

## Message Four

### The Prophetic Word Made More Firm and Our Attitude toward the Coming of Christ

#### I. The prophetic word of the Scripture, as the shining lamp to the believers, conveys spiritual light to shine in their darkness, guiding them to enter into a bright day until the day of the Lord's appearing—2 Pet. 1:19:

- A. The time is short; by studying the prophecies in the Bible and checking with the world situation today, we know that the day of the Lord's coming is very near and that the last week is approaching—Dan. 9:27.
- B. The crucial matter today is this: we do not want to bury ourselves in the world but put ourselves in the Lord's hand; we should know that once we bury ourselves in the world and become rooted in it, it will not be easy to be uprooted—Jer. 17:5-8.

#### II. The shining and warning of the prophetic word made more firm to us today—2 Pet. 1:19:

- A. Peter likens the word of prophecy in the Scripture to a lamp shining in a dark place:
  - 1. This age is a dark place in the dark night, and all the people of the world are moving and acting in darkness—Rom. 13:12.
  - 2. The shining of the prophetic word in the dark age of today is a shining lamp to the believers, conveying spiritual light to shine in their darkness (not merely knowledge in letters for mental apprehension)—Psa. 119:105, 130.
  - 3. The shining of the prophetic word in this dark age is guiding the believers to enter into a bright day, even to pass through the dark night until the day of the Lord's appearing dawns and the morning star rises in their hearts.
- B. The prophetic word made more firm is also a warning word to the believers:
  - 1. Because of the prophetic word, the Lord warns us to watch; in Matthew 24:42 the Lord says, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes."
  - 2. In Luke 21:34 the Lord warns us to take heed to ourselves that our hearts may not be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and anxieties of life, and that day come upon us suddenly as a snare.
  - 3. We need to be watchful, at every time beseeching, that we may prevail to escape all the things which are about to take place and to stand before Christ—v. 36.
  - 4. We need to keep the word of Christ's endurance; every word that the Lord has spoken in the Bible is a word of endurance; to keep the word of His endurance, we must suffer His rejection and persecution—Rev. 3:10; Rom. 15:4.
  - 5. We need to overcome and keep the Lord's works until the end; the Lord's works are the things the Lord has accomplished and is doing; if we keep the Lord's works until the end, He will be the morning star to us at His appearing—Rev. 2:26, 28.

#### III. The believers' attitude toward the coming of Christ:

- A. Every "today" that we have is truly the Lord's grace; as long as we have today, and as long as we still have breath, we should love the Lord and His appearing, await the Lord's coming, and always take His coming as an encouragement—2 Tim. 4:8; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 22:20.

- B. When the Lord comes, He will come secretly as a thief to those who love Him, and will steal them away as His treasures and bring them into His presence in the heavens; hence, we need to watch and be ready—Matt. 24:42-44; 25:13.
- C. The Lord also reminded us to take heed to ourselves and to be watchful, at every time beseeching, lest our hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and anxieties of life, and that the day of the great tribulation come upon us suddenly as a snare; for it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth—Luke 21:34-36:
  - 1. We should guard our hearts and give all the room to the Lord that we may prevail to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man—vv. 34-36; cf. Rev. 12:5-6.
  - 2. To attain maturity is not an overnight matter; therefore, for His coming we must prepare ourselves, love Him, and grow in Him, that at His appearing we may be mature to be raptured and receive the reward.

## Message Four—Verses

### **2 Peter 1:19**

And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

### **Daniel 9:27**

And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.

### **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

5 Thus says Jehovah, cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm and whose heart turns away from Jehovah.

6 And he will be like a shrub in the desert and will not see when good comes; but he will dwell in the parched places in the wilderness, a land of salt and uninhabited.

7 Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah and whose trust Jehovah is.

8 And he will be like a tree transplanted beside water, which sends out its roots by a stream, and will not be afraid when heat comes; for its leaves remain flourishing, and it will not be anxious in the year of drought and will not cease to bear fruit.

### **Romans 13:12**

The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.

### **Psalms 119:105, 130**

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

130 The opening of Your words gives light, imparting understanding to the simple.

### **Matthew 24:42-44**

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes.

43 But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

44 For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.

### **Luke 21:34-36**

34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.

35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.

36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

### **Revelation 3:10**

Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.

### **Romans 15:4**

For the things that were written previously were written for our instruction, in order that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**Revelation 2:26, 28**

26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

28 And to him I will give the morning star.

**2 Timothy 4:8**

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

**Philippians 3:20**

For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 22:20**

He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Matthew 25:13**

Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

**Matthew 25:4**

But the prudent took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

**Luke 17:32**

Remember Lot's wife.