

Outline

Blessed Hope

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." Titus 2:11-13

I. Why is Jesus going to come back?

"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God." Romans 8:19-21

"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..." Revelation 21:1

“Neos” Def.~ referring to something chronologically new like a new car just off the assembly line. “Kainos,” means qualitatively new, like the remodeling of an old home with good bones.

"How many of you would like to wake up tomorrow and find the person you are most passionately in love with loves you back even more, and find the world you now live in is a place where every hungry baby gets fed and every virus gets cured and every grave gets emptied and every army gets disbanded, where the lion lays down with the lamb and swords are beaten into plowshares? How many of you would like to wake up tomorrow into a world where you have complete self-awareness and zero guilt and wake up breathing God as if he were air and loving him as if he were breathtaking, and everybody loving every body. No more fights, riots, acts of injustice, inequities, and political parties!"

Passages on the Fiery Destruction of Earth

II. When is Jesus coming back?

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Matthew 24:36

"Are we in the last days?"

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Joel 2:28

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." Hebrews 1:1-2

How can "these last days" refer to several millennia?

"...in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this "coming" he promised?....But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.' 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

"And let us...encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25... Another day to encourage others. Positive force in the world!

The Redemption of Time

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul

III. Why do they make such a big deal about his return?

“Man's Search for Meaning” by Victor Frankel.

"They would literally lie down in the mud and neither pleas nor beatings would move them, and they would simply lay down and die." Hope...hope...as it turns out is the most practical thing in the world. The ability to imagine a brighter future enables you to face any hardship today.

IV. What am I to do until he returns?

“Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name! Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-10.

“You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God...” Then he adds this remarkable phrase. "...and speed its coming." 2 Peter 3:11

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it ever entered in to the human mind, the things God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9