

Sunday Night Message

August 2, 2015

Psalm 97

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 97

Introduction

We are given no information regarding the writer or the historical context of this psalm, but it seems that the psalmist has been given a vision of the Lord as He returns to the earth in power and glory in what is referred to as His “Second Coming”. We believe that the Lord will return in the clouds to rapture, or carry away, His Bride, the Church. We will be caught up to Heaven.

See 1 Thessalonians 4:9 – 18; 1 Corinthians 15:50 – 58; Revelation 4:1

We also believe that we will be in Heaven for seven years enjoying the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. While we who are the saved are enjoying the blessings and rewards of a beautiful Heaven, the conditions on earth will be radically different. On earth there will be seven years of tribulation, during which time the Nation of Israel will realize that they were wrong about the their Messiah, and will place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Many Gentiles will turn to Christ also, but in the process many, both Jews and Gentiles will be martyred. Though many will come to Christ for salvation, most will reject the Lord.

At the end of the seven years, Christ will return to the earth with His Bride, and will judge all of those who rejected Him.

See Revelation 19:11 – 21; Revelation 14:17 – 20

This seems to be the scene that is pictured for us here in this psalm. The Lord Jesus, God incarnate will leave His throne in Heaven and will move swiftly, decisively, and thoroughly against all of those who rejected His offer of salvation.

I A Picture Of God’s Throne (vs. 1 – 2)

See Revelation 1:9 – 20; Revelation 4

II A Preview of Christ’s Second Coming (vs. 3 – 9)

We already looked at the passage from Revelation 19 that deals with the return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon prophetically. But, can we see this type of judgment anywhere else in the Bible historically? The account of the Exodus bears many similarities.

God sent to the Egyptians many warning (plagues), which they, as a nation, rejected, though we also know that the Israelites travelled with a “mixed multitude”, which means that there were some Egyptians who trusted in God. Finally, after the death of all of the oldest children in every household, the children of Israel were able to escape, but the Egyptians pursued them to the Red Sea seeking to destroy the people of God. But, instead, they were destroyed by God.

See Exodus 14:5 - 31

III A Call for Holiness (vs. 10 – 12)

Because God’s return is imminent, we are admonished to be holy – to hate evil.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." (Psalm 34:14)

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9)

See 2 Peter 3; Matthew 24:27 – 51 (The context of Matthew 24 is on earth during the Tribulation Period, which is probably the context dealt with in this prophetic psalm.)

Conclusion

Christ is coming back soon. We need to especially be mindful of our behavior, our conversation, in light of His soon return.

If you knew for absolute sure that the Lord was returning tomorrow, is there anything that you would change?