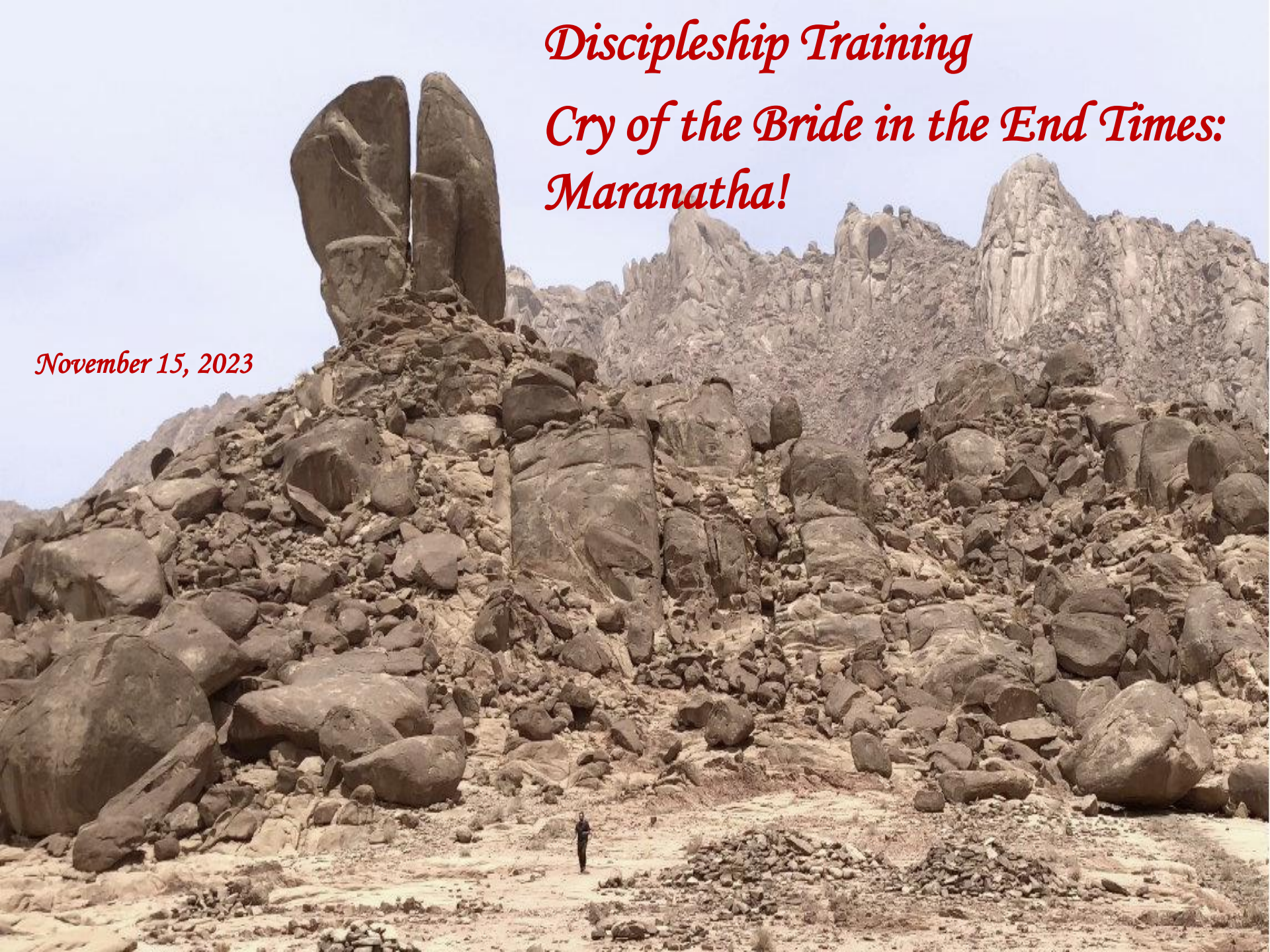


# *Discipleship Training*

## *Cry of the Bride in the End Times: Maranatha!*

*November 15, 2023*





A grayscale photograph of a rocky, mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a person stands on a dirt path, providing a sense of scale. The middle ground is filled with large, dark boulders and smaller rocks. In the background, several jagged, rocky peaks rise against a light sky. The overall scene is desolate and rugged.

**Sinai to Zion**  
**by Joel Richardson**

## **Assigned reading: Part 3 of the Book**

- **Chapter 26 Where Does Jesus Return**
- **Chapter 27 The Triumphant Return of Jesus**

## **Video:**

- **Episode 39 Where Does Jesus Return**
- **Episode 40 Jesus Will Return in a Pillar of Cloud and Fire**

## **Assignment:**

- **Give your insights on any topic in any episode**



# **November 15, 2023 (PST) Discipleship Class**

**Facilitator: Ps Grace**

**To discuss insights and takes:**

- **Rendu**
- **Ruffy**
- **Jeremy**
- **Nora**
- **Patricia**
- **Nona**
  
- **Prayer Leaders: Imelda, Vir, Ted, Eileen**

# Episode 39 Where Does Jesus Return

## I. JERUSALEM

- A. Most Christians today would say Jerusalem because of two proof texts
  - 1. Zechariah 12-14
  - 2. Acts 1
- B. The armies of the Antichrist are ravaging the land, Jesus comes back to fight him, standing on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:3-4)
  - 1. However, the passage does not say explicitly that Jesus will land here
  - 2. "In that day" is a general statement, in the time period of His return
- C. The events in Zechariah 14 are not necessarily chronological, rather it is laying out a series of statements
  - 1. The inhabitants fleeing after Jesus' return doesn't make sense
- D. When He returns, the citizens of Jerusalem will look upon the one they have pierced; they will go into their houses and repent, not flee (Zechariah 12)
- E. He is marching from the South, destroying the Antichrist's armies (Zechariah 9)
- F. It makes more sense to say that Jesus will be seen, perhaps in the clouds, over Jerusalem when He returns before He actually makes His arrival in Jerusalem from the South
- G. Jesus ascended to heaven on the clouds, so He will return on the clouds but not necessarily in the exact same place (Acts 1:9-11)
  - 1. The disciples were actually about 2.5 miles from the Temple Mount itself
- H. Jesus returns with myriads of angels, it wouldn't really make sense for him to land and then bounce somewhere else

# Episode 39 Where Does Jesus Return

## II. PETRA/BOSRA

- A. This is modern day Jordan
- B. Some of the primary texts mention Jesus marching through that area (Isaiah 34, Isaiah 63, Habakuk 3:3, Micah 2)
- C. However, these texts do not say that this is where Jesus starts His march

## III. MT. SINAI

- A. Further south from Jordan
- B. There are clear scriptures that state that Jesus will come from Sinai, but again, He does not likely originate there



# Episode 39 Where Does Jesus Return

## IV. EGYPT

- A. It seems likely that Jesus, as the greater Moses, Joshua, Gideon, will retrace the entire Exodus, originating in Egypt
- B. Jesus will rescue those who have been taken captive in Egypt as He makes His way through Saudi Arabia, through Jordan, to Jerusalem, saving His people along the way
- C. However, He does not call us to get caught up in the details of this journey
  - 1. He calls us, rather, to know the signs of the times and be prepared
- D. The Lord will bring you back to Egypt ([Deuteronomy 28:68](#))
- E. The Lord is riding on a swift cloud, coming to Egypt ([Isaiah 19:1](#))
- F. God brings Him out of Egypt ([Numbers 24:7-8](#))
  - 1. The ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy is when Jesus returns
- G. Just like when He destroyed the Midianites in the first Exodus, He will do this again in His return ([Isaiah 10:24-26](#))
  - 1. In the context of the Lord destroying the Antichrist, His staff will be lifted up over the sea, like in the first Exodus (splitting the sea)
- H. The Lord will gather His people and destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt ([Isaiah 11: 11, 15](#))
  - 1. Just like in the first Exodus when His people crossed the Red Sea
- I. The sea itself will surrender ([Habakuk 3:8-10](#), [Revelation 19](#))
- J. The strongest Biblical case for the point of origin of His return is Egypt

# Episode 40 Jesus Will Return in a Pillar of Cloud and Fire

IN MATTHEW 24:30, JESUS TALKS ABOUT "THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN". THE SUN GOING DARK AND THE MOON TURNING TO BLOOD, ETC, ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES THIS SIGN. I BELIEVE WHEN JESUS RETURNS, IT WILL NOT BE IN A WAY MOST CHRISTIANS OR JEWS ARE NOW PICTURING.

## I. THE PILLAR

- A. [Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 14:19-20](#)
  - 1) the pillar of cloud (and the fire by night) that led Israel throughout the exodus was the angel of the Lord, a manifestation of God Himself
- B. [Exodus 14:24](#)
  - 1) the Lord is described as being within the cloud itself
- C. [Exodus 19:16-20](#)
  - 1) all the imagery of Sinai is applied to the return of Jesus; His return is the greatest theophany
  - 2) as terrifying as they were, the events at Sinai are intended to be understood as a faint foreshadow of the greater glory that is to come: Jesus' return
- D. [Exodus 23:20-23](#)
  - 1) this is similar to what God said when He spoke in [Luke 9:35](#)
  - 2) the pillar of cloud and fire was much more than just a pillar; it was the angel of the Lord Himself
- E. [Exodus 33:7-11](#)
  - 1) what a glorious scene
  - 2) how did a Jew know that God's Presence was with them? **When the pillar showed up**
    - a) [1 Kings 8:10-11](#)



# Episode 40 Jesus Will Return in a Pillar of Cloud and Fire

## II. THE CLOUD RIDER

- A. Deuteronomy 33:26, Psalm 68:4
  - 1) the exodus cloud was in the very specific form of a pillar; and when Scripture refers to the Cloud Rider, it is referring to the One who's riding *in* the pillar of cloud
- B. Daniel 7:13-14
  - 1) when Jesus returns, He is the Cloud Rider
- C. Acts 1:9-12
  - 1) based on this passage, the broader Christian vision of Jesus' return is that it will be a sunny day with cumulus clouds. However, Jesus describes His return differently



# Episode 40 Jesus Will Return in a Pillar of Cloud and Fire

## III. JESUS DESCRIBES HIS RETURN

### A. [Matthew 24:29-31](#)

- 1) after the cosmic signs, the sign of the Son of Man will appear
- 2) Jesus is quoting from [Zechariah 12](#)
  - a) in the original context of the passage, it is talking about the inhabitants of Jerusalem
- 3) this is the same language Paul and other Biblical writers use when discussing the rapture

### B. [Revelation 1:7](#)

- 1) again, when it says Jesus is coming with the clouds, it is referring to [Daniel 7](#); and when it says all the tribes will see Him, it is referring to [Zechariah 12](#)
  - a) those are the two primary texts cited by Jesus to refer to His return

### C. [Matthew 24:29-31](#), [Mark 13:24-27](#), [Luke 21:25-28](#)

- 1) all these accounts reference Jesus, the Son of Man, “[coming in the clouds](#)” or “[a cloud](#)”

D. There is something distinctly Jewish about Jesus’ return that Jews will recognize, so what is it? I submit to you that it will be Jesus returning in the pillar of cloud which causes the Jews to recognize Him as the Messiah.



## PRAYER POINTS

**Isaiah 62: Raise up people intercessors for Israel**

**God will not hold His peace until Israel becomes praise to the Nations; He set watchman on the wall to not keep silent**

- **Pray for Israel and the church's endurance during the Jacob's trouble / great tribulation**
- **Israel's national repentance; to turn to God wholeheartedly and obey His commands/laws**
  - **Pray Psalm 91 over Israel**
- **Pray that the people of God would live a life on this earth that hastens His return.**
  - **Pray for any of the topics discussed as the Holy Spirit leads.**