

John 14:29-31 & 15:1-8

29. And now **I have told you BEFORE it COMES to PASS**, that when it does come to pass, **you may BELIEVE**.

- **Deuteronomy 18:21-22** "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we _____ the _____ which the Lord has not spoken?'- when a _____ speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not _____ or come to _____, that is the thing which the _____ has _____ spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Definition: "I have TOLD you BEFORE it COMES to PASS" - Jesus is giving them the test of a prophet of God. **If what He says does not come to pass, He's a phoney!** Prophecy that is fulfilled (comes to pass) is proof of a prophet of God and of the divine authorship of the Bible. No other religious book or so-called sacred writings other than the Bible contain prophecies of the future, and **certainly not prophecies that have come true** and been fulfilled perfectly. Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion, made a number of predictions of the future, none of which ever came true. **He was a false prophet!** Some people claim that Nostradamus made many predictions of the future which came true. However, his predictions were for the most part very vague, and he had many that did not come true at all! The Bible itself says that if a prophet is not 100% right 100% of the time, he or she is NOT a prophet of God! (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Fulfilled prophecy is the one proof you can't escape, and you can't get around. One-fourth of the Bible, when it was written, was prophetic: that is, it announced things that were to take place in the future.

30-31. I will no longer talk much with you, for **the RULER of THIS WORLD is coming**, and **he has nothing in Me**. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

- **II Corinthians 4:3-4** "But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing (do not believe), whose minds the _____ of this _____ has _____, who do not believe..."
- **John 8:44** "You are of your father, the _____, and the desire of your father you _____ to do."
- **John 12:31** "Now is the judgment of this world; now the _____ of _____ will be cast out."
- **Acts 26:18** "To open their eyes and to turn them from _____ to light, and from the _____ of _____ to God."
- **Rev. 12:9-10** "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the _____ and _____, who deceives the whole _____; he was cast to the earth, and his _____ were cast out with him."

Definition: "The RULER of THIS WORLD is coming" - Jesus is referring to Satan, the devil, as being the "ruler of this world." God originally gave Adam dominion over this world (Genesis 1:27-28, Psalm 8:4-8), but when Adam sinned and obeyed the devil instead of God, **he turned over his right** to be "ruler" of this world to Satan. In the plural, Satan and his demons are called "principalities and powers" and "**RULERS** of the darkness of this age (world)." "Principalities and powers" refers to **Satan and his demons** and especially their **SYSTEM of POWER** over the nations and governments of this world.

- **I Corinthians 2:6-8** "However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this _____, nor of the _____ of this age, who

- are coming to nothing. But we speak the _____ of God in a mystery, the _____ wisdom which God ordained _____ the ages for our glory, which none of the _____ of _____ knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."
- **Ephesians 6:12** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against _____ against _____, against the _____ of the _____ of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the _____ places."
 - **John 16:11** "Of judgment because the _____ of this _____ is judged."
 - **I John 5:19** "We know that we are of God, and the whole _____ lies under the sway of the _____ one."

Definition: "He Has NOTHING in ME" - Don't you wish we could ALL say that the devil had nothing in us, meaning he didn't have anything with which to tempt us, or **tweak our minds**, or **know what "buttons to push"** to get us off track? Jesus was so completely sinless and pure that Satan did not have even one foothold in His life.

15:1. I am the **TRUE VINE**, and My Father is the vinedresser.

- **Isaiah 4:2** "In that day the _____ of the _____ shall be beautiful and glorious...."
- **Zechariah 3:8** "Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous _____; for behold, I am bringing forth My _____, the _____."

Definition: "My Father is the VINEDRESSER" - Jesus says He is the true Vine, which is the same as the "Branch of the Lord" in several Old Testament prophecies. God the Father is the vinedresser or **gardener**, who prunes and cares for the vine (plant).

2-3. Every branch in Me that **does not bear FRUIT He takes away**; and **every branch that bears fruit He PRUNES**, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean (pruned) because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the _____ of the Spirit is _____, _____, peace, _____, _____, goodness, _____, _____, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Definition: "Every BRANCH that BEARS FRUIT He PRUNES" - Jesus is the main branch or vine, and we are the little branches that grow out from Him. Our whole purpose is to produce fruit (see Gal. 5:22-23). The Father will **PRUNE or cut away things** in our lives that get in the way and interfere with producing this fruit.

- **Hebrews 12:5-6** "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the _____ of the _____, nor be discouraged when you are _____ by Him; for whom the Lord _____ He _____, and scourges (prunes) every son whom He receives.'"

Definition: "Every BRANCH IN ME that does not BEAR FRUIT He TAKES AWAY" - Those who do not produce fruit at all **require more serious measures** than just the regular pruning. Jesus is talking about "branches in Me," which means these people are saved, they are true Christians, but just not producing

fruit in their lives. The meaning of the Greek words **"take away"** is "to bear up, carry away, lift up, remove." The first step in this process for a non-fruit-producing Christian (a "backslider"), is **God's discipline (chastening)**. Here is the picture of the Father, as the gardener, **lifting up and cleaning the mud and dirt off** of this non-producing branch, because it has been dragging in the mud (sin in the life). After all the gardener can do to try to get this branch to produce fruit, if it still doesn't do any good, He will finally REMOVE that branch entirely. This is also spoken of in I John 5:16 as a "sin unto death."

- **I John 5:16** "If anyone sees his _____ commit a _____ which does _____ lead to death, he will ask [God], and He will give him _____ for those who commit sin _____ leading to _____. There is _____ leading to _____. I do not say that he should pray about that."

Definition: "SIN UNTO DEATH" - This refers to Christians only, because it says "his brother", which means another Christian. What this means is that a Christian may DIE PHYSICALLY before their time **as a result of CONTINUED SIN**. There comes a point where **PRAYING for such a person is wasted prayer**. There is no particular sin that is "the sin unto death" on a list of sins. It is **whatever sin in that particular person's life** that has a HOLD on them, and which they will not surrender to the Lord. It could be drunkenness for one person, and sexual sin for another person, and pride and materialism for another person. Whatever it is, they have already set their course on a particular path or direction of life, and have resisted the Lord's warnings. If they will NOT repent, they will have to **SUFFER the CONSEQUENCES** for their sin (I Corinthians 5:1-5). They are still saved and going to heaven (see I Cor. 3:15), but **God has had to remove them** from the earth before they cause more damage to other Christians and bring reproach to the name of Christ.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be _____, God is not _____; for whatever a man _____, that he will also _____. For he who sows to his _____ will of the flesh reap _____, but he who sows to the _____ will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

Definition: "MOCK" - To treat with CONTEMPT, to insult; to DEFY or CHALLENGE.

Definition: "SOWING and REAPING" - Sowing means planting seeds, and reaping means harvesting or gathering the crop that has grown from those seeds. We may still have to suffer the CONSEQUENCES of our sinful behavior ("seeds" we have "planted"), even though God has FORGIVEN us. Sowing and reaping is mostly referring to our time HERE ON EARTH, although it may mean a LACK of REWARDS in heaven, as well.

4-5. Abide in Me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot BEAR FRUIT of itself**, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do NOTHING**.

- **Ephesians 5:9** "For the _____ of the _____ is in all goodness, _____, and _____."

Definition: "WITHOUT Me you CAN do NOTHING" - What Jesus means is that without Him, and being tapped into His power (like the branch in the vine), **we cannot do anything of any eternal value**. Sure, we can run around and live our lives and do all sorts of things without Jesus, but they are all absolutely worthless in God's eyes. The fruit we are to bear is also called the "fruit of the Spirit," which means the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to bear this "fruit." If you look at it carefully, this "fruit" is a combination of the character qualities of Jesus!

6. If anyone does not abide in Me, **he is cast out as a branch and is withered**; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

- **Romans 8:13** "For if you live according to the _____ you will _____; but if by the _____ you put to death the deeds of the flesh, you will live."
- **I Corinthians 9:27** "But I _____ my _____ and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have _____ to others, I myself should become _____."

Definition: "He is CAST OUT as a branch and is WITHERED" - Again, this is referring to the backslider, the Christian who is "not abiding" in a close relationship and fellowship with the Lord. That person has **cut themselves off** from the life and nutrients of the Vine, and they become spiritually "withered." (See I John 5:16, "sin unto death" above). Paul also talks about it as being "disqualified" in the race. This has nothing to do with going to heaven when you die, but Paul is talking about "preaching to others" and **what kind of testimony we are to others**. If we have sin in our lives, we will be "disqualified" as far as being a witness for Christ is concerned, and we will appear as HYPOCRITES if we try to preach to others! We will be as worthless to the cause of Christ as withered branches that are tossed in the fire and **burned up**.

7-8. If you ABIDE in Me, and My WORDS ABIDE in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this **My Father is GLORIFIED, that you bear much FRUIT**; so you will be My disciples.

- **II Corinthians 9:10** "Now may _____ who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and _____ the _____ of your _____."
- **Philippians 1:11** "Being filled with the _____ of _____ which are by _____, to the _____ and _____ of God."
- **Proverbs 4:20-21** "My son, give _____ to My _____; incline your ear to My _____, do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the _____ of your _____. For they are _____ unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

Definition: "If you ABIDE in Me, and My WORDS ABIDE in you" - Abiding in Jesus means having a close relationship and **constant FELLOWSHIP with Him**. Letting **His words abide in you** means digging deep into the word of God, memorizing it, studying it, and getting it down into your spirit (heart) so that it is a vital part of you, and will flow out of you in any situation. **When you reach this level of Christian growth and maturity**, your PRAYER life will be fantastic, because you will no longer ask God for foolish or selfish things, and therefore **God can answer your prayers. When we abide in Jesus**, He produces much fruit in our lives (also called "good works"), and we fulfill God's purpose for us.

- **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His _____, created in Christ Jesus for _____, which God has prepared beforehand that we should _____ in them."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk _____ of the Lord, fully _____ Him, being _____ in every _____."