



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Seventy Return

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preach the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem, makes it very clear the price followers will pay to follow Him and sends seventy out to heal, preach and warn. The seventy return and report to Jesus.

*“The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.” (Luke 10:17-20 NASB)*

**Returning with joy.** The seventy were likely gone several weeks and returned at different intervals. While the seventy likely left with some apprehension of the journey and the challenges they would face, they returned to Jesus with joy. They had experienced authority and power uniquely to their group. They had been told by Jesus to preach the kingdom of God and they were given the power to heal the sick. The seventy did preach the kingdom of God, did heal the sick and found out that Jesus had also given them the power to cast out demons in His name.

**Demons, subject to Jesus' name.** The disciple rejoiced because demons, Satan's minions, were subject to the seventy in Jesus' name. It would appear that the seventy were not prepared for this power and authority yet were very excited, happy and rejoiced in this ability provided by Him through them. Jesus responded to them that He was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Jesus was likely referring to the time past when Satan and his followers were cast out of heaven and now Jesus was seeing His followers cast those evil ones out of people here on earth in His name. He had, has and will continue to have power over Satan and His followers. Jesus told the seventy that He will keep them safe.

**Protection from demons.** Jesus, told the seventy that He would protect them from serpents and scorpions (likely figurative terms for demonic and evil spirits; *Gen 3:1, Rev 12:9, 20:2, Ps 91:13, & 1Cor 11:3*) and the power over the enemy (Eph 6:10-20). Their power came from Him. *“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” Jn15:5.* However, as marvelous and as extraordinary the power and protection the seventy received, Jesus said to not rejoice in these things (possible protecting them from pride) but to rejoice in something greater and more important.

**Real reason to rejoice.** The seventy had several reasons to rejoice. First, the demons were subject to them in the name of Jesus. Second, they were provided protection from the evil spirits (serpents and scorpions). Third and most important, Jesus said they were to rejoice because their names were recorded or written in heaven. The Greek term in this passage for written is in the perfect tense, which means that they are written in heaven forever!

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you experienced the joy of God working through you?
- Do you give Him the credit and glory as He works His will through you?
- Do you understand that the greatest joy is having your name written in heaven, forever?

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44