① A Little While . . . you won't, Then will

v.16 A little while and you will NOT see Me; and again in a little while, you will see Me . . .
Because I go to the Father

- Extremely enigmatic saying
- Tremendously confusing to the Disciples
  - IF He is the Messiah and plans to start the Kingdom (messianic AGE)
  - by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (παράκλητος)
    Is 11, Ez. 37, Zech 14, Jhn 7:38
- Then why is He leaving?
- We know, from hindsight, His death results & resurr. = our atonement & pouring of spirit
- ★ However, this verse is still difficult to pin-point it. . .
  - Jesus is referring to His Death and resurrection (Literally see)
    OR
  - His death and coming in the Spirit (spiritually see)
    - most scholars agree w/ #1
    - However, #2 has some validity
  - Jesus has been speaking & Teaching the entire time about coming in the Spirit

"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me . . . you will know that day, that I am in My Father." 14:19-20

★ Going to the Father (v.16) would seem to require a "spiritual seeing"

- interesting that only NKJV have "because I go to the Father"
  - All other versions omit this, BUT should they?
  - w/o it, it seems obviously literal
  - ★ But, the Disciples repeat it. . .

v.17 Then some of the disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us; 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me and' because I go to the Father"

- So, clearly it was said as the Disciples were talking about it
- So, what is this "Little while" referring to. . . (Literal or spiritual)
- They were confused - so are some still
  - Prophets used these words to indicate the Messianic AGE

"Is it NOT yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field and the fruitful field as a forest. In that day the deaf will hear the words of this book and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and darkness" Is 29:17-18

- In Isaiah's vision, this "little while" comes after "A woman w/ child is in pain and cries out in her pain. When she draws near the time of her delivery, so we have been in your sight" Is 26:17
- Jesus will make reference to this moment being like a women in Labor v.21

v.18 They said therefore, what is this that He says, "A little while", we Do not know what He is saying

- This entire farewell discourse has been very spiritual and confusing
  - leaving them w/ many Questions
    - Ch 13. . . why are You washing our feet?
    - Ch 14. . . where are You going?
    - Ch 14. . . can you show us the Father?
    - Ch 14. . . How will you show Yourself to us, BUT NOT to the world?

② SORROW INTO JOY . . Like a Woman in LABOR

v.19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, so He said to them

- probably NOT divine knowledge. . .
  "the disciples were talking among themselves" - v. 17

v.19 Jesus says, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me?

- As a good Teacher, Jesus confirms their Question / misunderstandings

v.20 Most assuredly (ἀμὴν, ἀμὴν) I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice

- There is always a contrast between the world (KOOMOS) and those not of the world
- ★ very hard to see others "rejoice at something that causes others such pain and sorrow
  - christians should "rejoice w/ other christians & weep when they weep" Rom 12:15

"When the Two witnesses finish their testimony. . . the beast will kill them. . . Those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth." Rev. 11:7-10

- The prophets predicted the inauguration of the Messianic reign coinciding w/ "Times of Trouble" (and continuing)

"There shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation (hyperbole to GET attention as this phrase is used multiple times) even to that time, and at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book" Daniel 12:1

Post tribulation preterist
- ★ pertaining to the NATION of Israel
- ★ OR a climatic future Nation
- ★ OR any unsodly NATION

- Second Temple literature coined the phrase "The birth pains of the Messiah"
- Rev. 12 speaks of an Epic battle between a Great Dragon and a women about to give birth to a Male Child. . . then makes war w/ her offspring
- Jesus even says His death is the beginning of sorrows. . . Matt 24:8

v.20 You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy

- This is very interesting & very pretty
- ★ The sorrow Does Not turn to joy BUT INTO JOY
- ★ The event they thought was sorrowful (His Death) is actually an event of Great JOY! . . . "Good Friday"
  - forgiveness, atonement, outpouring of the SPIRIT
- ★ The EVENT was NOT BAD, BUT Good!

"The virgin shall rejoice and dance. . . for I will turn their mourning into joy, will comfort them, and cause them to rejoice rather than sorrow" Jer. 31:13 (N.K.J.V.)

- Jewish festival "Purim" celebrates a day when sorrow turns into joy - Esther 9:22
  - Haman hanged on the day instead of Mordecai
  - some day of sorrow turned to freedom / liberation

Isaiah has a vision of the Messiah coming w/ the Spirit to heal broke ♡s, give joy and praise

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because the Lord has anointed Me to preach Good Tidings to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. . . To comfort all who mourn To console those who mourn in Zion To give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called Trees of righteousness planted by the Lord to reveal His splendor" Is 61:1-3

- christians have a heavenly joy and peace, but will live in earthly trials and tribulation
  - seemingly paradoxical / oxymoronic (sharp-foolishness)
- Jesus will finish ch 16 by saying:

"in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome (νικάω) the world" 16:33

③ Woman in Labor Metephor. . . Deep Jewish roots

v.21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, but joy that a human being is born into the world.

- Jesus commonly used metephors (All 7 "I Am" statements)
- and parables (7 Key parables in Matt. 13)
- and figurative language

"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language. but the time is coming that I will no longer speak figuratively, but I will tell you plainly about the Father." Jhn 16:25

- Metephors, parables, figurative language helps people who "seek" to understand deep concepts (Remember Is. 6 'judgment/consequence)
  hard ♡ = blind, deaf
  soft ♡ = see, hear
- NOT only is the "woman in Labor" metephor common in Jewish writings
- ★ BUT MOST importantly. . .

The Women in Labor almost always is connected to a Resurrection, a New Israel, the Messiah, and/or END Time Salvation

- This is huge to understand. . . NOT just a metephor of sorrow to joy, BUT AN eschatological metephor of a new age or new creation (and thus, fulfilled)
  - This symbolism and theme is still seen in Nations today and possibly Armageddon Rev. 16:16
  - ★ the pressure and trials mount up and climax w/ and end, but conversely, a new beginning.
  - Garden of Eden. . . Sin, climax, End, New Beg.
  - Noah and the flood. . . new earth
  - Moses and Egypt. . . new Nation
  - Israel and Babylon. . . new Exodus
  - Messiah and Sin. . . New covenant
  - Spiritual Nation & Earthly Kingdom. . . (Kingdom vs. Kingdom) NEW AGE
  - a clear cyclical nature of pain/sorrow into Joy of something "NEW"
- ★ The women in labor metephor here speaks of the New Covenant
- important to understand this to truly grasp this pessage & Jesus' Teaching
- Passages that combine a women in labor w/ promise of a resurrection
  - Is 13:8, 21:3, 26:16-21, 42:14, 66:7-14
  - Jer. 4:31, 6:24, 13:21, 22:23, 30:6, 49:22-24, 50:43
  - Hosea 13:13-15
  - Micah 4:9-10
- For the sake of time, lets look at one of the above.
- Is 66 fits nicely with Jesus' next words of sorrow to Joy
  - Is. 66 is a beautiful ending to an amazing 2nd half of Isaiah
  - The new creation of a new heaven and earth to be called "The New Jerusalem" was just mentioned in ch. 65

Isaiah has his last vision of. . . Ch. 66

- There will be great Trouble, for when I called, they did NOT answer they deliberately sinned before My eyes and chose in what they know I despise - v.4 (Build up/climax)
- Hear this message all you who tremble at His word . . . v.5
- What is all the commotion in the city what is the noise from the Temple?
- It is the voice God taking vengeance v.6 END/Destruction

"Before her birth pains even begin (Before Rome annihilates her/Jerus.) Jerusalem will give birth to a son. Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment?" v. 7-8

- A NEW son, in the Day He is born starts a New Nation (Is. 9 child is born)

"By the time Jerusalems birth pains begin, her child will be born. Would I ever bring this nation to the point of birth and then NOT deliver it? NO, I would never keep this Nation from being born." v. 9

"Rejoice with Jerusalem. Be glad w/ her, all who love her and all who mourn for her. Drink deeply of her glory (wells of salvation - Is 12:3) even as an infant drinks of its mother's comforting breasts. I will give Jerusalem a river of peace and prosperity. . . I will comfort you there in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child. When you see these things, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass" Is 66:7-14

v.22 Therefore, you now have sorrow But I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one can take from you

- Jesus uses the exact same phrase (NT w/ LXX) as Isaiah
  - Thus Fulfilling Is. 66
- A heavenly joy that no earthly power or being can take away!
  - spiritual joy and peace
  - from a spiritual King
  - while we advance His spiritual Kingdom