

~**PRESENCE (339)**

[**English, attendance, being there, company, Opposite of, absence**]

- Later that day while they were resting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples approached him in private, and posed to him a question regarding what he had said earlier about Jerusalem and its glorious temple. They said; When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your **presence**, and of the conclusion of the system of things?

- Thus their multi-part question addresses three major concerns of theirs. When would Jerusalem be destroyed as he had prophesied, how also could they recognize his **presence**, and when would the system of things end, bringing in God's Kingdom of a thousand years. His inspired answer addresses all three of these concerns.

- While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your **presence** and of the conclusion of the system of things? (**Matthew 24:3**)

- Jesus then showed, that his **presence** among them, would be like lightning far off in the distance. They would see the light from it, but would not be in direct contact with it.

- For just as the lightning comes out of eastern parts and shines over to western parts, so the **presence** of the Son of man will be. (**Matthew 24:27**)

- Jesus then shows what the time of his **presence** would be like, and he likens it to the days of Noah before the flood came. Then also, the Good News of salvation was being preached by Noah and his family, to the people of his day. Yet the people felt Noah was crazy and discounted his words and did not express faith in his preaching. Likewise men would not put faith in the preaching of the Son Of Man, and they would view him as crazy, and discount his words in warning of the approaching destruction.

- For just as the days of Noah were, so the **presence** of the Son of man will be. (**Matthew 24:37**)

- So Jesus showed, that during his **presence** among them, the evidence would be all around them, but people would take no note of

it. Because of failing to heed this divine warning, they would all be swept away when the destruction came, because they lacked faith, and paid no attention to the many warnings presented to them.

- And they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the **presence** of the Son of man will be. (**Matthew 24:39**)
- Now Paul shows, that there is a ranking to the resurrection, with Christ coming first, for he is the firstfruits to God. Later during Christ's **presence**, there will be a resurrection of all those of the anointed class, whom he repurchased with his own blood, buying them back from sin and death.
- But each one in his own rank, Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his **presence**. (**1 Corinthians 15:23**)
- Evidently Stephanas himself and Fortunatus and Achaicus came out to meet Paul who was nearby, and met with him briefly, and took the letter of First Corinthians back to the local congregation there. They made Paul rejoice, over his sadness of not seeing the entire congregation.
- But I rejoice over the **presence** of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your not being here. (**1 Corinthians 16:17**)
- Nonetheless, the God who comforts those who are lowly in spirit, comforted Paul through the **presence** of Titus, who came and strengthened Paul by his support.
- Nevertheless God, who comforts those laid low, comforted us by the **presence** of Titus. (**2 Corinthians 7:6**)
- Yet Paul shows, that Titus comforted him not only by his **presence** alone, but by telling Paul about his trip to Corinth and his visit with the congregation there. Titus brought word of their longing to see Paul, and their mourning over past wrongs committed there, which Paul had mentioned in a past letter. He was comforted, because they still had a zeal for his teachings and were fulfilling them in their lives. For these reasons, Paul rejoiced even more.
- Yet not alone by his **presence**, but also by the comfort with which

he had been comforted over you, as he brought us word again of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced yet more. (2 Corinthians 7:7)

- For since they look at him according to face value, they might think, that he was a real disappointment in person, even though his letters were weighty and forceful. For when **present** his speech was weak and contemptible. Evidently Paul, like Moses, was not a good speaker, or of impressive stature physically.
- For, say they; His letters are weighty and forceful, but his **presence** in person is weak and his speech contemptible. (2 Corinthians 10:10)
- Paul wanted their exultation to overflow in Christ Jesus, through his **presence** with them.
- So that your exultation may overflow in Christ Jesus by reason of me through my **presence** again with you. (Philippians 1:26)
- Therefore Paul counsels those in Philippi, that in the same way, that they have obeyed him, when he was **present** with them, that they should likewise be obedient during his absence from them. They should always keep working out their own salvation, with fear of the true God Yehowah, and trembling over displeasing him, and thus losing his favor.
- Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that you have always obeyed, not during my **presence** only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)
- Paul now shows, that they are his crown of exultation, for they are the product of his works among them, and in this he takes great joy. Before the time comes for the **presence** of the Lord, they are his greatest joy, for they remain faithful in the faith.
- For what is our hope or joy or crown of exultation, why, is it not in fact you? Before our Lord Jesus at his **presence**. (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
- Paul wants the Lord, Jesus Christ, to make their hearts firm for righteous principles and the way of holiness. Thus at the **presence** of the Lord, Jesus Christ, they will become unblamable before God in

holiness, as all the holy anointed ones must be to be acceptable to the Lord.

- To the end that he may make your hearts firm, unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the **presence** of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. (**1 Thessalonians 3:13**)
- Now Paul reveals a sacred secret, that those anointed Christians, who are surviving at the time of the **presence** of the Lord Jesus Christ, shall in no way precede those, who fell asleep in death, prior to that time.
- For this is what we tell you by Yehowah's word, that we the living who survive to the **presence** of the Lord shall in no way precede those who have fallen asleep in death. (**1 Thessalonians 4:15**)
- Paul then asks his God to sanctify or cleanse them completely for his service. Paul wants them to be sound in every respect in soul and body and spirit, so that they may be preserved in a blameless manner, at the time of the **presence** of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- May the very God of peace sanctify you completely. And sound in every respect may the spirit and soul and body of you brothers be preserved in a blameless manner at the **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**)
- Paul now addresses something, that people have been questioning him about, the timing of the **presence** of Jesus Christ and his return to them, when he again appears to them.
- However, brothers, respecting the **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we request of you (**2 Thessalonians 2:1**)
- Then during Christ's **presence** the lawless one would be revealed, and the Lord Jesus Christ would do away with him by the spirit of his mouth, or through correct teachings, and thus expose his wrong, which they would be firmly set in, by that time. Thus the manifestation of Christ's presence would bring him, and his authority within the Christian congregation, to nothing, and will cause his fall eternally.
- Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to

nothing by the manifestation of his **presence**. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

- This lawless ones **presence** within the Christian congregation is in accord with the operation of Satan the Devil, and it includes powerful works, and also lying signs, or symbolisms, which mislead Christians to taking the wrong course in life, and in their Christian service.
- But the lawless ones **presence** is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- James now shows that his anointed brothers need to have patience for the purpose of Yehowah God unfolds in a wide time frame from our viewpoint as human beings. Then he illustrates how our patience will produce good results. The farmer plants seeds in the ground and then he waters and tills the soil and keep the weeds away, so that his plants can grow strong and produce fruitage.
- He needs to be patient, and is always dependent upon Yehowah God to bring the needed rains before his young plants mature. He therefore needs to exercise patience to achieve the hoped for results.
- Exercise patience, therefore, brothers, until the **presence** of the Lord. Look! The farmer keeps waiting for the precious fruit of the earth, exercising patience over it until he gets the early rain and the late rain. (James 5:7)
- Therefore anointed Christians must likewise exercise patience and while they are waiting for this time of judgment from Yehowah God, they need to use the time to make their hearts firm, like the farmer tills and weeds the fields to make them produce better. Yehowah's day of accounting with all mankind is fast approaching, and all those who have patiently endured will then gain a blessing, just like the hard working farmer.
- You too exercise patience, make your hearts firm, because the **presence** of the Lord has drawn close. (James 5:8)
- Peter then shows that it was not by some con job with artfully contrived stories, that he acquainted them with the power and **presence** of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rather it was by having been eyewitnesses of Christ's magnificence.

- Peter was himself one of only three disciples of Jesus Christ who entered the mountain where Jesus Christ was transfigured before him, where his clothing and his face emitted light, and where God's own voice spoke from the heavens, claiming Christ as his son. Thus Peter was an eyewitness who knew of what he was speaking and teaching.
- No, it was not by following artfully contrived false stories that we acquainted you with the power and **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it was by having become eyewitnesses of his magnificence. (2 Peter 1:16)
- Such men will ask mockingly; Where is this promised **presence** of Jesus Christ? They will not see any change in the way life plays out before them, just as it has been playing out since the days of their forefathers. They will feel that nothing has changed.
- This will be, because they lack spirituality, and an accurate knowledge of the Bible and what it foretells. Therefore in the Last Days, disbelief will be rampant, and men will continue on just like they always have.
- And saying; Where is this promised **presence** of his? Why, from the day our forefathers fell asleep in death, all things are continuing exactly as from creations beginning. (2 Peter 3:4)
- Every day that an anointed Christian lives, should be lived with these things kept closely in mind. For when the time comes for that day to manifest itself, these symbolic heavens being on fire will be dissolved, and the elemental parts of Satan the Devil's system of things will melt down from the intense heat of Yehowah God's scrutiny upon them.
- Gone will be the governments of men dominated by Satan the Devil and his demons, also their corrupt commercial system, their false religion and their mighty military forces and police forces that keep mankind under oppression and in fear. Gone they will be forever! Good riddance!
- Awaiting and keeping close in mind the **presence** of the day of Yehowah, through which the heavens being on fire will be dissolved and the elements being intensely hot will melt! (2 Peter 3:12)

- **John now counsels these little children of faith, to remain in union with this wonderful spirit, for it is true, and it will guide them accurately. He wants for these anointed Christians to have great freeness of speech in the day when the Christ is revealed during his presence, and not to be shamed away from him at the time of his presence, when others will reproach him, and these true teachings of his.**

- **So now, little children, remain in union with him, that when he is made manifest we may have freeness of speech and not be shamed away from him at his presence. (1 John 2:28)**