

JESUS IS COMING

Mark 13:24-37 (Key verse 26)

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

The passage of today is from the book of Mark chapter 13 verses 24 to 37. Key verse is verse 26 and it reads, “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.”

Today's passage is a continuation from last week's. Indeed, we thank God for working through Khomo in helping us through that part of the text. We learned last week that as the disciples admired the glory of the temple in Jerusalem, Jesus took that as an opportunity to teach them that the glory of the temple, and indeed of anything in this world, will not last forever. In fact, Jesus taught the disciples that they should expect things to deteriorate over time- that they may not somehow hope that the world or even life itself will become better. Indeed, we have seen from history, even from everyday life, that things are not getting better: we have global warming, earthquakes, hurricanes and unpredictable weather patterns...crime is rampant, and we are always living in fear due to things like gender based violence, femicide and human trafficking. We have also seen a great deal of moral degeneration, especially in our time: we have experienced a great spectacle of corruption by leaders. We have also seen celebrations and legalization of sin. These signs inevitably point us to the gruesome truth that things are going haywire.

It is my hope, therefore, that as we listen to today's message and in light of the above, we may learn about the greatest hope that all Christians have- the coming of Jesus Christ.

The coming of Jesus is the fulfilment of all the promises of scripture to the Christian- it is the final step in God's plan of redemption. God sent Jesus to die on the cross to justify His people by forgiving their sins. That cannot be the end of it, because even though justified, we are still struggling in this world because of the remaining sin. The coming of Jesus will bring about the consummation of our redemption and its fullness. It will bring about what is written in Revelation 21:3-5 'And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" This is the hope to which we are looking forward when we think about the coming of Jesus- that He will make everything new. He will completely obliterate the power of sin, which is the cause of all problems known to man.

The coming of Jesus is the peak of the Christian religion, without which, the glory of Christianity is veiled from the world. People may mock us now, but this is only because they do not see what we see by faith. When Jesus comes, all the veils will be obliterated, and blindness removed so that everyone will see the fulness and reality of the Christian faith. Understanding that Jesus is coming must fill us with hope for triumph and victory, it must energize us so that we may continue to do all the more for Christ. For these reasons, I thank God for giving us this time to meditate and discuss this event of great importance. Amen!

The passage opens in verses 24 and 25 with, “But in those days following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

Contrary to some claims, the coming of Jesus will be preceded by a spectacle of unfamiliar celestial activity. This means that the event will not be a private thing which is only reserved by some elitist individuals so that they may make book sales and so forth. When Jesus returns, He will be so glorious, that His glory will swallow up the light of the sun and of the moon, and even the stars will fall in worship of His majesty. Amen! Unfortunately, our minds cannot fathom these unimaginable events, how can the sun and the moon become dark or how can stars even fall. I think the idea here is that there will be such a great disturbance in nature that everyone will be moved to investigate and ask, “what is going on?” no one will have to tell another, “Jesus is coming” everyone will be anxiously moved to investigate the matter themselves. And it is at that time that “people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory”

When Jesus was on the earth, He was lowly and meek, He was the lamb that was led to the slaughter. How different it must be that we see it being said here that He will come with great power and glory. We can get this image in Revelation 19:11-16, “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” Amen!

What will be our reaction to this Jesus?

Verse 27 says, “And He will send His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.” Will we be counted amongst these elect individuals in that day? Do we have genuine faith in Jesus and are we trusting in His finished works on the cross for our forgiveness?

Will we be delighted to see Him coming? Will we be happy that our final redemption is taking place? Will we rejoice in song and march towards Him in anticipation of a loving embrace? Or will we gnash our teeth at Him and internally lament, “why have you come now, couldn't you wait a little longer?” Will we hide in caves and cry to the mountains and the rocks, “fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come and who can withstand it?”

I hope that we will all have the former reaction- marching to Him with joy to be united with Him to spend eternity together in perfect worship. Amen! I hope that we are all found in Him, because that day is surely coming and depending on where we stand with Him now, the phrase, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” becomes a sure promise or threat.

Nevertheless, as much as He is just, God is also loving and merciful. For even though we know that the day of the LORD is coming, “about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” God has given us this time and this privilege of not knowing exactly when these things will take place. We may think that it's a disadvantage, but if we considered it fairly, we will discover that God has protected us from counterfeit faith and self-deception. Amen! I am willing to wager that if we knew the day and the hour, some of us would probably think we'd wait at least week before the time, and thereafter try to earn the favor of the Divine. However, not knowing the exact time gives us the privilege to experience true spirituality and a real relationship with the LORD, it gives us the fear that is necessary for us to pray as well as the

confidence to be joyful when we experience the LORD. It also gives us the necessary encouragement with which we may intentionally seek to refine our faith, and to seek the LORD while He remains to be found.

Indeed, we do not know the day or the hour. May we use this time to draw closer to the LORD and to grow in our faith. May we also use this time to devote ourselves to the things of God so that when He returns, He will find us doing the work which He has called us to do.

Finally, the most important thing is that we may become true Christians, if we have doubts about our relationship with God, if we lack assurance, we must ask the God of life to increase our faith...go before Him and cry, "what about me LORD? Help me to love you with all that I am and desire to honor your name above all names." Without being true Christians, these things will mean nothing to us. We will hear them and never heed their warnings. If you feel that you have no love for these things, throw yourself onto Christ and hold Him tightly until His mercy rests on you, He has promised to never cast anyone away who comes to Him. And while you are there, wait for His return- for He is surely coming-, do His work and obey His commandments and live your life in such a manner that He will have the pleasure of saying, "Well done my good and faithful servant." Let that become the goal of your life. Don't waste away spending all your time and life chasing after things that perish. Allow the warnings of Jesus in this passage to shake your world and experience the same fear that the disciples experienced when He told them "Be on your guard! Be alert! What I say to you, I say to everyone, watch!"

I truly hope that God may work among us and give us the spiritual revival that we need in order to be moved into service for His name. The year 2020 has been one with most "justifiable" excuses, because of the pandemic and the lockdown that came with it. We have not seen much of the obedience of the great commission of Jesus Christ, I think if Jesus was to return now, most of us would truly be ashamed, we'd have to hide our faces because of the meagerness and mediocrity of our efforts. I hope that as things ease up in the coming year, we may all make the intentional effort to go out there and preach the word of God to the students on campus. May we truly stand together in this task, from student, to graduate, to shepherd and to director, so that as we wait for the coming of the LORD, we may do that which matters the most.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!