

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Approaching Eternity

Introduction

In the prophecy of Isaiah the Spirit of God caused him to write a very pointed and conscience awakening statement. It is a warning of love to every individual who rejects the sacrifice of the Lord as the only way of salvation from eternal night. Each human has been born under condemnation due to their spiritual background, that is whether the individual has accepted Christ exclusively for salvation. Many do not seem to understand the exclusiveness of the removal of that condemnation. Instead, they reject Christ because of the poor example of others or hurts received from Christians. They do not comprehend that the only one getting hurt, and that eternally, is themselves, for by rejecting Christ as the only way of salvation they are moving with the speed of time to an eternal damnation. Try as they do and striving to do good to others, they cannot change that condemnation.

The statement Isaiah wrote is, "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at they coming" (Isa. 14:9). It is a very graphic word picture. For those who reject the sacrifice of the Lord it views two movements.

- a) The individual is moving day after day chronologically through life toward eternity.
- b) At the same time Hell is moving to meet them. That is terrifying.

What do the words mean?

- 1) The Hebrew word translated "moved" is used in 2 Samuel 22:8 when God causes the earth to move; in Job 9:6 when He shakes the earth out of her place; in Isaiah 13:13 then God will "shake the Heavens, and the earth"; and in Micah 7:17 when men are moved out of their hiding places. It conveys the state of a moving place to meet the Christ rejector.
- 2) To "meet" thee indicates to come upon the individual. Just as one driving the road through the Rocky Mountains one comes upon a mountain goat.

First Observation

There is no avoidance of the meeting. Neither rich or poor, educated or illiterate can avoid it. There is no class distinction. Each one of us is going to make that journey, the fastest journey we will ever take from which there is no returning. The moment the door of life on this earth closes, at that precise moment the door to eternity opens.

Second Observation

It never ends or depletes its fierceness. We live in a world of hope. We hope to see our loved ones again for a visit, we hope to enjoy Christmas, we hope to see our children grow and be successful living happy married lives, we hope to see our grandchildren. God in tender love informs the unsaved individual they are "without hope"! It is a dreadful statement.

Why do people commit suicide? It is because they have no hope, life is depressing, the future looks dark, they try to find a way of deadening the dark night of despair. They try drinking, living the fast life, sports, entertainment, merriment, sinful living but then find as the Rolling Stones sang so many years ago, "Ain't got no satisfaction". How many in Hollywood with all its glamour, money and fame commit suicide? Why? They have found the entertainment of the present, "ain't give no satisfaction", they lose hope. How many multimillionaires after a financial crash commit suicide? Why? No hope.

As one considers the truth of the verse, let me repeat it, "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming". The question arises, "Is there really no hope?" Am I destined to live in this world striving for a reason to live, staring death in the face and all life has been is a striving and now at the end of this brief sojourn, I feel death's approaching coldness and with regrets look back and after everything is summed up, all that can be said is, "Ain't got no satisfaction and facing eternity I have no hope".

There is hope

When we use the word "hope" it indicates hankering, a desire, ambition, all of which are lovely terms but none of them give absolute undoubted assurance. I hope to get to my bed tonight, I have no assurance of that. I could collapse and be in the hospital, I could collapse on the floor and not be found for several days. I hope I would be but when we speak of "hope" there is no assurance it will happen. When I think of Hell coming to meet me I want a hope that is sure and irrevocable and that is what the Bible speaks about.

When God uses the word "hope", He has taken into account every situation and uses a word which means, "joyful expectation". Because He has foreseen every obstacle that could hinder the "hope", He has removed them by the expiatory death of the Lord Jesus and by His resurrection. By the substitutionary sufferings of the Lord when God forsook Him, all our sins can be removed from us. The penalty of every one of them was placed on Christ as the Sin Bearer and no matter how often I sin, what sins I commit, or how often I sin, every sin has been accounted for and even Satan himself cannot bring a charge against the individual who lays hold on the hope God has provided. By His resurrection we have the "hope", blessed assurance of rising from the dead and because He has gone into Heaven as the Forerunner, all who lay hold on God's joyful expectation and assurance will be with Him for all eternity.

Consider the "Hopes", the joyful expectations He gives:

- a) "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope (joyful expectation and assurance) of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2).
- b) "Now the God of hope (joyful expectation and assurance) fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, (joyful expectation and assurance) through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13).
- c) "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope (joyful expectation and assurance) of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col. 1:23).
- d) "To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope (joyful expectation and assurance) of glory" (Col. 1:27).
- e) "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope (joyful expectation and assurance) through grace" (2 Thess. 2:16).
- f) "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope (joyful expectation and assurance)" (1 Tim. 1:1).
- g) "In hope (joyful expectation and assurance) of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).
- h) "Looking for that blessed hope (joyful expectation and assurance), and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).
- i) "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope (joyful expectation and assurance) of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).
- j) "That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope (joyful expectation and assurance) set before us" (Heb. 6:18).

Concluding Thoughts

Wise is the individual who grasps the "hope", joyful assurance of God's salvation by fully depending on the sacrifice of the Lord alone for salvation. Today the door to salvation is wide open for the whosoever, that is anyone, everyone who accepts the welcoming invitation, "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). God's promise is John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." What a promise, what a prospect, but what Hell that awaits the Christ rejector.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

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