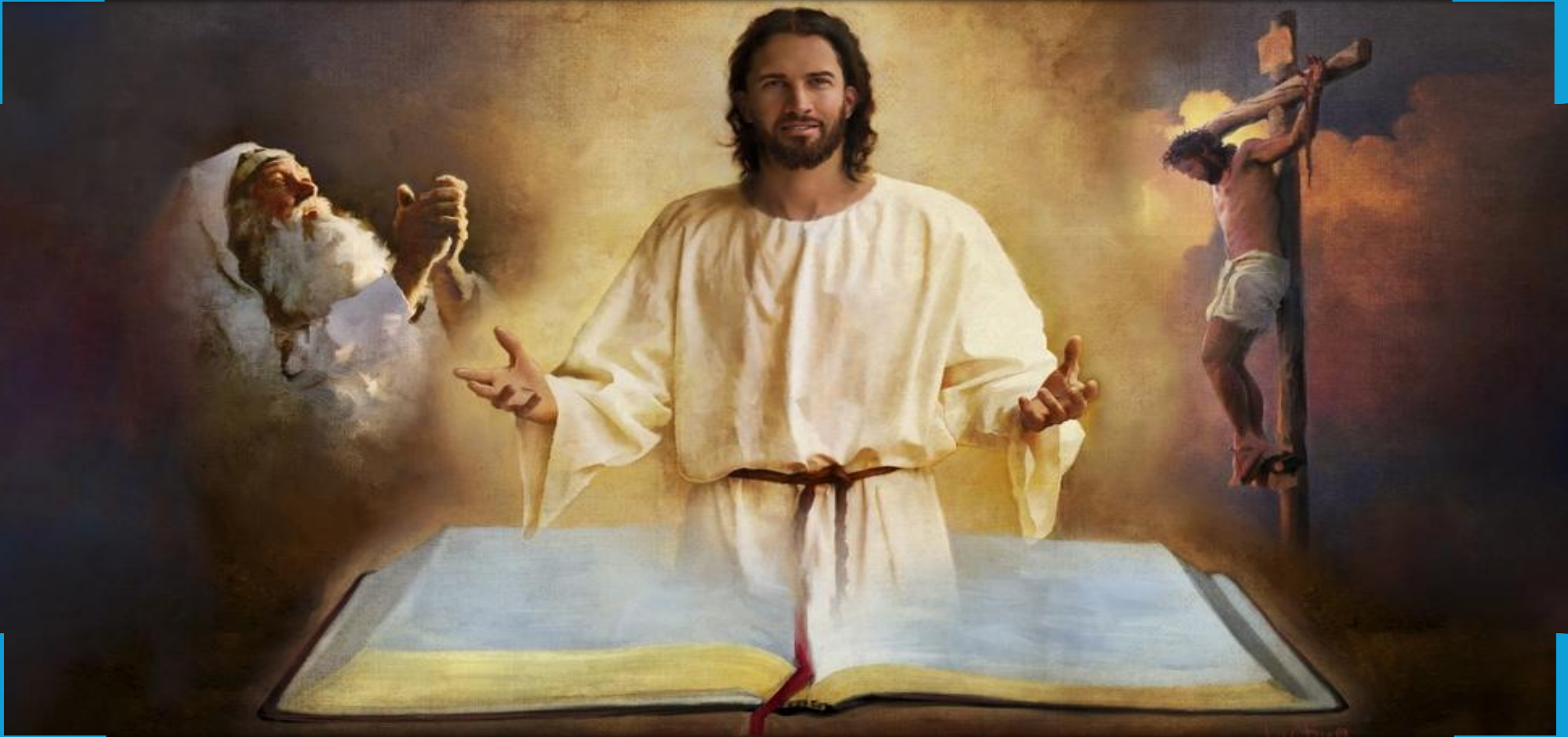


EPILOGUE: KNOWING JESUS AND HIS WORD



"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me"

John 5:39, NKJV

Through the women, Jesus had given this order to the disciples: “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me” (Matthew 28:10).

While they were still in Jerusalem, Jesus appeared to them twice. Then they left for Galilee. There, they had their third encounter with Jesus. This encounter forms the epilogue of John's Gospel.

We will also review the main objective for which John wrote his gospel: to know Jesus and his Word.



The epilogue of the Gospel of John

The restoration of Peter (Jn. 21:1-19)

The Right Approach (Jn. 21:20-22)

Knowing Jesus and His Word

Light and darkness

How to interpret the Word

Remain in Jesus

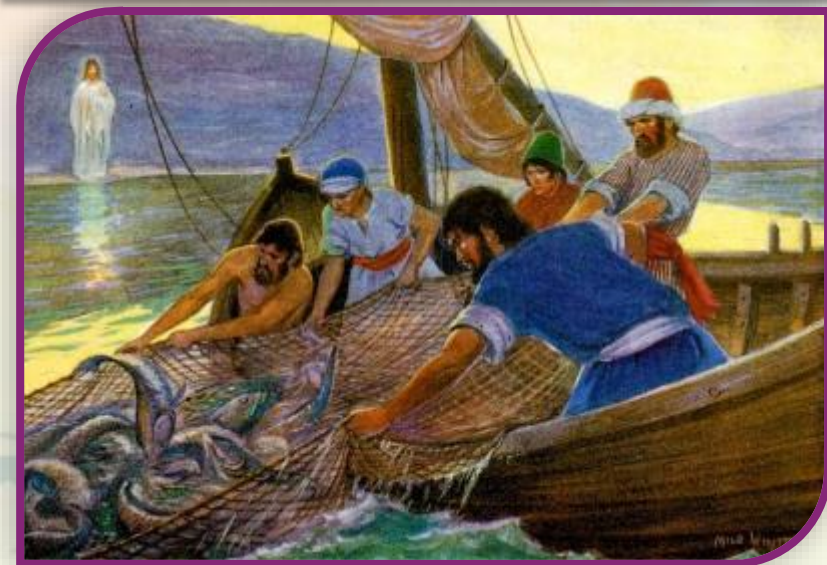
THE EPILOGUE



FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE RESTORATION OF PETER

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ ” (John 21:15 NKJV)



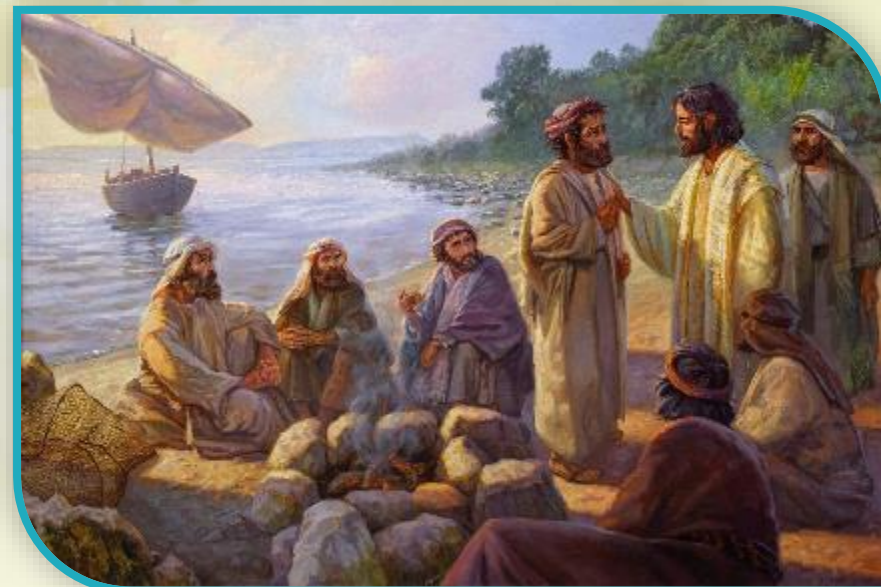
“I am going fishing.” What prompted Peter to return to his old activity? Boredom from waiting? Need to find resources to support himself and others? Remorse? Insecurity? In any case, the night of fishing – again – was a failure (John 21:3.)

Jesus' unexpected appearance served two purposes: to assure them that He would provide for their needs; and to publicly restore Peter.

“Simon [...] do you love me (*agapaō*)?” “Yes, Lord; YOU KNOW that I love you (*fileō*)” (Jn. 21:15.)

Leaving behind his former arrogance [“I will lay down my life for you” (Jn. 13:37)], Peter humbly admitted that, on his own, he could not come to love as Jesus loved him. His only security was to put himself in Jesus’ hands: “you know.”

Like Peter, put your life in the hands of Jesus and do not trust your own opinion.



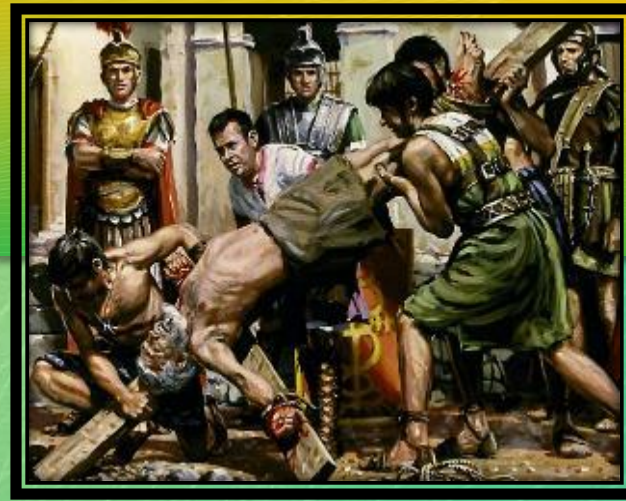
THE RIGHT APPROACH

"When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him [John]?"" (John 21:21)

As they walked along the beach, Jesus told Peter that when he grew old he would die on a cross. And he added, "Follow me" (Jn. 21:18-19.)

The last part seemed to go unnoticed by Peter. Upon seeing John, the question was, "I am going to be crucified, but what about John?" (Jn. 21:20-21.)

Jesus' response was clear: "You do not have to worry about what others do. You, follow me" (Jn. 21:22.)



Some thought Jesus was saying that John would be alive when He returned. However, that was not the case. The issue was not how or when John would die.

The important thing is to follow Jesus personally, regardless of what others do. The idea is to focus on Jesus rather than on other people, who may disappoint us or even hurt us.



MEET JESUS



AND HIS WORD

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5)

Spiritually speaking, where does light come from? Where does darkness come from?

In Acts 26:18 we can see this clearly:



Darkness

Satan



Light

God

Because of sin, this world came under the dominion of Satan and, therefore, became a world of darkness.

Jesus is the light, and therefore, whoever follows Jesus will not be in darkness (Jn. 1:4-5.) On the contrary, whoever departs from the light is in darkness.

If we apply this principle to the study of the Bible, we will see that being united to the light leads us to the truth, and being in darkness leads us to error and lies (Jn. 8:42-45.)

HOW TO INTERPRET THE WORD

"For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken" (John 12:49)

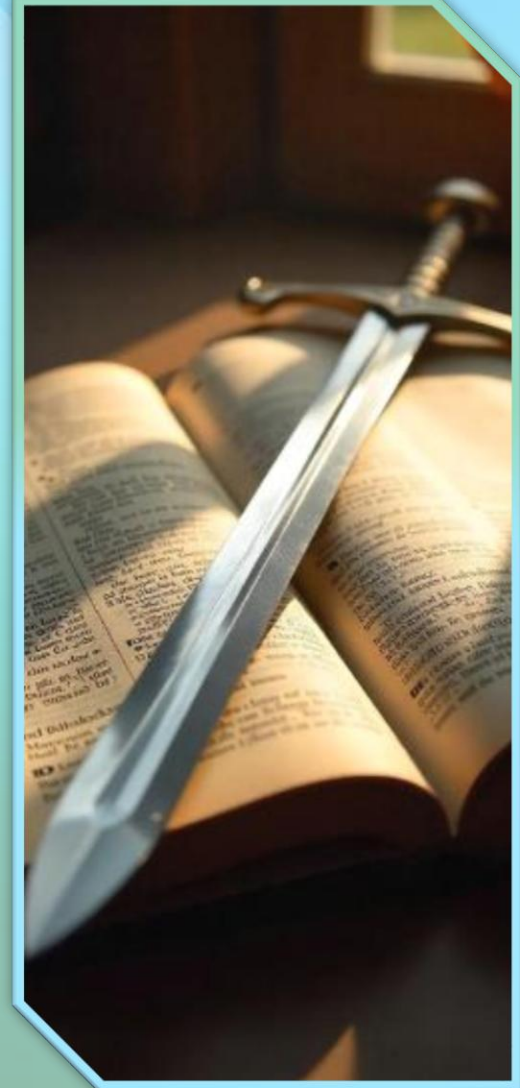
Jesus did not interpret the Scriptures himself, nor did he teach anything of his own invention. He always let himself be led by the Heavenly Father (John 12:49-50.)

When approaching the Bible, we must follow the same method, that is, let ourselves be guided by God (Jn. 14:26; 6:45.)

By studying the Bible based on our own opinion – trying to fit it to our concepts – we rob it of its transforming and life-giving power (Heb. 4:12.)

Our attitude must be to listen and obey. That is, to put into practice what God teaches us through His Word.

This dynamic of hearing and putting into practice the Word of God is an expression of love towards Him (Jn. 14:23.)





STAY IN JESUS

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5)

Jesus is like a magnet. He has the ability to attract the sinner (Jn. 12:32.) As we draw near to Him, we are clothed in His light (Jn. 12:46.)

John's gospel shows many examples of people who were drawn to Jesus, accepted Him, and were transformed. However, others, despite being drawn to Him, rejected Him.



But Jesus went further. He said that it is not enough to be drawn and accepted by Him. We must abide in Him (Jn. 15:1-7.)

As we approach the end, it is a basic necessity to remain in Jesus so as not to be carried away by false interpretations about God and His Word.

And how can we remain in Him? By keeping His commandments (Jn. 15:10.) This is an expression of love (Jn. 14:15; 1Jn. 5:3; 2 Jn. 1:6.)



“A bright light shines upon our pathway today, and it leads to increased faith in Jesus. We must receive every ray of light, and walk in it, that it may not be our condemnation in the judgment. Our duties and obligations become more important as we obtain more distinct views of truth. Light makes manifest and reprove the errors that were concealed in darkness; and as light comes, the life and character of men must change correspondingly, to be in harmony with it... As increased light is given, men must be reformed, elevated, and refined by it.”