**“The King’s Prophecy: Hope for His Coming”**

**Matt. 24:27-31**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 5/11/25)**

 Hope.

 A hope that exceeds all others. A hope that is a certainty. The church’s hope is anchored to the certainty of Christ’s coming again in power and great glory. He is coming ***for*** us, to rule ***with*** us; each of us perfected for our perfect home- a new heaven and a new earth. (Q1) God once more will dwell with His people… forever! Ours is a hope that is certain, sudden, personal, visible, audible, global, and final. Are you ready for this blessed hope? Do you live for it? (Q2)

 In Matt. 24:1-3, Jesus shocked the disciples by telling them about the destruction of the temple. They in turn asked Him about when it would happen, and what would be the sign of His coming and of the end of the age. Jesus apocalyptic language in His answer about the destruction of the temple is a prophetic foreshadowing of the final judgment that is to come. The utter devastation of Jerusalem foreshadows the day of His coming bodily, visibly, and permanently to rule and reign with His elect.

 Today’s passage uses descriptive, poetic language of a chaotic upheaval. The words in capital letters refer to passages in Isa. 13:10, Dan. 7:13-14, and others. What’s clear is that our King is coming to straighten out what is crooked! AMEN! Jesus is returning, “coming on the clouds of the sky.” This prophetic, apocalyptic language is about the providential coming of God for judgment. (Q3) The passage in Daniel is a vision of the enthronement of the Son of Man at the right hand of the Father, reigning over all things. In today’s passage, it’s as if Jesus is saying, “When you see the AD 70 judgment, you will know that I am enthroned in Heaven.” Jesus assures His disciples that He reigns over all things, even those things that seem to be spinning out of control. Is prophecy always clear? No. In fact Spurgeon said that God “purposely mingled the prophecies”… “to keep His disciples always on the watch for His appearing.” Read 2Tim. 3:1. Those “last days” were then AND now!

 Church, don’t interpret your Bible by newspaper headlines! When the Lord returns you won’t need a sign! Will it be a surprise? Yes. Will it be a secret? NO! Christ’s people will be “gathered together” with finality. We will get to see our loved ones again (Matt. 24:31; 2 Thess. 2:1-2). One day Jesus will gather all of His beloved people into His presence… PERMANENTLY!

 1 Thess. 4:16-18 indicates that we will be caught up (raptured) when Jesus comes back. Some people have different views on this, but that is not a reason to break our unity with them. The key is to look expectantly to the scene in Rev. 7:9-12. On that day, all grief will be gone. None of God’s people will be left out!

 Our hope is grounded in finality. There will be no Mulligans. NOW is the time to repent, trust in Jesus, and follow Him. On that day, there will be no more good-byes, no more tears, no more cancer, no more sin, no more battling the flesh… only joy FOREVER! Are you ready for that day?! We are surrounded by people who need to hear this HOPE. Are you letting them know?

*Father, You love us so much that you told us what to expect. You love us so much that You haven’t told us everything! Let us live in the reality of Your coming again. Let us be Your joyful ambassadors. Let us live every day in gospel HOPE. Amen.*

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How are we perfected?
2. How do you get ready for the day of Jesus’ return? How do you live for it?
3. Why is Jesus’ second coming providential?
4. Today’s scripture passages tell about the nature of Christ’s return and its results. How do these truths affect your view of the future? Explain.
5. Paul David Tripp (in New Morning Mercies, June 6) asks, “Where have you placed your hope?” Vertically (Jesus) or horizontally (the world)? What are the problems with looking for hope horizontally? What blessings are yours when you find your hope vertically?
6. Elder Dave Kolde read Heb. 10:19-25. According to that passage, what is our hope? What is our responsibility?

**“When the Roll is Called Up Yonder I’ll Be There” (Black)**

 When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,

 And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;

 When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,

 And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

 **Refrain:**

 **When the roll is called up yonder,**

 **When the roll is called up yonder,**

 **When the roll is called up yonder,**

 **When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.**

 On that bright and cloudy morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,

 And the glory of His resurrection share;

 When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,

 And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

 Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,

 Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care;

 Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done,

 And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.