



UPON THIS ROCK

Upon This Rock Series

Part 6

April 30, 2023

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Eternity

The return of the Lord

2 Timothy 4:1-8, “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and

wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

The Return of Christ and the Rapture of the Church both of these important topics of study have been a common theme within Christendom especially within the last 100 years of world history.

From the great world wars to the rise of empires, the resurrection of the Nation of Israel, and the advent of the nuclear age, it would seem that all of these are markers on the road map of when world history and bible prophecy converge onto the same heading.

With this convergence being before our very eyes, it would be easy for us to fall into the trap of thinking that this message of the Return of the Lord is a new word or some form of new revelation but, in actuality, it is not.

Not only was the Return of the Lord spoke of by Christ Himself, His Disciples whom became the Apostles of the Early Church echoed the same message.

Many of us equate this message to be only within the writ of the Book of the Revelation but this is not the case. The Return of Messiah just as the noted coming or “First Advent” are both noted within the Old and New Testaments alike.

Thus, we can surmise that this message is not new; however it has gained new fervor and reignition of the message in the past 100 years or so because what was once only recorded within the annals of the Bible itself are now being broadcast as news headlines, break news, and stories being shared around the globe.

Friends, the Signs of the Times are everywhere. What Christ prophetically spoke of, Daniel prophetically experienced, and the Apostle John prophetically saw is divinely aligning; Eternity is Coming and so is the Rock of Ages!

And as His Church, His Body, we can build our faith, our hope, our peace, our marriages, our families and our collective eternity because we are building all of these noted points upon Christ. And it is as such, I want to conclude this series with encouraging us to build our Eternity upon Christ! Thus point #1...

1. Upon this Rock We Can Build our Eternity Because The Resurrection is a Promise From Christ To His Church!

- a. Jesus further validates the prophetic insight of Daniel with this statement found in The Gospel of Saint John 5:25-29, “²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”
- b. The Apostle Paul further speaks to this matter in Acts 24:14-15, “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.”

- c. God will revive us by raising us! It was declared by the Prophets, taught by Jesus, witnessed by the Apostles, believed in by the Disciples, and believed in as we stand awaiting the manifestation of our Blessed Hope which is the Resurrection of the Dead!
- d. Friends, Christ is coming for His Church and He will not delay!
- e. Remember that We Can Build our Eternity Because The Resurrection is a Promise From Christ To His Church!

2. Upon This Rock We Can Build Our Eternity Because The Promise of the Resurrection is a Foretold Assurance!

- a. Jesus made it clear in the Gospel of John 3:3, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- b. “Well pastor, I know that God loves me”, yes but are you born again? “Well I know John 3:16”, yes but are you born again? “Well I go to church”, yes but are you born again?
- c. I am not asking what you know; I am asking you is if the rapture happened at this very moment, would you make the Heavenly trip? Would I see you at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? Or would you be left behind?

- d. This is not fear mongering; this is a sincere question. Are you born again and ready for the Rapture of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ?
- e. When you are truly born again, there is an inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit!
- f. The Apostle Paul prescribes this truth to us in the Book of Romans 8:16-17, “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”
- g. When you are born again there is going to be an inner witness in your Spirit that you are born again; as the old mothers of the church used to say, “You will know in your knower!”
- h. Remember that We Can Build our Eternity Because the Promise of the Resurrection is a Foretold Assurance!

3. Upon This Rock We Can Build Our Eternity Because It Is The Hope Of The Resurrection That Assures Us Of Heaven!

- a. The Apostle Paul recorded the following in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, “¹⁸ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have

no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words."

- b. It is the resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord that is the very thing that should encourage us during times of loss, persecution or calamity. It is the Imminency of the blessed hope for the Christian!
- c. What is it that keeps us moving forward in our Christian walk?
Our love for Jesus should be motivation enough, but we have been given an additional blessing to spur onward our spiritual growth.
- d. Not only can we live for the Lord in the present but also, we have a sure hope that He will one day return for us.

- e. This same hope has motivated believers over the centuries to remain faithful to Christ through all kinds of persecution.
- f. We must always keep the return of Jesus for His Church in focus as we live for Him in the meantime.
- g. The Gospel of Saint John 14:1-3, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”
- h. Church, we can find hope in these Words because Christ will return for us and may His Return come Quickly! Maranatha.