



JESUS, SOON COMING KING

The first thing that we need to recognize is that this is a fixed event; it is not dependent upon anything we say or do. This is purely a 'God-event'. In that, it differs from Saviour, Healer, Baptizer. Many things in Scripture are God alone. He responds to us.

Jesus wants to be with us. Sometimes we forget that this is God's desire. In the Garden of Eden, God created man to have fellowship with him. There was always a 'together' in the heart of God. He chose a family, a group of people, a team of disciples.

Mark 3:14 Jesus called the 12 'that they might be with him!'

John 14:3 I go and prepare a place for you and I will come back and get you that where I am you may be also.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Jesus is 'Emmanuel' – God with us.

'The King is still in the room' by Rev. Kingsley N. Armstrong

When he went back to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit, the one who would draw alongside, who would always be with us.

Jesus said he would never leave us or forsake us.

cf. Jewish engagement process. From seeing the girl – talking with his father – arranging a meal with the girl's father – settling the contract, the bridal price – waiting for her to reply 'yes' by drinking the cup.

Then going off to prepare a place – she would veil herself not knowing when he would return .

Jesus was waiting for his bride – the church – he was longing with desire for this moment. He had settled the bridal price. In Luke 22, Jesus took the cup of blessing, the 3rd cup; then he took the bread and broke it in front of them, showing them exactly how much a bridal price he was willing to pay, then took the cup again and said that it was the new covenant in his blood. John 14: 1-4 'I go and prepare a place for you....'

How should this affect us?

1. IT IS THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

Titus 2:13 we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Colossians 1:5 Faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven.

"The Christian Hope is not simply a trembling, hesitant hope that perhaps the promises of God may be true. It is the confident expectation that they cannot be anything else than true."

William Barclay

It is why the slaves from Africa, picking in the cotton fields of Alabama & Mississippi wrote so many of what we call the 'negro' spirituals (Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home) Cf the castle on the Gold Coast in Ghana & 20 million slaves going through the door of 'no return'.

It is impossible for the non-Christian (Eph 2:12 – without hope and without God)

We can therefore relax and settle in the knowledge that “It won’t be long” “Soon and very soon we are going to see the King”
And “Until then my heart will keep on singing!”

2. IT IS THE CHRISTIAN’S VISION

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross.

Hebrews 11:23-26 Moses regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

What are we looking at. Where your treasure is, your heart will be also.

Cf. 2 Kings 5:26 Elisha to Gehazi, “This is not the time to fix your eyes on things!”

Elisha saw an open heaven in the next chapter where he trapped the blinded Arameans. (2 Kings 6:17)

3. IT IS THE CHRISTIAN’S URGENCY

It puts a full stop in history. One day the trumpet will sound; one day it will be too late.

Matthew 28:16ff the Great Commission “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation!”

Acts 1:7-11 You will receive power..you will be my witnesses in J,J & S and ends of the earth.

John 20:21 “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you..”

Paul in Acts 20:26 “I am innocent of the blood of all men, for I have not hesitated to proclaim to you..”

Cf Pauls letter to Timothy; his ministry is coming to an end, now Tim, you go for it!