

Sunday 30th of December 2018

But the Day of the Lord will come!

Opening Text: 2 Peter 3:1-4, 9-13

Today I want to talk about the Lord's return.

When we celebrate the Lord's supper, we often read the words in **1Corinthians 11:26**: "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes*".

When Jesus ascended to the Father, angels announced in **Acts 1:11**: "... *This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*"

I

1. This is such an important message:

- **Jesus** spoke about His return several times and also taught many parables emphasizing the need for us to be ready.
- As we saw in Acts 1:11, **Angels** also spoke about the Lord's return.
- In **V.2** of our opening text, we see that O.T. **prophets** and the N.T. **Apostles** spoke about it:

"that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour"

- **Paul** spoke about it in all of his epistles (2 Peter 3:15-16)

15. and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16. as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, ...

- 1800 verses of the O.T. and 318 in the N.T. prophesy the Lord's return.

This is not a minor message, based in some obscure or unclear verse of the Scriptures. No. This is a message widely documented in the Scriptures. As such, it should not be ignored or ever neglected!

2. The attitude of some in these "last days"

2 Peter 3:3-4 - *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

- *Mockers* – In the days that will precede the coming of Jesus this message will not be popular. Preachers will be ridiculed for preaching it.
- *Walking according to their own lusts* – “If it feels good, do it” (we have all heard that). People will value the temporal more than the eternal. They will be like Esau who valued what could bring instant gratification, rather than the immutable blessing of God in his life.
- “*Where is the promise of His coming?*” - They will question God’s word, but God’s word will come to pass! It will be like in the days of Noah. They also ridiculed Noah, but the flood came.

3. The heart of God revealed in this passage

2 Peter 3:9 - *9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

- He is patient
- He is not willing that any should perish

V.15 – “but consider that the longsuffering of the Lord is salvation”.

4. But the day of the Lord will come! (verses 10-14)

Not *may* come but *will* come!

- a) First, He will come for His church
- b) And then to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth.

II

3 areas that we need to pay close attention to, as we see that day approaching:

1. Who we need to be

2 Peter 2:11: *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

Titus 2:11-13: *“**11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,*

2. What we need to do

1 Cor. 15:50-51, 58 *“**50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- **58** Therefore,*

my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The work of the Lord is to make sure no one perishes!

3. How we need to pray

1 Peter 4:7 – “*But the end of all things is at hand, therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers*”

Stay awake, stay vigilant!

2 Peter 3:12 – “*Looking for and hastening the coming of the Lord*”

Titus 2:13 – “*looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and saviour Jesus Christ*”

1 John 2:28 – “*And now little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming*”.

Conclusion

As we step into a new year, let us be mindful that regardless of how we measure time, God has His own time and that Jesus will be coming in the timing established by the Father. We need to live aware and awake, vigilant in prayer and holiness. We need to carry the heart of the Father into the new year: He is patient and doesn't anyone to perish. Let us serve Him with urgency!