

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Luke 2:25

INTRODUCTION

- Life involves a lot of waiting
- Waiting is not simply something we do, but it is an attitude we carry through life
- For many people in the world, life consists of waiting for the next milestone in life before the final one of death
- For believers, we wait, and long for, something beyond this temporal world, something eternal
- Simeon waited for something spiritual and eternal – the consolation of Israel
- This aged saint was blessed with the privilege of beholding the Messiah, of holding him in his arms, and prophesying over him
- Yet what took place on that particular day in Jerusalem, was the reward and crowning of a life devoted to God
- Why was Simeon blessed with this privilege, rather than the multitudes of others around him?
- Because he lived with a hope, desire and love for the appearing of Christ

I. THE CONFIDENCE OF CHRIST'S COMING

A. Waiting can be difficult

1. When the anticipated thing does not eventuate, it can be discouraging (Proverbs 13:12)

2. Some may grow tired of waiting (Matthew 25:1-13)
 3. Some may give up waiting altogether (2 Peter 3:4)
 4. We must have divine patience as we wait for the Lord's coming (James 5:8)
- B. One sure mark of a Christian is a longing for the coming of Christ
1. From the first promise of the "seed of the woman" in Genesis 3:15, the most repeated prophecy throughout the Scriptures is the coming of the Messiah
 2. Throughout the ages, all of God's saints have anticipated with joy the coming of Christ (Matthew 13:16-17)
 3. Just as certain as those Jews were of the first coming of Christ, so are we certain that he will return again in power and glory, for he promised his disciples, "I will come again" (John 14:3)
 - a. There are over 1500 prophecies of Jesus' Second Coming recorded in the Bible
 - b. For every prophecy of his first coming mentioned in the Old Testament, there are eight predicting his Second Coming
 - c. Christ's return is also mentioned once in every five verses in the New Testament
 4. Those who claim to be Christians yet have no thought for the return of Christ are hypocrites and false professors (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28)

II. THE CONSOLATION OF CHRIST'S COMING

- A. Christ is the only true consolation

1. “Consolation” (*paraklêsin*) is literally to “call near to cheer”, and therefore means to solace, encourage, exhort, support
2. The “consolation of Israel” is in effect a title for the Messiah, who would bring salvation and deliverance to Israel
3. The Gospel is the good news of a Saviour who delivers condemned sinners from the penalty and guilt of sin (Isaiah 40:1)
4. Christ invites those burdened with sin to come to him for rest and consolation (Matthew 11:28-30)
5. He brings us consolation in this life, by justifying us by his blood, removing our condemnation before God, imparting to us a new nature by the Holy Ghost, and granting us the present spiritual blessings of assurance, peace, joy, etc.
6. He will bring us complete consolation at his coming, delivering us from death, granting us immortal bodies, and taking us to himself to dwell with forever

III. THE CONGREGATION OF CHRIST’S COMING

A. Israel is the object of Christ’s consolation

1. Note that Christ is not the consolation of *everyone*, or of *all humanity*, but a specific group
2. This applies to the nation, the descendants of Jacob
 - a. God’s promises concerning his covenant people and the land of Israel still stand (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - b. Israel has rejected their Messiah, crucifying him instead of coronating him (John 1:10-11)
 - c. The nation has therefore been cut off, and is in blindness, yet they will in the future repent and receive Christ (see Romans 11)

3. This applies to Israel spiritually, that is, all believers (Romans 2:28-29; 9:6)

B. Not all will be consoled at Christ's coming

1. For some it will be *consolation*, but for others it will be *condemnation* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 1:7; 19:15)
2. Those who reject him as Saviour must face him as Judge

CONCLUSION

1. The coming of the Lord Jesus is drawing nigh, as the signs of the end of the age are all around us
2. We must be ready to meet the Lord at any moment
3. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (Luke 12:35)
4. Our spiritual condition can be gauged by how much of our hearts are taken up with thoughts of the Lord's return
5. Can you truly say you long for and love his appearing, or has the world and its lusts captured your affections?
6. As we wait *for* the Lord, we must wait *on* the Lord (Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31)
7. Don't let this *waiting* time be *wasted* time, but use every moment to "occupy till he come", to prepare for the judgment seat of Christ, that when he appears, you "may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28)