

3-26-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-3

Purpose: Provoke people to seek the Lord in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.

Truth for Today: Jesus will come back one day. We need to be ready.

Text: Psalm 80:18

Topic: Second Coming, Revival, Spiritual Awakening, Seek the Lord

Series Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come

Series purpose: Provide my interpretation of current events and provoke people to seek the Lord because they love Him, to revive His church, save people who are away from God, and prepare our hearts for His return.

## A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-3

### I. Introduction

- A. [Psalm 80:18 (NLT)...**Revive us** so we can call on your name once more.]
- B. Review: The last 2 weeks we talked about a revival among Christians and hopes of a spiritual awakening in culture. There's evidence revival is happening across America, especially among college age. Video revival CBN
- C. The last 2 weeks we talked about revival outbreaks across the world and the history of revivals in America. Then we've been asking the question: Why are believers seeking the Lord in a greater way? (1) Christians are expressing their gratitude and love for Jesus through worship, Wed. night 6:30. (2) Repentance from sin, (3) Salvation for the lost.
- D. Today we'll focus on the 4<sup>th</sup> reason Christians are seeking the Lord in a greater way, (4) To prepare for the 2nd Coming of Christ. After resurrection, [Acts 1:9-11 (NLT), he (**Jesus**) **was taken up into a cloud**...and they could no longer see him. 10, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11, they said, Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but **someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!**"] Siri Pic Where is he now? [Mark 14:62 (NLT) Jesus said...you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."'] He will come back to earth and begin the conclusion of the current world order. Disclaimer: There are different interpretations about when and how Jesus will return and what will happen in the end time. I'll not offer a timeline but I want to awaken you to the reality and expect and be prepared for His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- E. Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-3 screen Asbury college in Ky.

- II. Why does the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ matter? (Future events everyone will experience)
- A. The rapture and resurrection of believers, [1 Thes. 4:13–18 (NLT)...we want you to know what will happen to the **believers who have died**...14 For since **we believe** that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that **when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died**. 15...We who are still living **when the Lord returns** will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven with...the trumpet call of God**. First, the believers who have died will **rise from their graves**. 17 Then, together with them, **we who are still alive**...will be **caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. Then **we will be with the Lord forever**.]
1. Why does the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming matter? Do you want to be raptured or left behind? Vs. 14 is the key: believing in and following Jesus.
- B. Eternal judgment, i.e., will I go to heaven or hell? Judgment Day, // Rev. [Mt. 25:31–41 (NLT) “But when the **Son of Man comes in his glory**...he will sit upon his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and **he will separate the people** as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the Kingdom** prepared for you from the creation of the world...41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his demons.]
1. Jesus will judge the world. His followers will go to heaven to be with Him forever while those who reject Him face the fiery consequences of hell. God doesn’t want anyone to go to hell but has given us free will to follow Jesus or reject Him. I want to be ready now because judgment Day may be sooner than we think.
- C. All Christians will stand before The Judgment Seat of Christ. Salvation is not the issue here, but the works we did as Christians. [2 Cor. 5:10 (NLT) For **we must all stand before Christ to be judged**. **We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil** (*Gk. worthless*) we have done in this earthly body.] [Ro. 14:12 (ESV) So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God**.] Paul said Christians will be evaluated/ judged by Jesus. We should all want to please Jesus and to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful **servant!**” Believers will be recompensed for the

things they have done in their earthly lives. Good works will be rewarded, and we will give an account for the evil/ worthless things we did. Salvation is not the issue here, but the works we did as Christians.<sup>1</sup> [Rev. 22:12 (NIV) “Look, **I am coming soon!** My **reward** is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have **done.**”] We get ready by serving the Lord daily.

- III. What will life be like when he comes again? (Not immediate but ultimate)
- A. There will be a new order in life. There will be a recreated heaven and earth. Satan and evil will be gone, and Christians will live with God in a perfect world. [Rev. 20:10 (NLT)...the **devil**, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur...tormented day and night forever and ever.] [Rev. 21:1–22:21 (NLT) Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout...“Look, God’s home is now among his people! **He will live with them**, and they will be his people...<sup>4</sup> **He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**” <sup>5</sup> And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, **I am making everything new!**”...<sup>7</sup> All who are **victorious** will inherit all these blessings, and **I will be their God, and they will be my children.** <sup>8</sup> “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**...<sup>27</sup> **Nothing evil will be allowed to enter**...but only those whose names are written in the **Lamb’s Book of Life**...]

1. The Bible says heaven and hell are real. Where we go is up to us. For those who follow Jesus and serve Him, those who obey Him even if sacrifice or suffering are involved, will be glad they did. For them, the best is yet to come.

- IV. Conclusion: How should I prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ?
- A. ‘Lamb’s Book of Life’...Be sure you’re saved. Become a believer and follow Jesus.
- B. For Christians, Jesus gave a parable to servants while their master (Jesus) was at a wedding, [Luke 12:35-40 (NLT) “Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> as though you were **waiting for your master to return**, Then you will **be ready** to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives, <sup>38</sup> He may come in the middle of the night...But whenever he comes, he will **reward** the servants who are ready, <sup>40</sup> You

also must **be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.**"]

C. Revival helps us be ready. Revival shakes us from our spiritual lethargy and makes us eager to be close to Jesus and live for Him every day. How can we be ready for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming? Live for Jesus 24/7.

## V. Response

A. Altar

B. Prayer

C. Souls

## VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Lowery, D. K. (1985). [2 Corinthians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 566). Victor Books.

## VII. Supplemental Material

A. Parable master at a wedding, [Luke 12:35-40 (NLT) "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 as though you were waiting for your master to return, Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives, 38 He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready, 40 You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."]

1. God is stirring our hearts for Him. He is preparing us to be ready when Christ returns to the earth. How? Live for Jesus 24/7. Example,

B. Some common expressions in revival outbreaks seem to be a greater intensity in worship, traving prayer, repentance from individual sin, a renewed sense of personal holiness and a consuming desire to see lost people saved. The result of revival is a transformation of culture when people who are away from God turn their hearts to Him., e.g., when a drug dealer gets saved he stops selling drugs; when a violent husband encounters God he gets help and changes, when Hollywood actors gets saved movie content changes.

C. II B [Luke 17:26–27 (NLT) “When the **Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day.** 27 In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and **the flood...destroyed them all.**] In Noah’s day people weren’t ready for God to come and judge sin by a flood. They ignored Noah the preacher. //

modern times: unbelievers mock Christ and governments restrict, punish, or kill followers of Christ. They aren't ready to face Jesus. Some professing believers aren't ready either. We're worldly, entangled in sin or too busy to have time to serve the Lord. Revival is a wake up call to shake us up to focus on serving the Lord.

D. II B [1 Tim. 2:3–4 (NIV)...God our Savior, 4...**wants all people to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth.]