

God is continually working to get our attention, and to then direct our attention to Jesus Christ!
The word “**Behold**” is mentioned nearly 1,500 times in the Bible. It is in the *imperative* – a command!
“Behold” is defined as being; *aware, consider, have knowledge, see, perceive, be sure, understand...*
and that ***Now is the time to Behold!***

Let’s focus on four extraordinarily important times in history when God calls us to especially “Behold”:

1) **Behold: Jesus’ First Coming**

From the very beginning (*in the Garden of Eden*); Adam & Eve were restricted from eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, but **not** restricted from the Tree of Life ([Genesis 2:15-17](#))!
But after their disobedience and corruption with sin, they **were** restricted ([Genesis 3:23-24](#)).
Eternal life wasn’t denied while Adam & Eve were sinless – but after their sin-corruption, eternal life was restricted from them until their sin problem was eternally dealt with by an Alternate means.
[Genesis 3:22](#) *And the LORD God said, **Behold**, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever*
Only after mankind’s sin is mitigated, can we again enjoy access to the Tree of Life:
[Revelation 22:14](#) *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

God immediately set forth His plan to deal with mankind’s sin, & He repeatedly calls us to **Behold**:
Old Testament Prophets – [Isa 7:14](#) (*700 yrs before Christ*); **Mary** – [Lk 1:31](#); **Joseph** – [Matt 1:20](#);
Shepherds – [Lk 2:10-11](#); **Simeon** – [Lk 2:34](#); **Wise men** – [Matt 2:1](#); **John the Baptist** – [John 1:29](#).

Discussion:

- 1) Why would God not want man in his sinful state to attain eternal life?
- 2) What was God’s “Alternate-Means” plan to deal with man’s sin?
- 3) To whom was every “Behold” announcement referring to, and directed to?

2) **Behold: Jesus’ Earthly Ministry**

Both prophets [Isaiah \(52:7\)](#) & [Nahum \(1:15\)](#), describe the “feet” of one who brings good-news as “beautiful.” The ultimate bringer of Good News is Jesus Christ ~ the answer to man’s sin-problem!
Discussion:

- 1) How does [Luke 9:56](#) describe Jesus’ good-news mission?
- 2) How does [John 3:34, 14:10](#) describe Jesus’ good-news message?

3) **Behold: Church & World**

The Church’s message of the Gospel (*God’s Good News*) to the fallen world is that we can again be called sin-cleansed “*sons of God*”!
Discussion:

- 1) What hope does [1 John 3:1-3](#) give to the Church (*God’s redeemed people*)?
- 2) What warning to the world & remedy to “every man” does [1 John 3:1-3](#) offer?

4) **Behold: Jesus’ Second Coming**

In the part of Jesus’ pastoral prayer to the Father, recorded in [John 17:24](#), Jesus refers to redeemed man’s destiny as result of His Second Coming. In [Revelation 22:7,12](#), attention is drawn to the Lord returning “quickly.” In the context of Jesus’ return for His Church, the term “quickly” is used not to emphasize an “any-moment” arrival, but that the series of events related to that Return will unfold very quickly when that time comes.

Discussion:

- 1) What is the destiny of redeemed mankind that Jesus prayed for in [John 17:24](#)?
- 2) In light of our opening text, [2 Corinthians 6:2](#), what should our response be?