

# 119

## MINISTRIES

*“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”*

### **Answering Your Questions - (Yeshua’s Return, Thanksgiving, Eating Seaweed, Self-Defense, etc...)**

119 Ministries receives thousands of emails a year. And as you would expect, many of those emails contain questions. Quite often, we repeatedly receive various forms of the same questions. Ideally, we would like to have a teaching available for every question we receive, however, some questions can be answered rather briefly, and do not require a regular length teaching to serve as a response. That is the purpose of this teaching series, to offer an easily available vehicle to answer your common questions.

In this teaching series, we will read a collection of hand-picked questions that we have received via email. Then, for whatever it is worth, we will offer a brief response, hopefully leading those interested in the right direction to find the answers that they are seeking.

So, let’s get started. First question:

**Hey guys. Just wanted to let you know that I really love your ministry and what God is doing through it. I came across your Deuteronomy 13 Test video and I have a question. Yeshua told his disciples numerous times that he was returning in their generation, that before some of them tasted death he would arrive in his kingdom. The apostles also told their immediate assemblies to expect their master’s imminent return. With all these numerous time statements regarding Messiah’s return, I noticed your ministry teaches he is still expected to come back in the future. So here’s my question...according to Deuteronomy 13, did Yeshua fail as a prophet to the first century disciples or did he indeed return? Please address this issue at your earliest convenience. Thank you and Lord bless.**

So basically, this question is asking whether Yeshua’s return was supposed to happen in the first century, because some verses appear to suggest that it would. The way that the question was asked here suggests that Yeshua was either a false prophet or that he did, indeed, return; not allowing for a third option, but we’re going to go ahead and present that.

For example, in Luke 9:27, several disciples were told that they would see Yeshua arrive in his kingdom.

Eight days later, exactly that happened in a shared vision, commonly called the transfiguration (Luke 9; Matthew 17).

So when Yeshua stated that several disciples would see the kingdom of God before they died, that most certainly did occur, just by way of a vision (Matthew 17:9).

The mention of “eight days later” is prophetically significant. The eighth day is prophetic of the New Jerusalem, and connects back to the eighth day of Sukkot and circumcision on the eighth day. For more on that, we might suggest our teaching “[The Creation Prophecy](#)” and we also get into that a little bit in the Life After Death series.

An example of a verse occasionally interpreted to demonstrate how Yeshua was to return soon is found in Revelation 22:13.

### **Revelation 22:13**

“Behold, I am coming soon (*tachu*), bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

However, a study of this word “soon” or “quickly” (*tachu*) is not referring to a length of time, but how quick an action is done once started. In other words, it is not a word used to denote when, but rather a word to used to denote the speed of a specific action.

Let’s give some examples:

### **Matthew 5:25**

Come to terms quickly (*tachu*) with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

### **Matthew 28:7**

Then go quickly (*tachu*) and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

### **Luke 15:22**

But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly (*tachu*) the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

So, Revelation 22:13 is a fair warning to us that when comes, his coming will be quick and sudden, like a thief, consistent with all of the other Scriptures on the matter.

### **2 Peter 3:8-10**

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

## **Matthew 24:44**

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:2**

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

For the prophetic references on possible timing, it may be worth considering the teaching “[The Creation Prophecy](#)” and “[The 4th and 7th Day.](#)”

Let's move on to the next question...

## **Is it unbiblical to celebrate Thanksgiving?**

We would take no issue with Thanksgiving. No one has dedicated Thanksgiving as a means to worship YHWH, and that would only be an issue if it consisted of traditions that were used to worship false gods (Deuteronomy 12:29-30), which would be an extreme stretch at best.

For whatever it is worth, some suggest that the idea of Thanksgiving was rooted in the idea of Sukkot, one of YHWH's holy days. We have not seen any proof of that, but we understand how there could have been a connection when the history is examined. Regardless, the intent behind Thanksgiving is to encourage gratitude. It is good to be grateful and spend time with family. Thanksgiving is a great excuse to do just that.

Moving on...

**I have been searching the word of God, however, I am not understanding everything. My challenge right now is this question: Can I eat seaweed? Thanks for any insight that you might have on this issue that will help me.**

For whatever it is worth, our position is yes, we can eat seaweed. In some ways, our response to seaweed would be the same as our teaching “[Are Mushrooms Food?](#)” ...that might be a good teaching to check out as it relates to this specific question. In short, the prohibitions on what is and is not food are found in Leviticus 11. However, Leviticus 11 focuses on animals and seaweed is a plant. Some have determined that that some plants are food and some are not based on Genesis 1:29 in which we are told that all seed bearing plants are food for us. The key is discerning the difference between what science calls a seed, and what the Bible defines as a seed. If we use the modern definition of seed, then seaweed cannot be food. If we use the Biblical definition of seed, then seaweed is food. In that difference, one realizes that it is perfectly ok to eat seaweed. Again, for a lot more detail on these concepts, we would recommend our teaching “[Are Mushrooms Food?](#)”

Let's move on to the next question...

## **Can you do a teaching on self-defense and if it's ok to kill in self-defense or not?**

In short, it is clearly ok to kill in self-defense. For example:

## **Exodus 22:2**

If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him...

Sometimes Yeshua's instruction to "turn the other cheek" is often cited to support extreme pacifism. However, Yeshua's context was referring to lawsuits and must be treated as such.

Some may take our commentary here and suggest that we would support the extreme measure of killing in self-defense as being perfectly fine regardless of the circumstance. It's not necessarily okay to kill someone just because they slapped you in the face or something similar.

We shouldn't aim to kill if it can be avoided, we should still want to preserve life, but not necessarily at the risk of losing our own or someone else. If possible, it seems a better option to escape and/or subdue say a robber, than try to kill him. Again, as long as it's not risking your life, or someone else.

Onward to the next question...

**What about killing in war? Scripture says thou shall not kill, to love our enemies, that YHWH is our avenger, etc. Please help?**

Most scholars understand "thou shall not kill" to mean to not murder. YHWH even commanded the killing of others in the capital punishment commandments or when directing Israel to war. We know that YHWH does not command us to sin. "Thou shall not kill" can only mean to not murder (meaning, to kill unjustly). We are to love our enemies, but not at the expense of our own safety or the safety of others. Life is always the weightier matter.

War can be justified and not justified. It is justified if it is to neutralize the threat that compromises the safety of citizens or offend a nation's borders. YHWH even commanded Israel to go to war for such reasons.

That's all of the questions that we have for this part of the series. If this series and presentation format interested you, there are many more questions we will be covering in the subsequent parts of this teaching series. As always, if you have questions for 119 Ministries, please use the Contact Us page offered on our website, <http://119ministries.com/contact-us>. And if you do contact us, thank you for your patience as our team works to respond.

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.*

*Remember, continue to test everything.*

*Shalom!*

*For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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