

The King is Coming

What a week we had! Whether you voted for him or not, America elected a president that most people (even his own party) thought had no chance. Even by his own admission, at one point he said that he didn't think he'd get that far.

But he overcame the odds, the polls, and the media and we saw what seemed like the impossible take place. A president elect who was not a career politician, who is certainly not politically correct in his ideals or in his speech, won an election vs a candidate that most of the world thought was a shoo in.

I sincerely believe we saw a miracle happen. Again, whether you were for him or not, Donald Trump will be the 45th president of the United States of America. I believe that he will bring change to this nation. As an American, I'm curious to see what he does. As a Christian, I don't feel any less relief about the current state of our nation. We still.....desperately.....need God!

Thank God that our in coming president does have some godly people on his team. Pray that God uses them to influence the president. Because without the influence of God, all decisions and changes that are made are worthless.

Sure they MIGHT make this life better. But we are living for something more. We are living for the Kingdom of God and we have to remember that the King is coming! We can't let the enemy overtake our focus with elections and policies to the point that we are not focused on the Kingdom.

Jesus is coming! I know people have been saying this for over 2000 years.....but it doesn't make it any less true. Cubs fans have said wait til next year for 108 years.....it was a long wait for some, but the time finally came and it was glorious. 5 million people in attendance for the celebration and millions more watching from home. For a baseball team, that had to wait not 2000 years, only 108.

How much more glorious is the return of our King going to be? It's gonna happen.....will you be ready?

2 Peter 3:3-4 (HCSB)

3 First, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days to scoff, living according to their own desires, 4 saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have been since the beginning of creation."

Peter tells us, we have to be aware, we need to understand that people WILL come to mock Christians and Christ. It's a certainty.

He says this will happen “in the last days”. I am one that believes the end is near, not to the point that I’m willing to stand outside all day holding a sign, but I think there are people living today will see Christ’s return. That’s just my feeling, not absolute truth. But you need to know we actually are in the last days, when the bible says the last days it means the period of time from when Jesus came to the earth the first time until the time that He returns the second time.....that would be NOW! We are in that period of time.

So right now....we were warned, there will be mockers and scoffers. Why, do they mock and scoff.....they live according to their own desires.....sinful desires. See it’s not just that they don’t believe, it’s that they don’t even want to. They ridicule Christ’s return so they can continue in their sin.

Think about it, if Jesus isn’t coming back, we can live however we want. If at the end of the road, we just die and go in the ground and that’s it, we are free to live according to our desires.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15 “If the dead are not raised, Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” If Jesus isn’t coming back then there is no resurrection, and there is no life following this one, just do what you want, why does it matter?

We are told people WILL preach this message. We see it in the godlessness all around us today. They say “where is He?”, “you’ve been saying He’ll come forever!”, “Things are the same as they have always been”

2 Peter 3:5-7 (HCSB)

5 They willfully ignore this: Long ago the heavens and the earth were brought about from water and through water by the word of God. 6 Through these waters the world of that time perished when it was flooded. 7 But by the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

They willfully ignore what God’s word says and what God has already done. To willfully ignore means that they have determined to be hidden from it or be unaware of the realities of God’s word and promises.

They say “where is this Jesus who is coming back, you’ve been saying that for generations”, then they say things are the same as they’ve always been. Nothing has changed. It’s just crazy people saying crazy things....

Just because things “seem” to remain the same doesn’t mean they have. You look at the past to learn for the future but you don’t look to the past to gauge the future.

They say history repeats itself but that’s because sinful man is predictable, he will sin again! But a holy God does what He wants, it’s why we must listen to what He says He will do....

This world was once destroyed by water, a worldwide catastrophic flood. God promised to never do that again, we have the rainbow to remind us. Next time it will be purged by fire. It's all His and He will restore His creation.....

Psalm 24:1 (HCSB)

1 The earth and everything in it,
the world and its inhabitants,
belong to the Lord;

Jesus is coming. And He will be bringing judgement upon the nations. He will separate the sheep from the goats. The saints will go with Him and those who have rejected Him will be turned away

You know I've thought about purging the earth with fire, how crazy does that seem? Do you realize that the reported nuclear weapons that different nations possess, just what we know of, they are estimated have enough power to destroy all life on earth if deployed correctly. If mankind has this kind of power, why is it so hard to believe that God Almighty can't do more with less....

Jesus is coming. And for those who oppose Him, it's not going to be a joyful day. Church our world needs Jesus! We must preach His return before it's too late. Look at some of these verses:

John 14:1-3 (HCSB)

1 "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.

Acts 1:10-11 (HCSB)

10 While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (HCSB)

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.

Hebrews 9:28 (HCSB)

28 so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

I know He's coming.....but WHEN???? Let me tell you, He is not late, He will be right on time.....

His return is at the center of the gospel that we preach. He came, He died, He rose again, He ascended to heaven, but He's coming back.....for who? Not for the world....He already did that. This time He will come for HIS BRIDE.....THE CHURCH!

THIS is the hope that we have, not in a president, not in man's wisdom and influence. We hope in a God who LIVES and is coming back for His people. I know it's been a long wait...keep waiting!

2 Peter 3:8-9 (HCSB)

8 Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

See we sometimes wonder what takes God so long. It's not that He's too busy. It's not that He's slow or lazy or a procrastinator. It's that we want it our way and we want it now!

Consider how much your perspective on time has changed throughout your life. When you were a kid, time moved like a SLUG.....tell a child that his birthday is only in a week. It will become the longest week in the history of creation to that child!

What about a freshman in high school.....only 4 more years. Those 4 years are like an eternity all of their own. But it still might not be as long as that one week was before their birthday when they were 7.

Then you become an adult.....time flies by. You don't know what happened but kids are growing up, driving, going to college, having their own....you're like SLOW DOWN.

As you get older time seems to go faster. A week certainly flies by, even 4 years goes by pretty fast. Just 4 years ago, Marissa was the age Xander is now. Seems like yesterday, now she's driving a car!

So if time seems to go by faster as you get older, how do you think time looks to someone who has NO BEGINNING? Well in reality, God is outside of time. Time doesn't even affect Him. He is not subject to time. It's something we can't understand but it's a dimension that is beyond our comprehension.

God transcends time, He sees all of eternity's past and future. Time is necessary for our physical world but not for a God who is an eternal Spirit....

It's not that God is slow, it's that what is a 1000 years to us is only like a day to him. Let's see, I'm 37 years old, so to God my life has been less than one hour! God is not restricted by minutes, hours, days, or even years....

And He doesn't delay His return as we understand delay.....But He is patient with YOU, not wanting any to perish but ALL to come to repentance. It is US, WE are the slackers, the procrastinators. He is waiting on people to discover the joy of salvation in Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (HCSB)

3 This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What a good, good, God. How could you say He's anything but good?

He wants everyone to be saved, but they HAVE TO come to the knowledge of the truth to be saved. They have to know that a man's nature is sinful and that we can not please God with our own goodness because that doesn't exist. We desperately need a Savior.....He is Jesus.

He can cleanse us. He is willing to save every single person that comes to the knowledge of this truth and accepts Him as Savior and Lord. The time is short people. He's coming back soon, and the opportunity to be saved is NOW. We are not promised another day or even moment.

People always think they have time.....until they don't. You ARE limited by time. Don't let your clock run out before getting right with God. We don't know when life can end and we don't know when He's coming back....

2 Peter 3:10 (HCSB)

10 But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.

God's judgement will not delay forever and when He comes....it will be sudden. Without warning.

There are other verses that tell us, His people, to not let it surprise us, know the signs of the times, see the warnings that His return is near. But we won't be able to discern an exact day or time. We will just know the season. There are things that must take place before His return (they are outlined in the bible), and we've seen some of those things happen in this lifetime. The time is near.

Matthew 24:36 (HCSB)

36 "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son —except the Father only.

The Day of the Lord WILL COME, that's a guarantee....we just don't know when.....

2 Peter 3:11-13 (HCSB)

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, it is clear what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness 12 as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the day of God. The heavens will be on fire and be dissolved because of it, and the elements will melt with the heat. 13 But based on His promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

Do you follow what Peter is saying here? He's saying that if you are convinced that Jesus Christ is going to return, then it will make a difference in the way you're living because you'll want to live right. If we're looking forward to his return, we'll naturally concentrate on spiritual matters. Peter lists a couple of actions that Christians will take as a result of their absolute certainty of Christ's return.

First of all, they'll seek to develop personal holiness and godliness. The word "holy" in the New Testament means to be separated. So a Christian is someone who is unwilling to live as others normally do. He makes an effort to live apart from sin, not to take pleasure in it.

Second, those who believe in the second coming of Christ have an attitude of eager anticipation. It's the same word that was used to describe Cornelius when he sent for Peter and was waiting on his front doorstep to greet the one who would tell him what to do to be saved. Christians should be eager for Christ to come. And the knowledge that He is coming should make a difference in the way we live.

WORSHIP TEAM

There's an old saying "While the cat's away, the mice will play." I guess that's right. But it also stands to reason that a sure and certain knowledge that the cat is coming back at any moment will tend to keep the mice from becoming too carried away. But Jesus is not a cat, He sees ALL, and His Spirit is not gone, it's present in His people.....

Maybe the reason that so many of us have trouble living holy and blameless lives is because we tend to forget that he's coming back. Peter reminds us of this fact. He also reminds us of the vital connection that such a doctrine has to our everyday lives.

2 Peter 3:14 (HCSB)

14 Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found at peace with Him without spot or blemish.

The Lord is coming back.
We do not know the time.
We must trust Him. We must be ready.