**“The King’s Prophecy: When Will These Things Be?”**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 3/30/25)**

 Are we there yet? Who hasn’t heard this question asked (relentlessly!) from the back seat of the family car? As Jesus and His disciples descended from the Mount of Olives, they asked the “when” question, as well as “what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus makes clear that He is far more interested in what His disciples **DO** while awaiting His return than He is with them knowing a detailed blueprint of the end times.

 Did your mom ever tell you to sit up straight? **POSTURE** matters. Then and now, Bible prophecy calls God’s children to a posture of active, hopeful readiness for Christ’s return. We should NOT have a posture of fear, indifference, or smugness (that we have all the answers). Instead we should have an expectant posture that includes: **being ready, being cautious, being composed, being courageous,** and **being committed**.

 Read Mark 13:1-2. The disciples looked at the temple and marveled; Jesus looked at the temple and mourned. Sometimes they (and we!) get too preoccupied with the temporary and the tangible to really care about the most important thing. (Q1) Jesus’ prophecy clearly speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and just as clearly speaks of a future that includes His second coming and “the end of the age” (or “the last days”). While not giving us the exact time, He does tell us what to expect and how we should live as we wait.

 We are to **BE READY** (v.5,11). You can’t be misled if you believe in Jesus and know what you believe and why you believe it. (Q2) Jesus cares about His disciples’ behavior as they await His return. We are to **BE CAUTIOUS**. Not fearful, not rattled, not paranoid. There will be false teachers, false prophets, and false messiahs, so be careful! Jesus tells us to **BE COMPOSED**. Yes, there will be famines and earthquakes and wars, but this is “not yet the end.” These things are “merely the beginning of the birth pangs.” Fortunately, we have the Holy Spirit living within us to help us through these tough times. (Q3)

 What might we (the church) expect personally? Read Matt. 24:9-11. The church was born into a very hostile environment, a spiritual war zone. They, and we, are called to **BE COURAGEOUS**. Unprecedented persecution and tribulation happened before Jerusalem fell… and it is still happening today in many parts of the world (1 Peter 4:12-14). Allegiance to Christ does not make your life easier. It leads to persecution. It is a fellowship of suffering.

 Matt. 24:10 tells us that there will be some who “fall away.” Even today, some who grace our pews will fall away, leading to devastation in the church. These people didn’t leave Christianity; they were never Christians (1 John 2:18-19). Don’t get rattled when you see this hatred toward God and hatred toward other people. Many have said, “It can’t get any worse than this!” And then it does!! So what shall we do? **BE COMMITTED**. Persevere in your love toward God and your love toward others. Christian, you are secure in Christ. He will hold you fast (John 6:39). Live actively and hopefully. Be committed to making Him known. You received power when the Holy Spirit filled you. You are His witnesses, taking the gospel to the ends of the earth… and across the street.

 Are we there yet? No, but we have lots to do as we await our King’s return. We are to live godly lives as salt and light in a rotten, darkening culture. We are to preach the gospel, expect persecution, and trust His sovereignty. This is our charge as we look toward our Savior’s return.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What is the most important thing?
2. As a group, come up with your own Statement of Faith. List five or six things that are “non-negotiables” in your faith.
3. Besides the Holy Spirit, what else did the Father give us to help us through tough times?
4. When prophecy is unclear to you, how should you respond?
5. I’m sure Pastor Steve will talk more about verse 12 next week, but the last phrase intrigued me. What causes someone’s love to “grow cold”?

**“The Church’s One Foundation” (Stone)**

The Church’s one foundation
  Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
  By water and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
  To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
  And for her life He died.

’Mid toil and tribulation,
  And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
  Of peace for evermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
  Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
  Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
  With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
  With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
  Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
  In love may dwell with Thee.