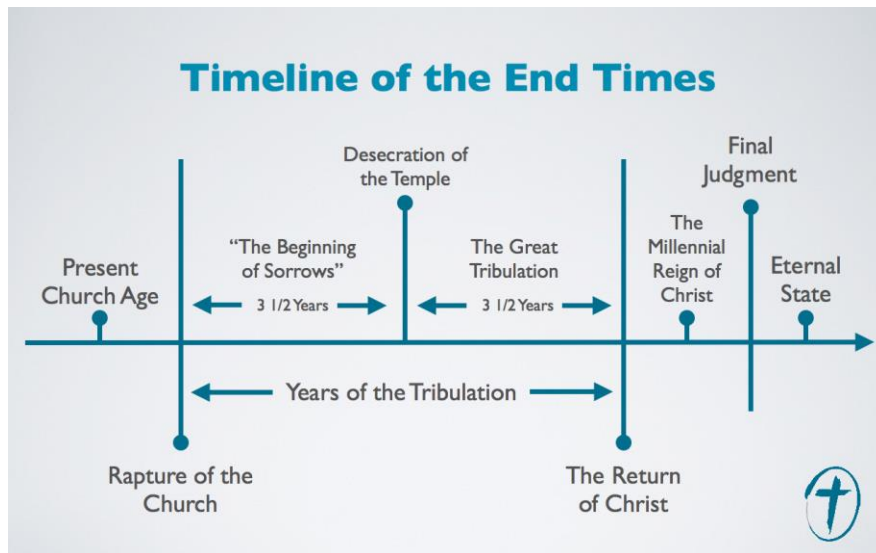


Revelation 22, 6-13 “Jesus IS Coming Back”

2.20.19

Do you believe Jesus is coming back? Do you really believe it? Do you believe it could happen in the next 10 minutes? He could! ...Jesus could return at any moment? Here's where we are...



Yes, Jesus is coming back! Think about it. By the time we work our way through the final events of the timeline and we reach the “Eternal State,” all of the glorious plans and purposes of God, (ordained from before the foundation of the world), will have been fulfilled. Think about it: the rebellion of Satan and his angels and of mankind will be over. All of these rebels...rejectors of Christ will be in the Lake of Fire.

The King of Kings, Jesus Christ will be seated on His eternal throne with His Father in the New Jerusalem as they preside over a New Heaven and a New Earth. Absolute and unchanging holiness will characterize all the universe, the eternal kingdom of God. The redeemed, us, the glorified saints, (purchased by way of the blood of Jesus Christ), reside now in our glorified bodies, in splendor and majesty!

Holiness and praise fill the universe! Can you fathom it all! The universe having been refashioned and refurbished by God...refined by fire...His Holy Fire...is now emanating His blazing light of glory, which comes from inside the Holy City, the New Jerusalem and splatters throughout the universe. Light, beauty, joy, the presence of God, worship, praise, service: all these are the realities of the eternal state. Oh church family, it's beyond our ability to conceive or imagine. And you know what...the event that kicks this timeline into action...the pin in the grenade is the return of Jesus...

One day, He's coming back. And I want you see how the Apostle John describes His return. I want you to notice how many times John says “soon” or “near” in 8 verses. Hint: 4 times...

Revelation 22:6-13

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” ⁷ “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” ⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹ but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” ¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy

of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” ¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Take a look at the picture of this church. Can you tell the name of the church?



“Maranatha.” Do you know what that name means? It’s an Aramaic word that means: “Come Lord,” or “Our Lord is Come” and that word sums up the truth of the hope of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ for all time. COME LORD! We pray and long for His return!

You see, even the first century followers of Christ believed Jesus was coming back in their lifetime. We speak of this belief as imminency. It’s a doctrine of the Church: **the Imminency of the Return of Christ**. It simply means Jesus could return at any moment.

Did you know the word: Maranatha was actually used in the KJV in 1 Corinthians 16? See it...

1 Corinthians 16:22

²² If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

The word “Anathema” means to be accursed... But, it’s followed by “Come Lord!” As a matter of fact, the Apostle John says it again at the end of the chapter in verse 20 the exact same thing.

Revelation 22:20

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Throughout the NT you see the writers writing to the people about the coming of Jesus. One example is the Apostle Paul writing to the Philippian Church in Phil. 3:20-21.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Again, the first church also believed He could come at any moment and they lived in that expectation. The question is: Do we believe it? You say, “It’s been 2,000 years.” But I also know how long that is to the Lord? 2 days, right? Because to the Lord, a day is as a 1,000 years. See it

2 Peter 3:7-9

⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

Never forget that the Lord God, the Father wants people to come to know His Son. He wants people to be saved...He doesn't want anyone to perish and go to Hell, but to reach repentance. And never forget...REPENTANCE is the doorway to salvation. Don't use an evangelism of just adding Jesus to your life like you would salt and pepper. You don't add Jesus to your life...He changes your life...Jesus is the main entrée...He's not something you add to your life. He IS YOUR LIFE! He is your EVERYTHING!

Now the question is...do you believe Jesus is everything, or is He just your religion? Go to verse 6.

Revelation 22:6a

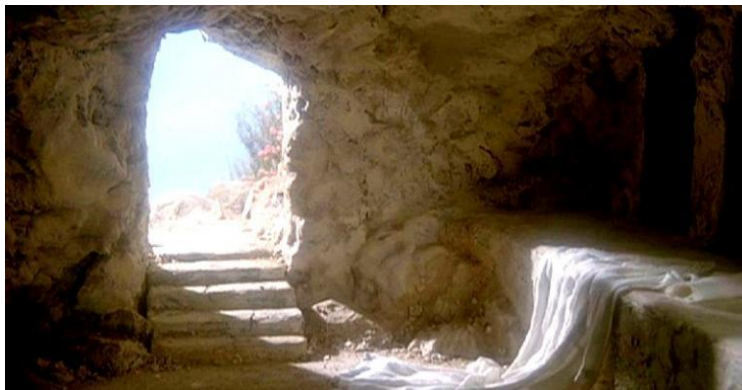
⁶ And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true.

"Trustworthy and true" this is the key to our entire faith and literally to the entire Bible. This points us back to Genesis 1:1... "in the beginning God." Do you believe this is true? It's the same thought in Rev 22, verse 13... Jesus is the beginning and the end.

Revelation 22:13

¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Is that true? Everything rises and falls with those words. Is Jesus just "a" BEGINNING or is He THE beginning? Is He the end of all things or just one of many potentials ends? Does everything rise and fall with Him or not? What is true? Is Jesus the truth? Can you believe that He came the first time and is coming again? How can we say that Jesus is the ONLY way? How can we say that He is the ONLY truth? How can we say that He is the only LIFE? Why can we say, "Maranatha! Lord Come...you are the ONLY WAY TO GOD!" Simple...



Jesus got up from the dead! No one else every has or every will! This makes Jesus different and separates Him from anyone and everyone else and why He is GOD. A man can't get up from the dead...but, the GOD/MAN can! And this is why Paul said:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

And this "accordance with the Scriptures" points us back to Rev. 22 verse 6 and flows to verse 7 and see the word "prophets" and "prophecy." Watch...

Revelation 22:6-7

⁶ And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." ⁷ "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Did you catch that phrase: "God of the spirits..." We are spirit-beings...our spirits are housed in "jars of clay." Remember: "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. I say this because it's very important...the same God who revealed His truth to the prophets of the OT is the same God, WHO through this angel revealed this truth to John on the island of Patmos. The point is this: that God has revealed Himself through His Word. Remember...308 OT prophecies of Jesus came to pass in Him...and these future prophecies that we're reading now WILL come true...listen...as sure as Jesus came the first time...He's coming again! Maranatha...even so Lord, Come! So you see: Fulfilled prophecies are what distinguishes the Bible from any other holy book which contain no prophecies. And so ultimately, (we'll see this next week), the angel will say, "Don't change these words, verse 18.

Revelation 22:18

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

Unfortunately, Church Family, there are fewer and fewer who people believe this book is God's Word. According to LifeWay Research only 24% of Americans believe the bible is the literal word of God. That's down from 40% in 2008 and I'll tell you one of the big reasons why...it's because people are afraid to say that anything is TRUTH that might describe what someone else is doing or how they're living is morally wrong. See this man...



That's Tim Cook...CEO of Apple. He says that anyone who says that anyone's moral choice of sexuality is wrong is making a moral judgement and that's wrong and that is sin. Do you know what Tim Cook is really doing when he says that? He's making a moral judgment. Listen, we have to make moral judgments about what is right and wrong because Jesus said we would know people by the fruit they bear, AND something or SOMEONE has going to be our guide in determining what is right and wrong. And so who or what will it be? Will it Tim Cook says or Whoopi Goldberg or CNN or Lebron James or the Bible. Something is going to guide our thinking.

And let me tell you this... next week...guess what happens...we're coming to verses 14-16. Watch out...because moral judgments are coming...

Revelation 22:14-16a

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually

immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

And so, this takes us back to verse 11...a verse that seems strange...it's about how people are living...And the Angel says...just keep living like you're living...

Revelation 22:11

¹¹Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.” ¹²“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

This is a jolting verse...and here's what I believe it means...when the Word of God proclaims truth in Jesus...to come and accept Him...they will either receive Him or reject Him...and their response to that truth FIXES THEIR ETERNAL DESTINIES forever. Their destiny becomes fixed based on what they do with the truth of Jesus! They sealed their destiny and in the case of the rejectors, their doom...forever! They get to have it their way and judgment WILL fall and it WILL crush those who have rejected Jesus for all eternity...and they're the one who pulled the pin in the grenade...they'll be repaid for what they've done). **So, what about the believers...what do we do? See verse 7.**

Revelation 22:7

⁷“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Keep His Word...Jesus said John 14:15 if you love me you will keep my commandments. Obey!

Hey Church, MARANATHA! He's coming again and that's the point of this entire book. The Book of the Revelation is not about a bunch of impressive eschatological charts, and weird meanings and hidden meanings... It's not even about being able to understand every nuance of this book. (I certainly don't!) It's simply to point people to the coming of Jesus Christ. The book of the **Revealing** of Jesus Christ and the fact that EVERYTHING rises and falls with Him!

And church, this should cause us to well up inside with sheer joy...the sheer joy of knowing WHAT we've been saved from and WHO we've been saved to. Because we are escaping Hell for the joys of a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem and for the fact that we will see the Alpha and the Omega, Jesus Christ, our King of Kings and Lord of Lords!! Maranatha! Even so, Jesus COME!!!!