

A MESSAGE FROM THE LAST DAY

Acts 1:6-11

If you knew for absolute certainty that this day would be your last day on planet earth, what would you do? Would you attempt to visit some grand spot that you had never been to all your life? Would you call up someone that you had been meaning to for a long time, and have that one final conversation? Would you call your family together and be with them, since you knew it was your last day on earth? Or would you go into that quiet place of your home and stay there before you left this world?

In Acts 1, you read the record of Jesus last day on planet earth. It is forty days after the resurrection of Christ, and on this day, Jesus will go back to the Father. On this day, the disciples will hear Jesus speak to Him for the last time in a visible, physical way. What will they hear? What will Jesus say to them, knowing that He is about ready to go back to the Father and leave them?

1. ON HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH...JESUS GIVES US HIS PROMISE THAT HIS KINGDOM IS COMING TO EARTH....MEANING THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

The disciples had witnessed seeing Jesus after he had died and was buried. Though many may declare there is no such a thing as “resurrection”, Jesus proved to all the world that there was one that could rise from the dead. On Jesus last day on this earth better than 2000 years ago, he draws His disciples to himself and reminds them of “an event” that will be as unbelievable as the “resurrection”. The event that will some day take place is that event when God by His divine power shall make all things new.

The reality of this world that we live in is this. This world has been affected by sin for thousands of years. Only God Himself could count the number of wicked deeds that have been done on this earth. Only God could count the number of people that have been killed, murdered through wars, acts of violence. Only God could count the numbers of wars have occurred since the fall of Adam. And as long as this world continues on, there will be more and more wickedness. There will be more and more death. There will be more killing. Yet, on the day that Jesus gets ready to leave, He mentions a time and season that the Father has in His hands when all will be restored. We may live for the rest of our lives in a wicked, sinful world, but on the last day of Jesus earthly life...He talks about a coming Kingdom. A Kingdom whereby Israel shall be restored and the King will not be a mere human ruler, but Christ Himself...which reminds us that the best is yet to come. Though Jesus was crucified the first time he came to earth...the Bible makes it clear that Jesus is coming back to this earth again...the next time, it will not be the Savior of the world, the next time Jesus will come in glory and great might. The Bible talks about a time in which Jesus will rule over all the land from Jerusalem. There is coming a time in the world of God, that Jesus Christ shall come first for His saints at the rapture, and then He is going to rule over Jerusalem and sit on the throne that was given to King David. *“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”* (Lk. 1:32) Imagine for a moment a world where Jesus is King! A world that has the very nature of King Jesus! A world where “love” is the center of all that is done! You walk down the street...and all you see are redeemed by Christ. Everyone is brothers and sisters and follows the Lord. A world that will be an eternal world of joy! A world where there is heartache, and sin no more. A world that is described by Isaiah this way, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together...” (Is. 11:6) Some may ask, “Isn’t this figurative language?” Absolutely not. Jesus reminds all who know Him by grace through faith that there is coming a world...where there is nothing but absolute joy, peace, and tranquility.

Imagine being joyful forever. Imagine having no pain forever!

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus even orients us to pray this way, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done IN EARTH as it is in heaven." Jesus knew that those listening would be persecuted but, with all the persecution that may come throughout life...all that we face never begins to compare to the wonder and the grandeur of Jesus new kingdom. For all of us, the message from Jesus last day of life is not "goodbye". As a matter of fact the very word "goodbye" cannot be found in Scripture. Why? Because for all who know Jesus by grace through faith...the best is yet to come. There is deep in the heart of every true believer a desire to live in a pure world where there is no hurt no more...Abraham was looking for a city (real) whose maker is God. And Jesus reminds us that it is coming. It is not a fairy tale, a figment of our imagination. That kingdom will be as real as the United States...and exist for eternity.

2. ON HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH...JESUS GIVES US THE PROMISE OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT...MEANING THE BEST COMFORTER WILL BE WITH US AND IN US.

While these disciples may not be aware of it, Jesus will soon leave them. They will watch as Jesus will ascend back up to heaven. Jesus will soon ascend back to the Father, and be gone from them as their Teacher, Master and Instructor. What would they do? Who would they turn to. Where would they go?

With all they experience, Jesus gives this wonderful message...He is sending the Holy Spirit of God to be with them, in them, upon them. They would receive "power", "abundance", "miraculous power", through the very Holy Spirit of God to live their lives for the glory of God. That is the promise of Jesus. The wonderful truth of God's Word, is that we are not called to "try to live the Christian life" but to "surrender to the Holy Spirit" and let him live through us.

It was the Holy Spirit that filled them with insatiable joy, love, laughter. It is the same Holy Spirit that gives us "hope" when all around seems hopeless. There is something deep inside every believer that reminds us that all is really alright, and that something is Someone, namely the Holy Spirit. Though we don't see Him, it is the Holy Spirit, that gives us the peace and comfort of God. It is the seal of the Holy Spirit that reminds us that someday Jesus Christ will come again some day. It is the Holy Spirit that drives into our heart every single truth of God and is our teacher day after day, week after week.

It is the Holy Spirit that reminds us in the midst of a wicked and ungodly world that there is soon coming a time in the calendar of God that this world will all end, and God will build a new heaven and a new earth. It is the Holy Spirit that gave these first Christians the power, energy and guidance to witness boldly in their world, and He does the same thing in our world. The world is looking for "hope", "meaning" and "purpose" and it is the Holy Spirit that witnesses through our lives to others. The world looks at believers and can't figure them out. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit that guides us as we live in dependence on Him. While we cannot visibly see the Holy Spirit, He is present in our lives, just as the wind is invisible yet present in the world we live in. We may become disoriented in this life...but the Holy Spirit knows us, and knows precisely where we are and will guide us all through this life.

3. ON HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH...JESUS GIVES A COMMISSION TO WITNESS TO THE WORLD....DECLARE THE GREATEST MESSAGE OF THE WORLD.

What would you pay to have “eternal life”? Think about it, to know that there is going to come a time in the plan of God that there will be no more dying, no more hurting, no more agony to all who believe. The truth of God’s Word declares that “God’s Kingdom” is coming to earth. Jesus tells His disciples to pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth” as it is in heaven. Jesus declares that His coming will be like it was in the “days of Noah”.

In the days of Noah, there was a time to hear the message of hope and help...but there also was a day when the message of hope and help was over...and destruction came. That is the sobering truth of God’s Word. The Bible declares that, “We must work while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work.” (Jn. 9:4) . It is the call of God on every preacher, and every Christian to declare the message of Jesus Christ while it is day. Because the Bible makes it clear...there will come a time when it will all be over. Millions living today don’t ever think that there will come a time when it is too late, the people in Noah’s time didn’t think it would be too late. But the Bible declares that there is a time on the calendar of God when it is...TO LATE. Imagine the horror of those words. Imagine all the countless ones that cried to Noah...but too late. Imagine the countless numbers that will realize that they have rebelled away the very message of Jesus Christ...though they heard it week after week, month after month and year after year. In Mark’s gospel, Jesus says these words, “*Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

It isn’t the desire of the Father that a single person on the earth has to die and be doomed for eternity...yet Scripture declares that “many” will choose death over life. You may be one that chooses death over life. It isn’t the desire of God that you do so! It is the desire of God to give you “the gift of salvation”. But the gift of salvation, like any gift must be received and accepted.

4. ON HIS LAST DAY ON EARTH....JESUS REMINDS ALL...THE LORD IS COMING AGAIN.

When you think life is hopeless and filled with despair...remember the very words of the angels.... “This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go up into heaven.” Jesus didn’t leave in a mysterious way, but he left in “clouds” and He shall return in the clouds of heaven. The Bible declares that “every eye shall see Him”. The One who died for us on the cross and rose from the dead is coming again. The same one that walked the earth 2000 years ago is coming back again. The same one who is filled with love and compassion will come back. This same Jesus who knows you by name is coming again. The same Jesus that rose out of the tomb. The same Jesus that has forgiven you of all your sins. The same Jesus that reminds us that we will be rewarded for our lives...it is this Jesus that is coming again. This same Jesus that calls all men to repent, will come in like manner as He has gone into heaven. The sobering question that all must answer is this...AM I READY FOR JESUS TO COME?