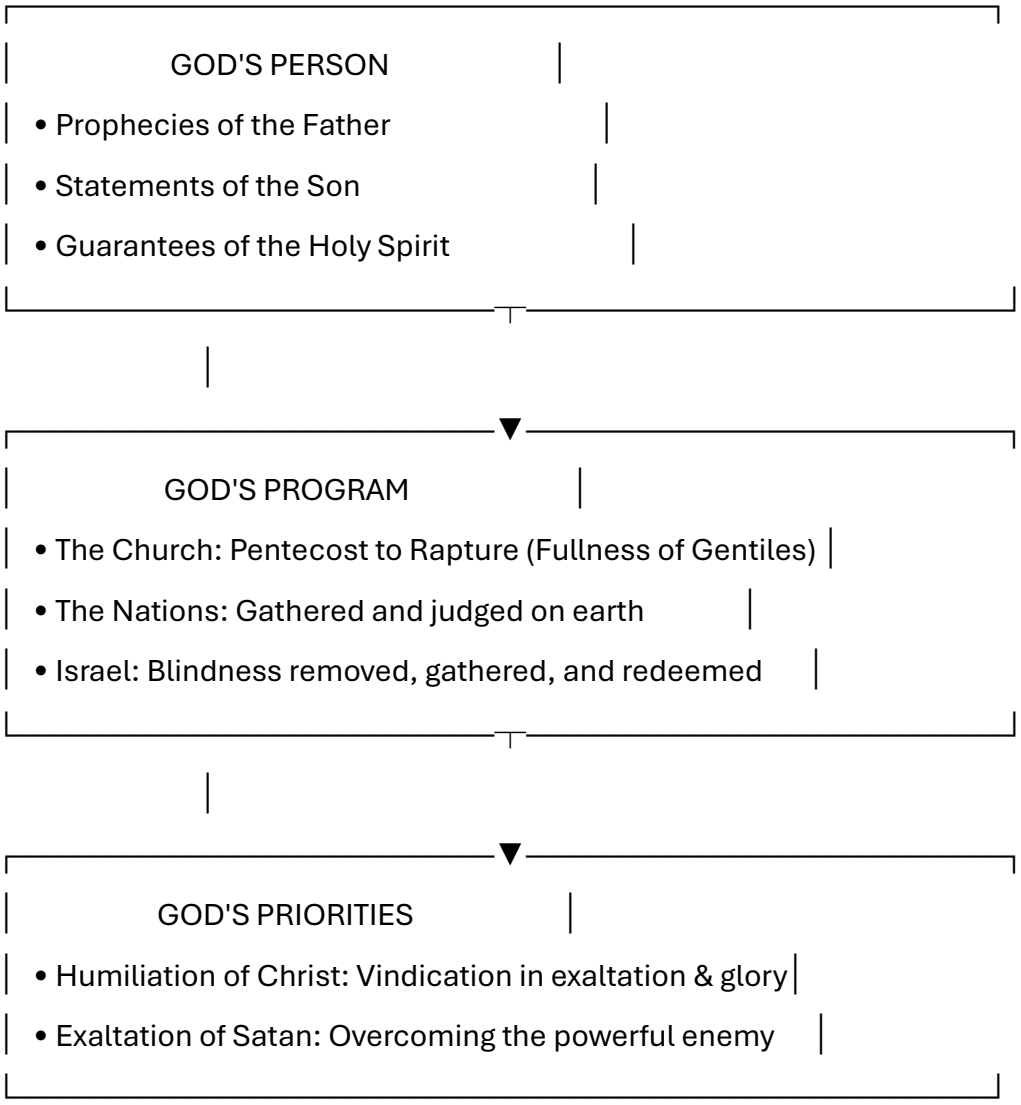
The prophecies of the Father, the statements of the Son, and the guarantees of the Holy Spirit all demand that Jesus Christ must return.

2. God's Program

God's plan for history is divided into specific areas that require the return of Jesus Christ:

- **The Church:** The Church age began at Pentecost and ends at the rapture. The marriage of the Church must occur, and nothing further can happen for Israel until the current earth age is consummated.
- **The Nations:** The nations of the earth must be judged directly on the earth.
- **Israel:** Israel's national redemption requires the physical return of Jesus Christ.

God's Overall Plan for the Return of Jesus Christ



The Fullness of the Gentiles and Israel's Salvation

Currently, Israel experiences a partial spiritual blindness until the Church age is finished.

"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." — **Romans 11:25**

The phrase "fullness of the Gentiles" refers to the completion of God's plan for the Church. When the Church dispensation ends and the Church is removed at the rapture, God's focus turns back to Israel:

"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 11:26-27**

Chronologically, the Church must be taken up before Israel can be saved. As prophesied in Zechariah, Israel will look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as an only son, finally recognizing Jesus Christ for who He truly is.

However, "all Israel will be saved" does not mean every single Jewish person will automatically be saved. As stated in Ezekiel 20:33-38, God will gather the Israelites from the nations with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm (exemplifying strength), and fury poured out. He will bring them into the wilderness face to face for judgment, making them pass under the rod into the bond of the covenant:

"I will purge the rebels from among you and those who transgress against Me" — **Ezekiel 20:38**

God will purge out unrepentant rebels. Those who remain will be saved as a nation, freed forever from earthly persecution, and brought into the promised kingdom. This kingdom under Messiah riding in on a white horse has been the long-awaited hope of Israel.

A classroom discussion highlighted that God purging unrepentant people has occurred throughout Bible history (such as in Joshua at Jericho and Ai, where Canaanites were eliminated due to sin). While God is loving, He is also just, sovereign, and righteous, meaning He cannot allow sin to exist indefinitely.

Part 2: Clear Signs of the End Times

Scripture points out specific signs indicating that man's day on earth is drawing to a close.

Sign 1: An Increase in Knowledge

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel was given a specific instruction 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**

A major sign of the end is an unprecedented increase in knowledge:

- Historically, human knowledge was said to double every five years.
- With Artificial Intelligence (AI), human knowledge is projected to double every six months.
- Examples of modern scientific advancements include discovering black holes, deflecting asteroids using space probes (DART), reusable landing rockets, gene therapy/editing, and metabolic medications (GLP-1s).
- Large population centers may merge into "megalopolises" (such as Boss-Wash, San-San, Chi-Pitts, or Tucson-Phoenix), and nuclear reactors are being built rapidly to power massive data centers.

The Danger of Human Knowledge: When human science and knowledge rule without God (similar to the Enlightenment period 200–300 years ago), science supersedes God, and humanity degrades itself.

Sign 2: Earthquakes and Global Turmoil

Jesus Christ described global conditions prior to His return:

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." — **Matthew 24:7**

Geologists observe that earthquakes are occurring at a more rapid rate and with greater violence and intensity across the globe today. These events confirm that history is moving toward the return of Jesus Christ.

Part 3: God's Priorities Demand the Return of Jesus Christ

God's priorities provide vital reasons why Jesus Christ must return in glory.

Priority 1: The Humiliation of Christ Demands His Return

It is inconceivable that the world's final view of Jesus Christ would be that of a bleeding, dying criminal hanging near-naked on a cross under a Jerusalem sky. Jesus Christ must return to vindicate Himself.

After His resurrection, Jesus Christ appeared **only** to believers. As listed in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, He was seen by:

1. Cephas (Peter)
2. The Twelve Apostles
3. Over 500 brethren at once
4. James
5. All the apostles
6. Paul

No unbeliever saw Jesus Christ after His resurrection. The last view the unbelieving world had of Him was His humiliation on the cross. Therefore, He must return so the world can see His glory and exaltation.

"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**

When Jesus Christ returns, He will not come to bear sin or suffer humiliation; He will come as a Judge in power.

Contrast in Prophecy and Scripture:

- **The First Coming (Humiliation):** Psalm 22:16-17 describes dogs surrounding Him, hands and feet pierced, bones counted, and garments divided by lot.
- **The Second Coming (Exaltation):** Psalm 22:27-28 declares that all the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all families of the nations shall worship before Him.

During His trial before Caiaphas, Jesus Christ was mocked, slapped, blindfolded, and spat upon. When placed under oath, He testified:

"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**

The Two Comings of Jesus Christ

THE FIRST COMING	THE SECOND COMING
• Came to bear sin and die	• Comes apart from sin as Judge
• Humiliated on the cross	• Exalted in power and glory
• Seen by unbelievers as a dying criminal	• Every eye will see Him on the clouds of heaven
• Hands and feet pierced	• Rules over all nations

Scripture confirms that His return will be visible to all creation:

- **Revelation 1:7:** "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him."
- **Luke 21:25-27:** Cosmic turmoil will occur—signs in the sun, moon, and stars, roaring seas, and men's hearts failing them from fear. Then, they will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory.

Priority 2: The Exaltation of Satan Demands His Return

Satan is the most powerful creature God ever created—an anointed cherub who was once the praise leader of heaven. He rules a kingdom of spirit demons and accuses believers before God day and night.

In Luke 4:5-7, Satan showed Jesus Christ all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, claiming he could give them to anyone he wished. Because Satan is a mighty foe who has exalted himself against God, Jesus Christ must return to defeat him completely.

Believers are comforted by 1 John 4:4, which reminds us that "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Instructions: Answer the following ten questions based on the study guide context. Each question is 2-3 sentences long.

1. What memory verse is highlighted from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in the introductory announcements? How does this verse instruct believers to respond in all circumstances of life?
2. What does the study guide explain regarding the phrase "the fullness of the Gentiles" in Romans 11:25? How does this event impact God's plan for the nation of Israel?
3. According to Ezekiel 20:33-38, why does "all Israel will be saved" not mean that every single Jewish person will automatically be saved? What specific action will God take toward rebels during the tribulation?
4. How does Daniel 12:4 describe the conditions of the end times regarding human knowledge? What modern technology is cited as an example of rapid knowledge increase?
5. What warning is given regarding the rise of science and human knowledge when it supersedes faith in God? What historical period is cited as a primary example of this occurrence?
6. Why does the humiliation of Jesus Christ demand that He return physically to the earth? What was the last view that the unbelieving world had of Him?
7. Who were the only people to see Jesus Christ after His resurrection according to 1 Corinthians 15:5-8? What does this imply about what the lost world has seen of Him so far?
8. How does Jesus Christ's second coming described in Hebrews 9:28 differ from His first coming? What will be His primary role when He appears the second time?
9. What was Jesus Christ's response to Caiaphas when the high priest placed Him under oath in Matthew 26:63-64? How did His statement describe His future arrival?
10. How is Satan described in terms of his creation, power, and rank in Ezekiel 28 and Luke 4:5-7? Why does his temporary elevation demand the return of Jesus Christ?

Answer Key

1. The memory verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 states: "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." It instructs believers to maintain an attitude of thanksgiving in all life circumstances because doing so aligns directly with God's will.
2. "The fullness of the Gentiles" refers to the completion of the Church age, which began at Pentecost and ends at the rapture. Once the Church is completed and removed, God removes the partial spiritual blindness from Israel and resumes His direct program to redeem His chosen nation.
3. "All Israel will be saved" does not mean every individual Jew is automatically saved, because Ezekiel 20 explains that God will judge the people face to face. He will purge out the unrepentant rebels and transgressors from among them, saving the national remnant that enters the covenant.
4. Daniel 12:4 states that in the time of the end, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Artificial Intelligence (AI) is cited as a prime example, with projections showing human knowledge doubling every six months rather than every five years.
5. When human science and knowledge increase without God, science supersedes divine truth, leading humanity to degrade itself. The Enlightenment period 200 to 300 years ago is cited as an example of human knowledge increasing while pushing God aside.
6. The humiliation of Jesus Christ demands His return because it is inconceivable that the world's final view of Him would be a beaten, dying criminal on a cross. He must return in power, glory, and exaltation so that His true identity is vindicated before all creation.
7. According to 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, only believers—including Cephas, the Twelve, over 500 brethren, James, the apostles, and Paul—saw Jesus Christ after His resurrection. This implies that the lost, unbelieving world has never yet seen Jesus Christ in His resurrected glory.
8. In His first coming, Jesus Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many through His sacrifice on the cross. In His second coming, He appears apart from sin to bring final salvation and act as Judge over the earth in absolute glory.
9. Jesus Christ confirmed His identity to Caiaphas by declaring that hereafter they would see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven. His statement promised a visible, triumphant return in divine authority.
10. Satan is described as an anointed cherub and the most powerful creature God created, possessing authority to show Jesus Christ all the kingdoms of the world in a

moment. Because Satan exalted himself and rules a spirit kingdom of demons, Jesus Christ must return to defeat him and establish His supreme rule.

Essay Format Questions

Instructions: Read the following essay prompts carefully. Answer them in full prose using details directly from the study guide.

1. **The Sequential Relationship of God's Program:** Explain the chronological relationship between the Church age, the rapture, the fullness of the Gentiles, and the national salvation of Israel as outlined in Romans 11 and Ezekiel 20.
2. **God's Justice vs. Man's Perception:** Analyze the tension between God's loving nature and His righteous justice, using the historical purging of Canaanites in Joshua and the future purging of rebels in Ezekiel 20 as primary examples.
3. **Signs of the End and Modern Advancement:** Discuss how Daniel 12:4 and Matthew 24:7 manifest in modern society, contrasting technological and scientific growth with the potential degradation of human morality.
4. **Vindication Through Exaltation:** Detail why the humiliation of Jesus Christ on the cross requires a visible, physical return in glory, contrasting His trial before Caiaphas with Revelation 1:7 and Luke 21:25-27.
5. **The Battle of Spiritual Authorities:** Examine the nature and authority of Satan as described in Luke 4:5-7 and Ezekiel 28, explaining why his current influence makes the physical return of Jesus Christ an absolute necessity.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Anointed Cherub:** A title from Ezekiel 28 referring to Satan's high rank as a supreme angelic creature and former praise leader in heaven prior to his fall.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** A modern technological advancement in computing that causes human knowledge to double at an accelerated rate of every six months.
- **Blindness in Part:** The temporary spiritual condition of Israel during the Church age, lasting until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (Romans 11:25).
- **Bond of the Covenant:** The spiritual relationship and commitment into which God brings the redeemed remnant of Israel after purging rebels (Ezekiel 20:37).
- **Boss-Wash / San-San / Chi-Pitts:** Names representing hypothetical "megalopolises," or giant continuous cities formed when major urban centers merge together in the end times.

- **Caiaphas:** The high priest who placed Jesus Christ under oath during His trial, demanding to know if He was the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 26:57-65).
- **Cephas:** The name given to the Apostle Peter, listed in 1 Corinthians 15:5 as one of the key eyewitnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus Christ.
- **Church Age / Dispensation:** The period of God's program that began at Pentecost and concludes at the rapture when the Church is complete.
- **DART:** A modern space probe mission created to test deflecting an approaching asteroid off course, illustrating the end-times increase in human knowledge.
- **Enlightenment:** A historic period 200 to 300 years ago marked by a great increase in human knowledge where science superseded God, leading to human degradation.
- **Fullness of the Gentiles:** The completion of God's purpose for the Church, marked by the gathering and removal of the body of believers from among the Gentiles (Romans 11:25).
- **Megalopolis:** A massive, continuous urban population center formed by the joining of multiple major cities.
- **Outstretched Arm:** A biblical metaphor used in Ezekiel 20:33, 34 that exemplifies the great strength and sovereign power of God.
- **Pentecost:** The historic event marking the beginning of the Church age when the Holy Spirit was given.
- **Rapture:** The event in God's program when the Church is removed from the earth, ending the Church age so God can deal directly with Israel.
- **Vindication:** The public defense, clearing of blame, and restoration of honor due to Jesus Christ when He returns in glory after suffering humiliation on the cross.
- **Zion:** A biblical designation for Jerusalem, out of which the Deliverer (Jesus Christ) will come to turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Romans 11:26).

Greek Word Study and Analysis

This study guide contains terms that derive directly from or relate to Biblical Greek vocabulary used in the New Testament text. Below are the specific Greek terms, their phonetic pronunciations, their definitions, and their structural significance in scripture.

1. Pentecost (Pentēkostē) [^1]

- **Phonetic Pronunciation:** pen-tay-kos-TAY

- **Definition:** Meaning "fiftieth," referring to the festival occurring fifty days after Passover. In New Testament theology, it marks the exact beginning of the Church age when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon believers.

2. Mystery (Mystērion) [^2]

- **Phonetic Pronunciation:** moos-TAY-ree-on
- **Definition:** A divine truth or secret previously hidden in ages past but now revealed by God to His people. In Romans 11:25, it refers to the partial blindness of Israel lasting until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.

3. Covenant (Diathēkē) [^3]

- **Phonetic Pronunciation:** dee-ah-THAY-kay
- **Definition:** A formal, binding testament, agreement, or promise made by God. In Romans 11:27, it highlights God's unalterable promise to take away the sins of Israel when He redeems them.

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[^1]: **Pentecost (Pentēkostē):** Derived from the Greek word for "fiftieth," signifying the day the Holy Spirit descended to establish the Church age. [^2]: **Mystery (Mystērion):** The Greek term used in Romans 11:25 to describe a sacred secret revealed by God concerning Israel's partial blindness and the Church age. [^3]: **Covenant (Diathēkē):** The Greek term in Romans 11:27 designating God's sovereign, binding pledge to forgive and restore His people.