

Message

ARE WE LIVING IN THE
LAST DAYS?

A red-tinted image of the Earth's horizon against a black background with stars. The Earth is shown as a curved line with a reddish glow, set against a dark space filled with small white stars.

Neal Parker

In The Last Days...

■ II Timothy 3:1-17 / II Peter 3:3-5

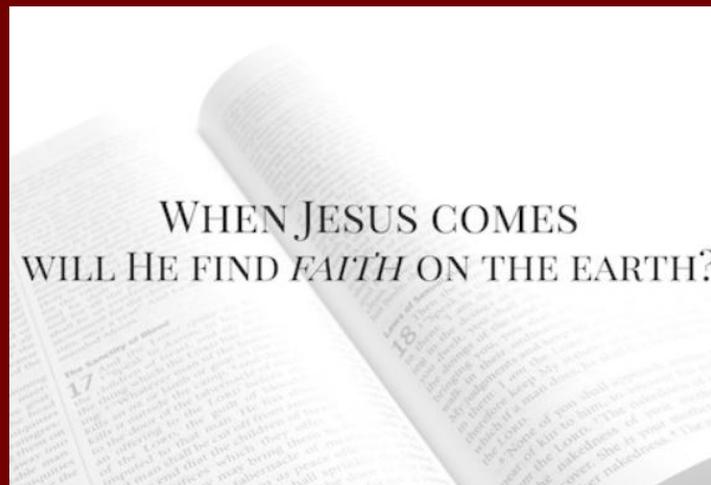
– Perilous

- “hard to do, to take, to approach”
- “harsh, fierce, savage” / Matthew 8:28-34
- “Depravity” due to Debilitating Times



...When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the earth?

- **Luke 18:1-8 / II Corinthians 13:5**
 - Encouragement for us “to pray and not lose heart”
 - The persistence of the widow
 - **Basic Lesson: Will we ultimately “cave in” (due to debilitating times of discouragement) and forsake God’s direction of His Way of Life?**



What Is A Parable?

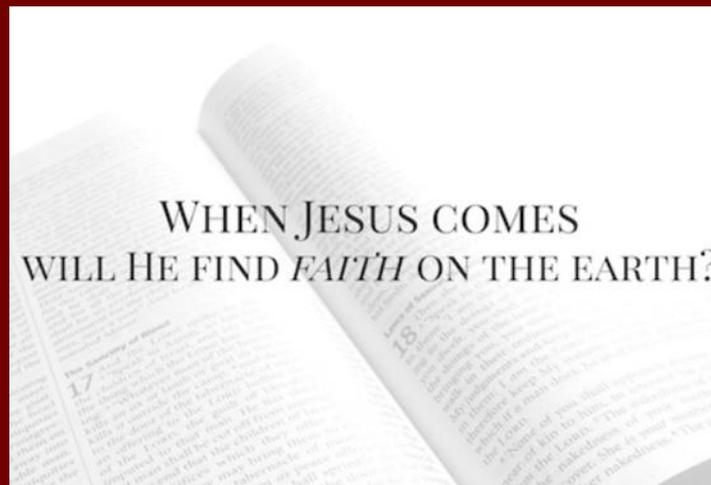
- A Parable is intended to be *similar* to a real event or a comparison that has to be *interpreted* to reveal the true meaning .
- A Parable is a *casting or placing side by side* to a real event or *to compare likeness or similitude* to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .



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■ Luke 18:1-8 / II Corinthians 13:5

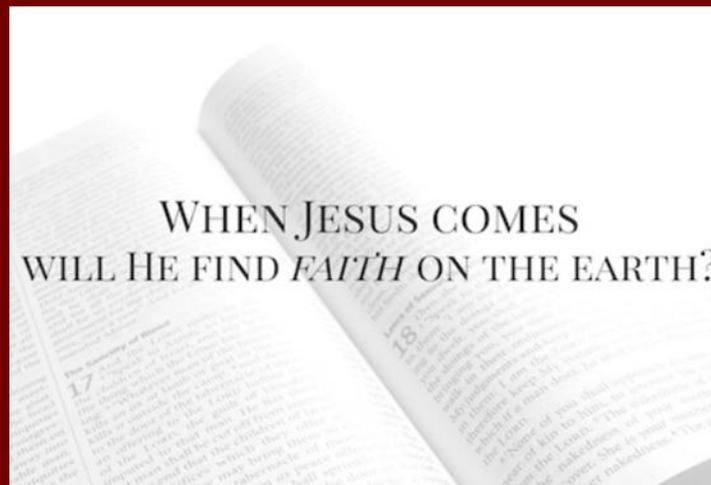
- Contrasting the faithfulness of our loving God to the cynical, self-serving and unrighteous judge.
- God is always willing to hear our prayers and answer them, within His will.
- God will vindicate His people.



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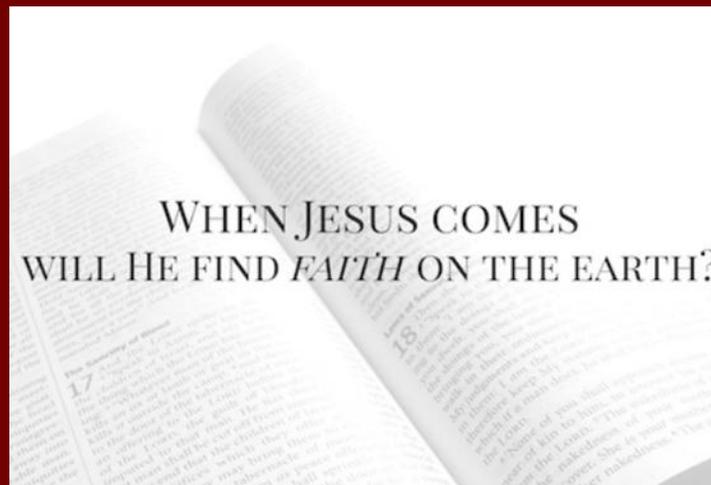
- Verse 7 – “... though he bear long with them?”
- The “them” appears to refer to the oppressors of His elect.
- The meaning is, that although He tolerates these oppressions for a long time, He will at length interpose, in behalf of His own elect.



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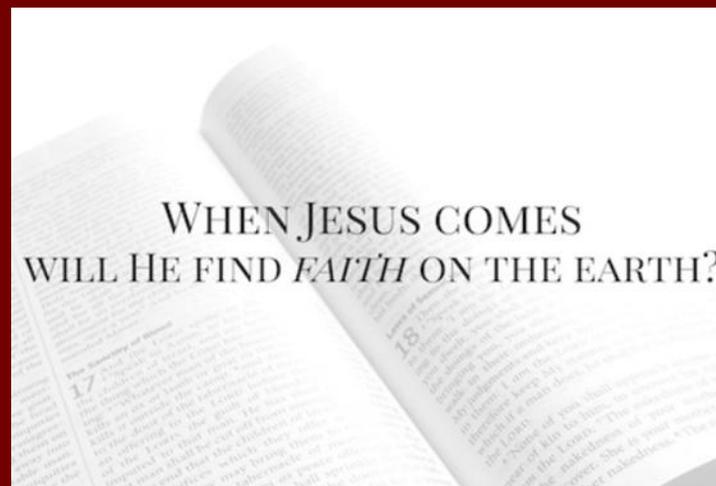
- Verse 8 – “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily...”
- Probable better rendering is “suddenly” or “unexpectedly”. When God's tolerance of these oppressors has run its course, He will promptly act at the right time to deliver His people.



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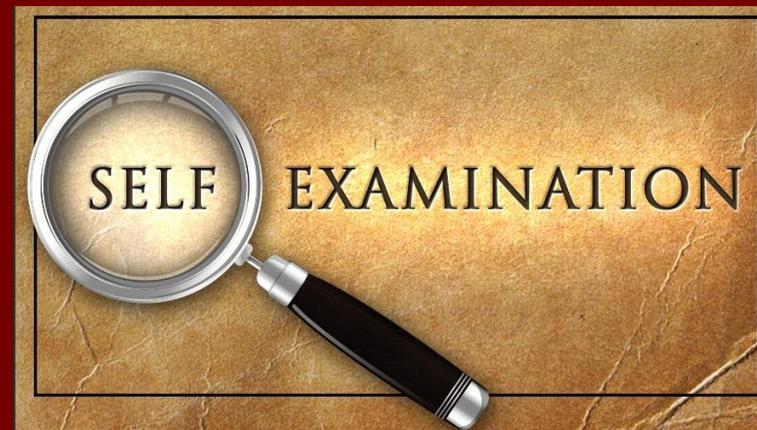
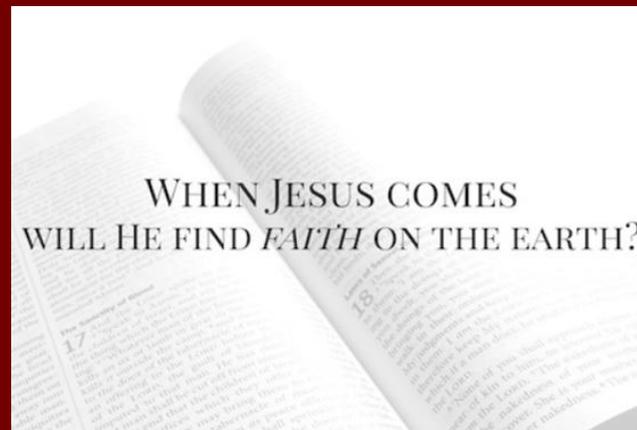
- Verse 8 – “Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”
- The implication seems to be that very few will have the strength of faith that Jesus is talking about.



...When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the earth?

■ Luke 18:1-8 / II Corinthians 13:5

- Verse 8 – “Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”
- Do we have this faith?
- Is there evidence of this faith?
- Are we continuing to pray and not lose heart?
- Will we fail? Will keep the faith until the end?



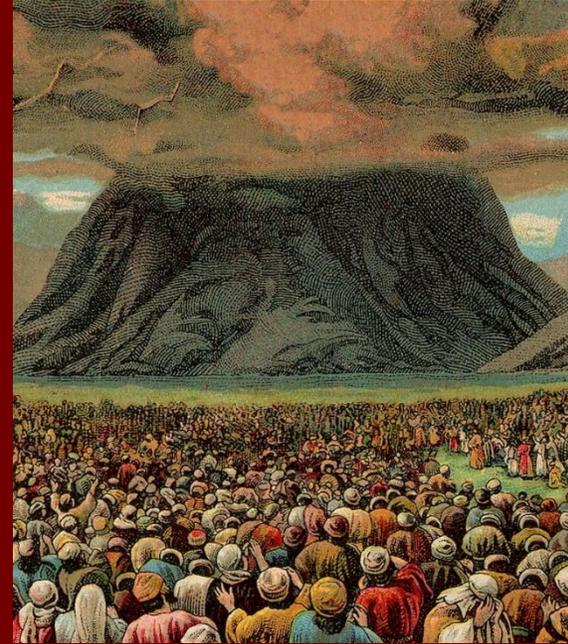
Plan For Deception To Come

- **Jeroboam, the Man of God and the Old Prophet: An Important Lesson of Unconditional Obedience**
 - **I Kings 13:1-34**
 - **II Kings 23:17-18**



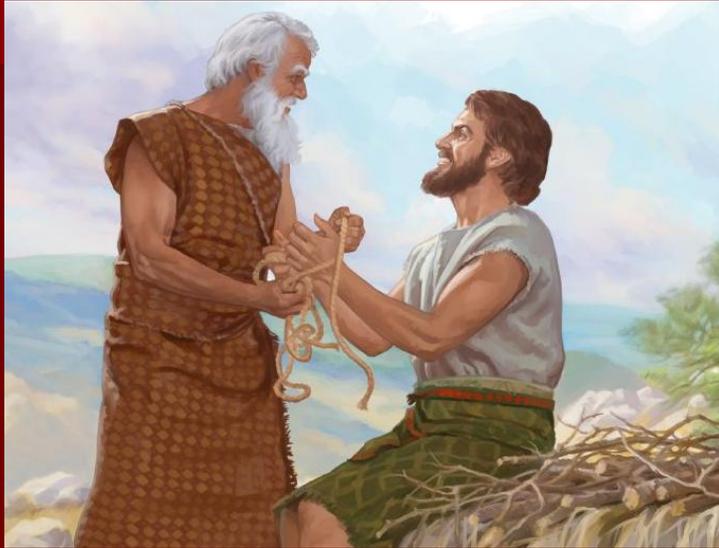
Examples For Consideration

- **When Moses Came Back**
– **Exodus 32:1-35**



- **Satan's Temptation of Jesus**
– **Luke 4:1-13**

Examples For Consideration



- **Abraham's Willingness to Offer Isaac**

–Genesis 22:1-22

- **Our Works Authenticate Our Witness**

–James 2:17-26



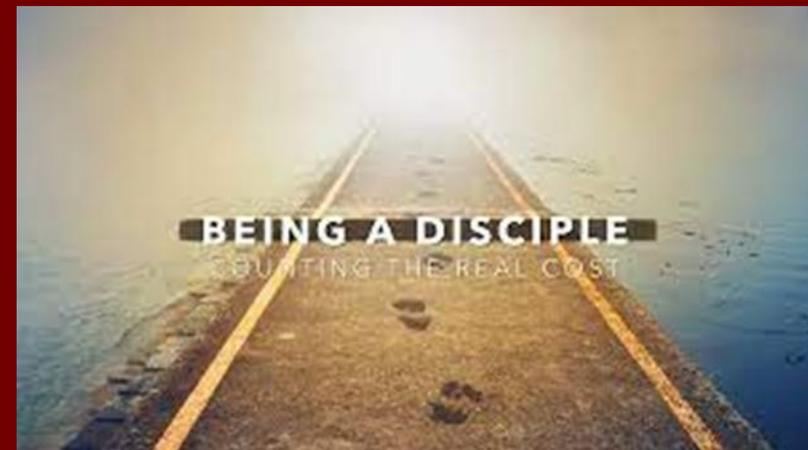
Each Has Their Set of Challenges...

■ What can cause a Disciple of Jesus Christ to break?

– Luke 14:25-33

– The Greek word translated into the English word, **Disciple**, is *mathētēs*; *Strongs Concordance #3101 / Used 269 times / Translated as Disciple.*

- *Vines Expository Dictionary defines it as lit., "a learner" (from *manthano*, "to learn," from a root *math--*, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor)*



Follower or Disciple?

- **Key Concept: Difference Between Follower or Disciple**
 - The Greek word translated into the English word, **Disciple** carries the idea / context of someone who is not only learning and following, but someone who wants to emulate another.
 - When Jesus taught, there were thousands of people that enjoyed His teaching. Many followed Him from place to place, but there were only a few who became disciples.
 - **Matthew 28:19-20**, “As you are going, make disciples among all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey and practice all that I have commanded you, and remember, I will be right there with you every step of the way.”

Will Jesus Christ Find Living Faith?

■ John 15:1-11

- With Living Faith, our belief galvanizes into a conviction that will produce righteous works.

■ II Corinthians 13:5

- Test ourselves to prove that Christ lives in us.
- We will not fail the test if we draw close to Him and truly work to make the changes we need to make as individuals to take on the very nature and life of God.

...When the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the earth?

■ Applications for These Days:

- ✓ How can we avoid deceptions?
- ✓ Decide to know God's Word
- ✓ Seek God's Counsel
- ✓ Remember Psalm 51 & Isaiah 57

Psalm 51:16-17— For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise"

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Isaiah 57:15— “For thus says the high and exalted One, Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, ‘I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit. In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”