

Jesus “Closed the Book”

Introduction

Luke 4:20

1. Many things said in the scriptures grip us; this one certainly does!
2. Let’s look at the context of this text beginning with verse 13:
Luke 4:13-21
 - A. This took place soon after His temptation by the Devil.
 - B. Afterward He returned to Nazareth.
 - C. He entered the synagogue and read from Isaiah 61:1ff.

Isaiah prophesied:

- 1) appointed to preach the gospel
- 2) sent to heal the brokenhearted
- 3) sent to preach deliverance to the captives
- 4) sent to recover the sight to the blind
- 5) sent to set at liberty those who were being oppressed
- 6) to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord
 - a. Jesus then “closed the book”.
 - b. All eyes were fixed on Him.
 - c. Today this scripture is fulfilled.

Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

1. **Isaiah left it incomplete.**
 - A. **He did not know when this would come to pass, just that it would.**
 - B. **Christ fulfilled it — He “closed the book” on all the Old Testament prophecy!**

Jesus Completed the Old Testament

1. **The books of the Old Testament could have a bottom line added to each one reading “to be continued”**
2. **The final chapters of the Old Testament were fulfilled and completed when Jesus died, was buried, was resurrected and His church was established.**
 - A. **Jesus “closed the book” on the Old Testament.**
Romans 7:1-6; Hebrews 9:15-17

Col 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Jesus Completed the New Testament

1. **God revealed long ago that His Son would one day come.**
Hebrews 1:1-2
 - A. **It is Christ who was God’s final word to man.**
2. **Christ came and “closed the book” on the New Testament fulfilling all prophecy and giving us yet one more.**

The Future

1. We are told that the kingdom of God will be delivered up.

1 Cor 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

2. In world history there are many thousands of chapters that have been written.

A. When Christ comes He will write the final chapter, fulfilling the last prophecy that He will come again!

Acts 1:9-11

3. Each one of us has a story of life. Every day we are adding another page to our book.

A. But one day, Jesus will **"close the book"** on each one of our lives!

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

1) Christ is the finality — He **"closes the book."**

C. Once He closes the book, No one can open it again!

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

4. What will Jesus write in our book of life in closing our final chapter?

Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

A. How can we know that Christ will confess us before His Father? Matthew 10:32

5. We will all stand before the judgment seat of God as the book of Life is opened. The question is:

A. Will our name be written in the book? Revelation 20:12, 15

B. Those that deny Jesus here on earth will not find their name written in the book of life. Matthew 10:33

6. Jesus will then close the book and all will know for certain where eternity will be spent!

Invitation:

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Richard Thetford, October 2006 (Reworked from the sermon preached in 1994)